

Name: _____

Emancipation Proclamation

When the Civil War first broke out, most Americans including Abraham Lincoln, thought it was a war to keep the Union together, not a war to end slavery. By 1862, Lincoln began to believe that the only way to save the Union was to abolish slavery.

In 1862, the war was not going well for the North. Lincoln had to find a way to stop the South's war effort. He also wanted to make sure that European countries did not join the Confederate cause. On January 1, 1863, President Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation. This statement to the nation announced that all slaves in areas still rebelling against the United States were to be "forever free."

The Emancipation Proclamation did not free slaves in the border states or in parts of the Confederacy controlled by Union troops. It only freed those slaves in areas that did not accept the United States government. Since the slave states were not under Union control, slaves were not freed on January 1, 1863. The slaves were only freed when the Union gained control of the territories.

The Emancipation Proclamation changed the purpose of the war. The abolition of slavery was now a Union goal. It kept European countries from helping the South. It also proved that the lives of African Americans would be changed forever. It allowed African Americans to enlist for the first time in Union troops, and for the first time they were able to fight for freedom. Once the Emancipation Proclamation was passed, Lincoln fought for the 13th Amendment, which permanently abolished slavery in the United States. This will not happen until the Civil War is over.

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Directions: Using your "Emancipation Proclamation" story complete the following questions. You are to write out the question, skip a space, and then answer it.

1. When the Civil War first broke out, what was the main goal of the war?
2. In 1862, Lincoln felt the only way to end the Civil War was to do what?
3. When did Lincoln issue the Emancipation Proclamation?
4. What did the Emancipation Proclamation say?
5. What slaves were not freed under the Emancipation Proclamation?
6. Why were slaves not freed on January 1, 1863?
7. What was the 13th Amendment?
8. What three ways did the Emancipation Proclamation change the purpose of the war?