



Offline Learning Activity for AP United States History

Day: 17

Topic: Emancipation Proclamation

Standard: 5.9

Time: 30 minutes



Overview

This learning activity is for students to use when they do not have access to the course.



Objectives

After completing this activity, students will be able to . . .

- Read and respond to questions based upon historical texts.



Assignment Instructions

Read the following annotation and document. Then respond to the questions that follow, using complete sentences.

Emancipation Proclamation

Author: Abraham Lincoln

Date: 1863

Annotation: President Abraham Lincoln frees slaves in areas in rebellion against the United States.

The nation was embroiled in the Civil War when President Abraham Lincoln delivered the Emancipation Proclamation on January 1, 1863. While the Proclamation did not



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instantly liberate a single slave, it did allow black men to serve in the Union Army and Navy. Nearly 200,000 black men fought for the Union and, ultimately, for human freedom.

Although the wording of the Proclamation resounded liberation for slaves, it was actually quite restricted in meaning. It only pertained to those states that had seceded from the Union. It excluded Confederate areas the North already controlled. And perhaps most significantly, slaves' freedom was dependent on a Union victory.

Document: The Emancipation Proclamation January 1, 1863

A Transcription

By the President of the United States of America:

A Proclamation.

Whereas, on the twenty-second day of September, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty-two, a proclamation was issued by the President of the United States, containing, among other things, the following, to wit:

"That on the first day of January, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty-three, all persons held as slaves within any State or designated part of a State, the people whereof shall then be in rebellion against the United States, shall be then, thenceforward, and forever free; and the Executive Government of the United States, including the military and naval authority thereof, will recognize and maintain the freedom of such persons, and will do no act or acts to repress such persons, or any of them, in any efforts they may make for their actual freedom.

"That the Executive will, on the first day of January aforesaid, by proclamation, designate the States and parts of States, if any, in which the people thereof, respectively, shall then be in rebellion against the United States; and the fact that any State, or the people thereof, shall on that day be, in good faith, represented in the Congress of the United States by members chosen thereto at elections wherein a majority of the qualified voters of such State shall have participated, shall, in the absence of strong countervailing testimony, be deemed conclusive evidence that such State, and the people thereof, are not then in rebellion against the United States." Now, therefore I, Abraham Lincoln, President of the United States, by virtue of the power in me vested as Commander-in-Chief, of the Army and Navy of the United States in time of



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actual armed rebellion against the authority and government of the United States, and as a fit and necessary war measure for suppressing said rebellion, do, on this first day of January, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty-three, and in accordance with my purpose so to do publicly proclaimed for the full period of one hundred days, from the day first above mentioned, order and designate as the States and parts of States wherein the people thereof respectively, are this day in rebellion against the United States, the following, to wit:

Arkansas, Texas, Louisiana, (except the Parishes of St. Bernard, Plaquemines, Jefferson, St. John, St. Charles, St. James Ascension, Assumption, Terrebonne, Lafourche, St. Mary, St. Martin, and Orleans, including the City of New Orleans) Mississippi, Alabama, Florida, Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina, and Virginia, (except the forty-eight counties designated as West Virginia, and also the counties of Berkley, Accomack, Northampton, Elizabeth City, York, Princess Ann, and Norfolk, including the cities of Norfolk and Portsmouth[]), and which excepted parts, are for the present, left precisely as if this proclamation were not issued.

And by virtue of the power, and for the purpose aforesaid, I do order and declare that all persons held as slaves within said designated States, and parts of States, are, and henceforward shall be free; and that the Executive government of the United States, including the military and naval authorities thereof, will recognize and maintain the freedom of said persons.

And I hereby enjoin upon the people so declared to be free to abstain from all violence, unless in necessary self-defense; and I recommend to them that, in all cases when allowed, they labor faithfully for reasonable wages.

And I further declare and make known, that such persons of suitable condition, will be received into the armed service of the United States to garrison forts, positions, stations, and other places, and to man vessels of all sorts in said service.

And upon this act, sincerely believed to be an act of justice, warranted by the Constitution, upon military necessity, I invoke the considerate judgment of mankind, and the gracious favor of Almighty God.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the United States to be affixed.



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Done at the City of Washington, this first day of January, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty three, and of the Independence of the United States of America the eighty-seventh.

By the President: ABRAHAM LINCOLN; WILLIAM H. SEWARD, Secretary of State.

Questions

- 1) In this document, what ultimatum was given the states that had seceded from the Union?
- 2) How did the Emancipation Proclamation open the door for black soldiers?
- 3) When was the Proclamation issued?
- 4) What is your opinion of how this document affected the countries of Europe's attitude toward the Civil War?
- 5) What other government official's name appears on the document?
- 6) What United States groups does he say will recognize and help to maintain the freedom of slaves?
- 7) What does Lincoln tell the people who are to be freed to abstain or stay away from?
- 8) What are your overall thoughts of the document text?

Sources

Annotation: [Digital History](#)

Document: National Archives, Washington D.C.

Questions: National Park Service (1-7) and Virtual Arkansas (8)



Grading Info

Students will be graded on their responses and understanding of the historical text.