

# The Emancipation Proclamation



## Politics and Slavery, part 6

## ACTIVITY KEY

**Rewrite** = rewrite the sentence to make correct

**Complete** = write the correct answer that completes the idea

**Cloze** = underline the correct word in the reading

**Text** = define the word or revise a text feature

**Interact** = interact with media/text

**Opinion** = give your own opinion



= complete the interactive notebook and/or test

Abraham Lincoln was president of the Union, or the North. Jefferson Davis was president of the Confederacy, or the South. Both presidents thought the Civil War would be fast.

President Lincoln was in Washington, DC. He believed that secession was illegal. **Lincoln thought: the Confederacy will realize that they can't win the war, and they will come back to the Union. We will welcome them back like brothers. They can keep slavery in the South. We don't have to mess with abolition! Those Rebels can make a deal with us.**

President Davis was in Richmond, VA. He believed that secession was legal. He believed that the North didn't have a reason to fight. **Davis thought: The Union will give up and let us secede. They have to come and fight here, and when they do, we will whip them! Then, we'll have our own country. Those Yankees don't belong here!**

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## Complete/Rewrite

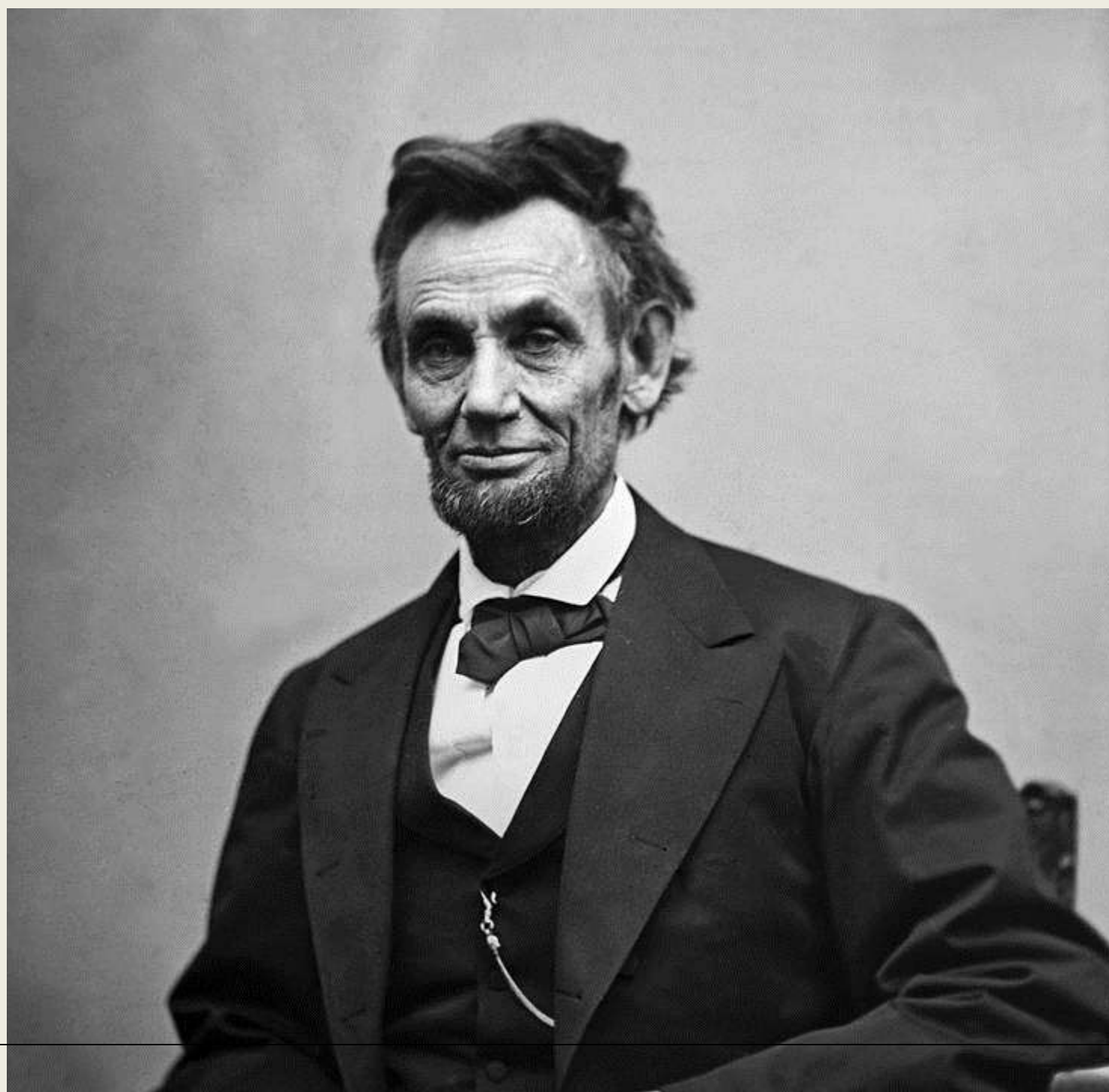
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1. Jefferson Davis was the president of the United States of America.
2. Abraham Lincoln was the president of the Confederate States of America.
3. Jefferson Davis believed that secession was illegal.
4. Abraham Lincoln believed that secession was legal.
5. Both presidents believed that the war should last a long time and be difficult.

## Think

1. Who are the Yankees?
2. Who are the Rebels?





Both presidents thought that the war could be short. They thought that they could **convince** the other side. They will convince them by beating them in a few battles. But...

This didn't happen!

**The Confederacy dominated the early battles.** This means that they won most of the early battles. Remember: The Confederacy means the South. The Confederacy was winning the Civil War. They had a smaller population. They had a smaller army. They had fewer weapons. But they were winning! They had some advantages, especially a guy named Robert E. Lee.

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Google it Look on Wikipedia

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List\\_of\\_American\\_Civil\\_War\\_battles](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_American_Civil_War_battles)

Where did most of the battles in 1861 take place?

Who won most of them? (Confederate or Union)

The Confederacy had a great general called Robert E. Lee. He was a brilliant strategist. He always knew how to beat the Union generals.

General Robert E. Lee had an easier job than the Union generals. All he had to do was defend. He had to defend Richmond, Virginia. This was the capital of the Confederacy. **This was another advantage the South had: all they had to do was defend.**

The Union armies tried many ways to get to Richmond. They even tried “floating” their army down the Potomac River. But General Lee was always waiting. For the first two years of the Civil War, the Confederacy dominated the Union. Remember: when we talk about the Union, we are talking about the North, or the United States of America. The USA was getting beat!

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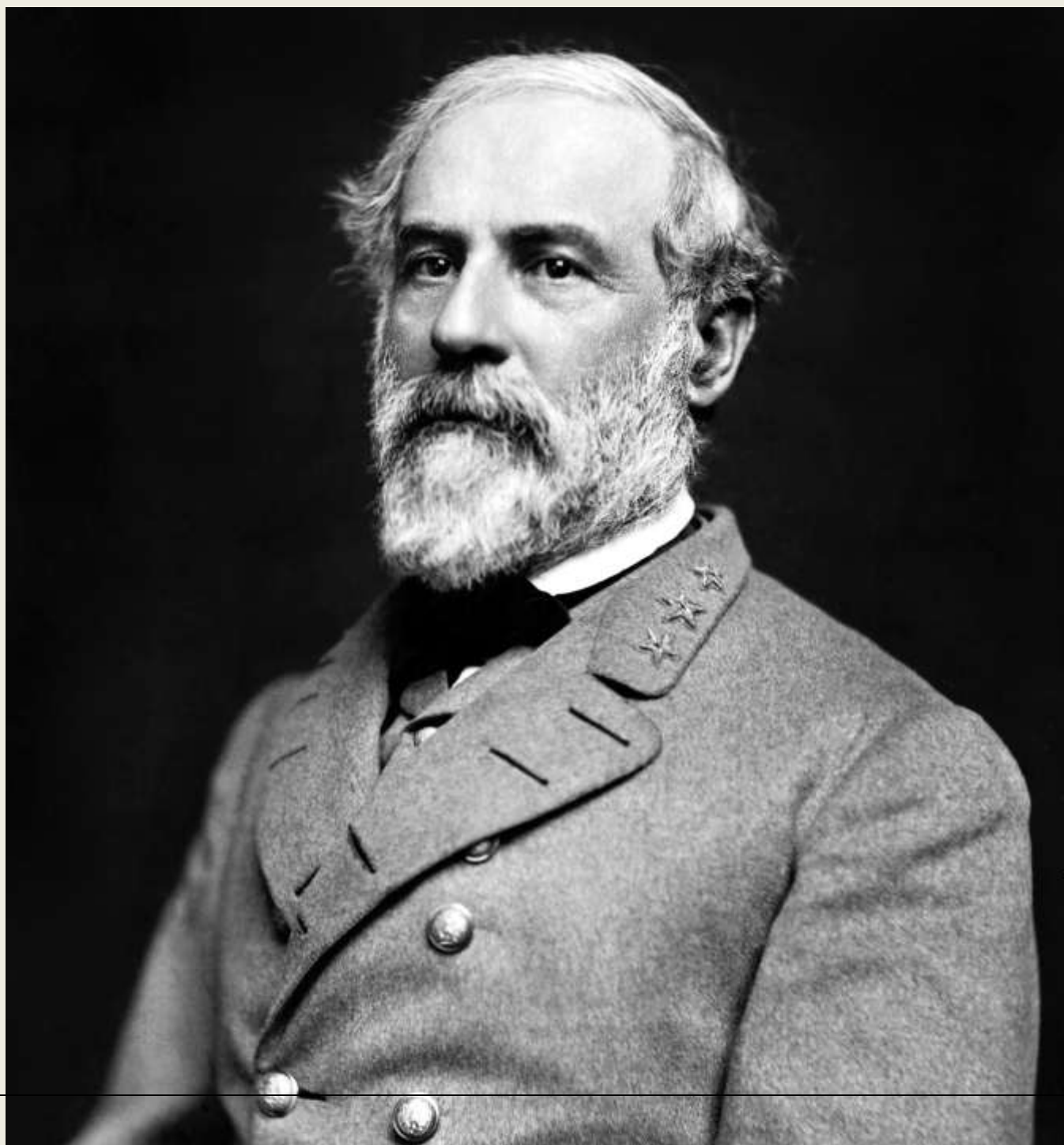
## Complete/ Rewrite

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1. The Confederacy had a larger population than the Union.
2. The Confederacy refers to the North.
3. The Union refers to the South.
4. One advantage the Union had was that all they had to do was defend.
5. The great Union General was called Robert E. Lee.
6. The Union dominated most early battles of the Civil War.

## Think

1. Why did the South dominate the first two years of the Civil War? (Hint: there are two reasons)



After two years of losing, Abraham Lincoln was getting tired. He was also getting worried. He had to run for president again in two years. The United States was going to have an election, even with the war. He needed a strategy. He needed some good news. The war was NOT going well for the Union.

His new strategy was **to conquer the South**. He slowly developed this strategy. Instead of just trying to take Richmond, he had to find a way to make the South give up. He started to think about making a war on the economy of the South. And when we think about the Southern economy, what comes to mind? Slavery! Lincoln knew that the Confederate States of America depended on slavery.

Slaves worked on plantations. They made food. They followed the Confederate armies and dug trenches for them. Slaves served as nurses. Slaves protected and took care of the Confederate soldiers' families, while they were away fighting. Without slavery, the Confederates couldn't fight!

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## Complete/Rewrite

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1. After two years of war, Abraham Lincoln was tired of winning.
2. Lincoln's new strategy was to \_\_\_\_\_ the South. He needed to defeat the South, not just take their capital city of \_\_\_\_\_.
3. If he wanted to conquer the South, Abraham Lincoln had to fight \_\_\_\_\_ in the South.

## Think

What are some things Confederates depended on slaves to do?



### Interact:

Here are some escaped slaves in 1862. They were originally called “contrabands.”

Contraband means “goods” or “property” that are used by the enemy to help their war effort.

Why did the Union call slaves contrabands?



Abraham Lincoln needed to conquer the South and **emancipate the slaves**. When you emancipate someone, you give them freedom. Lincoln was never an abolitionist, but he knew that the Confederacy couldn't survive without slavery. The North was just too powerful. The North had way more people. The North had way more industry. There were more factory buildings in one Northern city than in all of the South. Factories make weapons, so the North had more weapons. They had more food. In the South, farmland was used for "King Cotton." The North had the farmland of Ohio, New Jersey, Illinois, and lots of other farming states. The North even had more immigrants. Almost 35 percent of the Union soldiers were immigrants, not born in America.

The South didn't have any of these advantages. Their only economic advantage was slavery. But this could be a disadvantage. Lincoln just needed to figure out how to make war on slavery. This was difficult because many people in the North were against doing anything nice for blacks.

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## Complete/Rewrite

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1. Abraham Lincoln needed to free or \_\_\_\_\_ slaves in the South.
2. The only advantage the South had was \_\_\_\_\_. If Lincoln could emancipate the slaves, the South lost this advantage.

## Think

3. What advantages did the Union (North) have over the Confederacy (South)?

## Vocabulary

4. When you turn 18 years old, you can **emancipate** yourself legally. What do you think that means?
5. What is the difference between **emancipation** and **abolition**?

So, Robert E. Lee makes a plan. He plans to attack the North. He plans to invade the North. He will move his army past Washington, DC and into Pennsylvania. He will invade the **Union**.

This almost doesn't make sense. General Robert E. Lee is winning. The Confederacy is winning. They are winning because they are defending well. So, why attack? Robert E. Lee didn't want to wait. He wanted to end the war. He knew that the Union had more supplies and people, so they could last longer. Robert E. Lee knew that Abraham Lincoln could just keep sending armies into Virginia for year after year.

General Robert E. Lee invaded the North for two reasons:

- **He wanted to scare and intimidate the Union.**
  - **He wanted to convince England to recognize and help the Confederacy.**
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## Complete/Rewrite

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1. General Robert E. Lee is a General for the Union.
2. General Lee's plan is to invade the Confederacy or the North.
3. Even though he is winning, General Lee decides to stay defensive.
4. General Lee invades the North because he wants to \_\_\_\_\_ the Northern people, or scare them.
5. General Lee also thinks that the European country of \_\_\_\_\_ will help the Confederacy if he invades.

## Think

6. How can Lee intimidate the North? Why will invading the North intimidate them? (Hint: where are most of the battles happening?)



**Interact:** What does this picture show about the Battle of Antietam?



General Lee thought that President Lincoln and the American people might give up if he attacked them.

--Maybe they see they can't win. Maybe they feel the terror of war. Maybe they give up!

General Lee also thought that England might help. England was not good friends with the United States at this time. They were not BFFs like they are now.

--Maybe England will help the Confederacy. Maybe England will give us some weapons if we show them that we can win.

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## Think

1. Why will an invasion intimidate the North?
2. Why will an invasion help convince England to help the Confederacy?

General Lee invades the North. There is a battle in northern Maryland called Antietam. **The battle of Antietam is very fast, but it is important.** The battle of Antietam, which is in the North, is the largest loss of life in one day. So many people died in this battle. They died on both sides. The casualty total for this battle was over 20,000.

Many people die in Antietam. Robert E. Lee is forced to go back to Virginia. His invasion stops. This was a victory for the Union. **The battle of Antietam is the first major victory for President Lincoln and the Union.**

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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 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:

**Interact:** This is the text of the Emancipation Proclamation. Does it look like an **emotional speech** or a **legal document** to you?

President Lincoln uses this victory to his advantage. He makes the **Emancipation Proclamation**. The Emancipation Proclamation is an official document. It “emancipates” all of the slaves in the Confederacy. It frees all of the slaves in any place that calls itself “the Confederacy” and NOT the “Union” or the “United States.” It frees slaves in the “rebellious territories.”

So, let's step back. Lincoln was originally against emancipation. But he did this **emancipation proclamation**. Why? And what did it really do?

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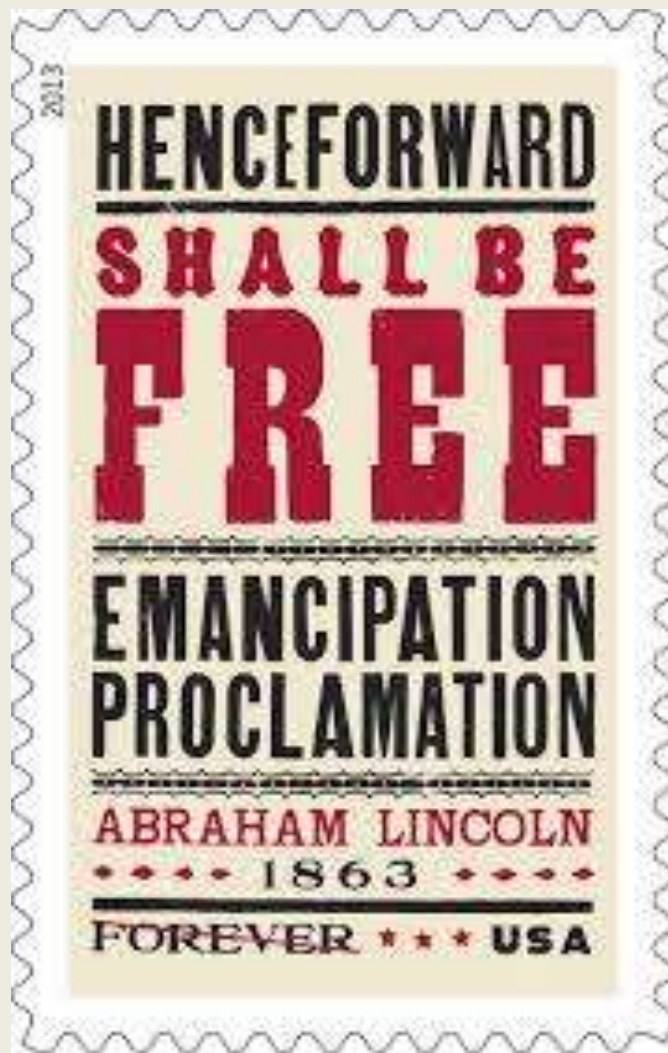
## Complete/Rewrite

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1. General Lee invades the North, but he is stopped at the battle of \_\_\_\_\_.
2. The battle of Antietam is important because it's the first major \_\_\_\_\_ victory against the Confederacy. It also stops Lee's invasion.
3. The victory at Antietam is great for the North. It allows President Abraham Lincoln to issue the \_\_\_\_\_, which frees slaves in rebelling areas.

## Think

Where does the Emancipation Proclamation free slaves?



**Interact** “Henceforward shall be free” means from now on, they will be free.

What or who shall be free?

Why does Lincoln issue the **Emancipation Proclamation**? Lincoln made the Emancipation Proclamation after some things became clear:

- The Confederacy is not giving up easily**
- Lincoln probably needs to invade the entire South**
- The Union needs to “conquer” the Confederacy**

The Civil War was much worse than Lincoln expected. He realized that he needed to conquer the South. If he wanted to conquer the South, he needed to destroy the Confederate economy. ***The Confederate economy depended on slavery, so Lincoln needed to destroy slavery in the South.***

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**Interact** Highlight the three reasons why Lincoln had to issue the Emancipation Proclamation. They are in the text above.

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**Think** If Lincoln wanted to “conquer” the Confederacy, what did he have to destroy? (Hint: don’t just answer slavery)





What did the Emancipation Proclamation do? It freed all of the slaves in “rebellious territories.”

-If you have slaves and support the Confederacy, your slaves will be taken and freed.

-if you have slaves and support the Union, your right to property is safe.

So, if you are in South Carolina and have slaves, your slaves are free... Now, if you are in South Carolina, you aren't going to listen to a word that President Lincoln says. You are part of the Confederacy.

But what happens when the Union army gets there...

**The army of the United States now had a duty to “emancipate” or free slaves when they take over a place in the South.**

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**The Emancipation Proclamation made the Union Army an army of emancipation.** When the Union Army entered a Confederate area, the slaves ran to them. They escaped their masters. They considered themselves free. They asked the army for protection. The army legally had to protect them. Many Union Generals DID NOT want to emancipate slaves! But they now had an order from the leader, President Abraham Lincoln. So, they had to listen; they had to protect slaves in the Confederacy. The Union Army had to free the slaves wherever they went in the South.

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## Think

1. Where did the Emancipation Proclamation free slaves?
2. What was the duty or job of the Union army, when they encountered slaves?
3. If the Union Generals didn't like blacks, why did they still have to emancipate them?

**The Emancipation Proclamation scared the South. It made slave escapes more common.** President Lincoln made copies of the Emancipation Proclamation and send them to spies in the South. He wanted to spread rumors. He wanted to spread rumors that all slaves were free. He wanted the slaves to escape. When the slaves escaped, the economy of the South was destroyed. Now, Confederate soldiers fighting in Virginia had to really worry. Maybe their slaves at home were escaping and their wives and children were all alone. **It also led to arming slaves, who could then fight and get revenge on their former masters.**

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## Think

1. What kind of “rumors” did the Emancipation Proclamation start?
2. Why did the Emancipation Proclamation intimidate or scare the Confederate soldiers?
3. Why were Confederates so scared of “arming” freed slaves? What did they have to fear?

**The Emancipation Proclamation paves the way for black soldiers in the Union army.** In other words, it is the first step in getting blacks to fight in the Union army. The war ends in 1865. By the end of the war, about 10 percent of the soldiers in the Union army were black. It **energized** abolitionist leaders, like Frederick Douglas and William Lloyd Garrison. They encouraged the formation of regiments of black soldiers. They wanted to make blacks a large part of the Union army.

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## Vocabulary

1. What does **paves the way** mean?
2. What does **energize** mean?

## Complete

3. The Emancipation Proclamation led to freed \_\_\_\_\_ becoming soldiers.
4. Freed blacks became soldiers in the Confederate army.
5. By the end of the war, \_\_\_\_\_ percent of soldiers were freed slaves or blacks.
6. Abolitionist leaders like \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ pressed Lincoln to make black regiments.



The Emancipation Proclamation **energized the Northerners. It energized the war.** The word energize means to add energy and passion into something. The **Union** soldiers needed something to fight for... They were fighting away from their home against their brothers. Now, they had a real cause. They were fighting for freedom. Like we said, many soldiers DID NOT like fighting for emancipation. They were racist and hated blacks. But there were many who began to believe in their cause. They changed their minds. They felt like God chose this moment to show how everyone is equal. It energized them. They were fighting for freedom!

## Complete/Rewrite

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1. The Emancipation Proclamation lethargized the Union morale in the Civil War.

2. Before the Emancipation Proclamation, Northern soldiers were fighting to keep the \_\_\_\_\_ together.

## Think

How did the Emancipation Proclamation change the “cause” of the Civil War?  
(Hint: how did “what are we fighting for” change?)

This **emancipation** strategy seems like a really good idea! If you are fighting a war, shouldn't you just do everything you can to win it?

When I fight someone, I do everything I can to win. I kick them, punch them, throw dirt in their face, spit, scratch them....

Lincoln waited a long time to order the Emancipation Proclamation. The war started in 1861. He waited until 1863 to make the **Emancipation Proclamation**. He waited for General Lee to invade the North. He waited for the Battle of **Antietam**. He even had it written down, but he waited. Why wait? Why did Lincoln wait to release the **Emancipation Proclamation**?

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Abraham Lincoln waited because of politics. Not everyone in the North loved Abraham Lincoln. Many people, like the Democrats, wanted the Union to make peace with the Confederacy. They criticized Lincoln. They criticized the war. **They definitely didn't want emancipation!**

Abraham Lincoln needed a good moment to order the **Emancipation Proclamation**. He got a good moment after the Battle of Antietam. The Union finally won a battle. They won a major battle and stopped the South. Now was the time! When people criticized him, he could say: "I will do whatever I can to win this war, just like the brave soldiers did at Antietam."

We will never know exactly when Abraham Lincoln decided that he had to abolish slavery to win the war. But we know the exact moment when the Civil War officially became about emancipating slaves.



After the Emancipation Proclamation, there was no turning around. **Now, the Civil War was about conquering the South and emancipating the slaves.** This actually made it impossible for the South to get any support now from Europe. England wasn't going to help them now... because the Civil War was about slavery!

**It is very important to remember one thing: the Emancipation Proclamation didn't free all of the slaves.** It didn't make slavery illegal in the United States. It freed the slaves in the "rebellious" territories. It freed the slaves in any place that says: "We are not part of the USA anymore." But most people knew this was just the first step on the way to the abolition of slavery.

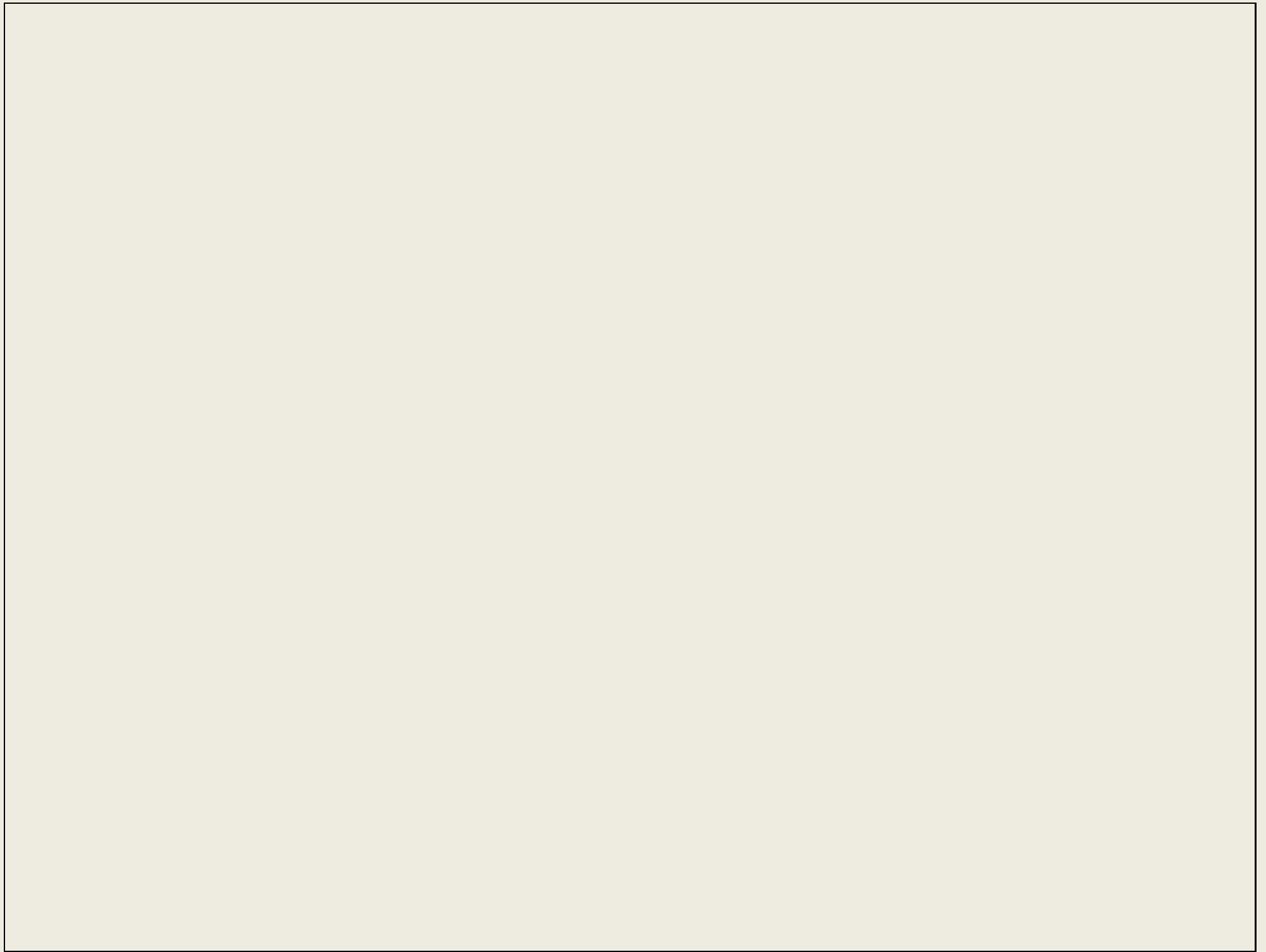


They understood that freedom was coming. They knew that Lincoln and the United States couldn't go back. **If they wanted to win the war, they had to fight against slavery!**

### Think

1. Why did Abraham Lincoln wait until after the Battle of Antietam to issue the Emancipation Proclamation?
  2. One last time: Where did the Emancipation Proclamation free slaves?
  3. And finally: How did the Emancipation Proclamation change the goal of the war and the goal of the United States?
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## **Reviewing Key Content**

Write a line or two about each of these key content words.

**President Jefferson Davis**

**President Abraham Lincoln**

**General Robert E. Lee**

**Lee's Invasion Strategy**

**Battle of Antietam**

**Emancipation Proclamation**

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