

The Emancipation Proclamation

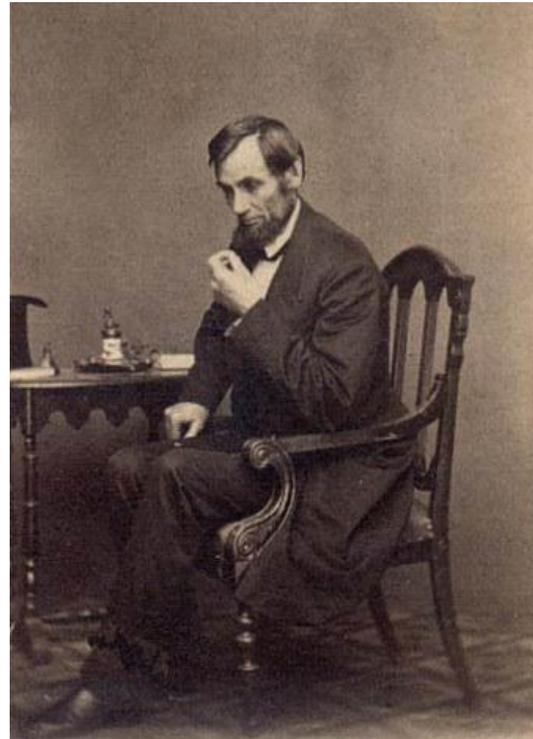
January 1, 1863

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:

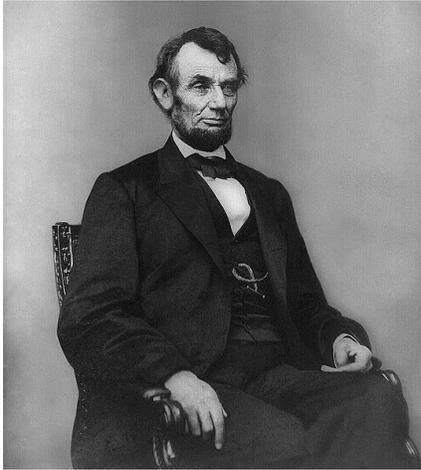
"That on the first day of January, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty-three, all persons held as slaves within any State or designated part of a State, the people whereof shall then be in rebellion against the United States, shall be then, thenceforward, and forever free; and 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:



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, Accomac, 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-defence; 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.

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

Emancipation Proclamation:

A Primary Source Document Reading Activity

Please answer each question.

1. On what date was this document written?
2. Who was the author of this document?
3. The author states that *who* shall “forever be free”?
4. However, he also states that they will only be free *where*?
5. The document states that the Executive government of the United States will use *what* to maintain their freedom?
6. What power does Abraham Lincoln use to enforce this decree?
7. Which ten states are specifically named as being in rebellion against the United States?

8. What portion of Virginia is excluded from this proclamation?

9. Why do you suppose these counties were excluded?

10. The author encouraged the freed people to abstain from violence except for what reason?

11. What offer does he make to all freed persons “of suitable condition”?

12. What do you suppose “of suitable condition” means?

13. Why do you suppose the author made this offer?

14. Where was this document written?

15. Who, other than Abraham Lincoln, signed this document & what position did he hold?

Answer Key:

1. January 1, 1863
2. Abraham Lincoln
3. All persons held as slaves
4. Any state, or part of state, where people are in rebellion against the United States.
5. Military & Naval authority
6. His power as Commander-in-Chief of the Army and Navy of the United States.
7. Arkansas, Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, Florida, Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina, and Virginia
8. The 48 counties designated as West Virginia.
9. They were not in rebellion
10. In necessary self-defense
11. They will be received into the armed services (allowed to join the army)
12. Healthy or able-bodied.
13. The Union needed more soldiers to continue the war effort.
14. Washington DC
15. William H. Seward, Secretary of State

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