

The Emancipation Proclamation Student Worksheet

Introduction:

During the first years of the Civil War, Northern troops fought for one purpose: to save the Union. However, many in the North felt preservation of the Union wasn't reason enough to continue the bloodshed. President Lincoln found himself searching for a valid cause to keep the North unified in the fight. After the Battle of Antietam in September, 1862, Lincoln announced that he would issue the Emancipation Proclamation on January 1st, 1863.

Directions: Read the source and answer the following questions.

http://www.socialstudies.com/c/article.html?article@emancipation_proclamation

1. What was the purpose for which Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation?
2. For what reason did Lincoln justify issuing the Proclamation?
3. How did Lincoln hope to maintain the freedom of persons held as slaves?
4. What hopes does Lincoln mention in regard to the conduct of his emancipated slaves?

5. What consideration does Lincoln make regarding emancipated slaves and the United States armed forces?

6. In your view, what purpose or advantage did Lincoln gain by announcing the Proclamation in September of 1862, but not actually signing it until January of 1863?

7. In your view, why did Lincoln only free slaves "in territories in rebellion"? Why didn't he take the next logical step and free all the slaves?

8. Could Lincoln have taken other steps to provide unity in the North instead of freeing the slaves? Explain your answer.

9. Because of the Emancipation Proclamation, Lincoln became forever known as the "Great Emancipator." In your view, based on what you read from the transcript, does Lincoln deserve that title? Justify your answer.