

The Emancipation Proclamation

OVERVIEW

"The Emancipation Proclamation is like the wrapping on a Christmas gift. The wrappings of a Christmas gift say there is a gift about to come, you don't see it yet, but it's there. What President Lincoln did was make the gift visible. He's saying there's something good coming – that there is something every citizen of these United States should experience and that's freedom." –Bishop George W. Brooks

On January 1, 1863 President Abraham Lincoln after much thought and consideration issued his Emancipation Proclamation. Although we know the Emancipation Proclamation to be Lincoln's great call for freedom, much is misunderstood about it. This lesson is designed to allow your class to examine the Emancipation Proclamation, looking at why Lincoln issued it, what it actually said and did, and why it was unpopular with many. We will also draw conclusions about Lincoln's presidential leadership and legacy.

Goals/Objectives:

To analyze the Emancipation Proclamation:

- Break down the contents of this historic document through close reading.
- Discuss the political and social effects, both short and long term.
- Consider and share the perspectives of various stakeholders, both supportive and critical, toward the Emancipation Proclamation during the Civil War.
- Connect to the leadership and legacy of Lincoln.

Standards:

Common Core Standards

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RH.9-10.1

Cite specific textual evidence to support analysis of primary and secondary sources, attending to such features as the date and origin of the information.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RH.9-10.2

Determine the central ideas or information of a primary or secondary source; provide an accurate summary of how key events or ideas develop over the course of the text.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.WHST.9-10.1

Write arguments focused on discipline-specific content.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.WHST.9-10.7

Conduct short as well as more sustained research projects to answer a question (including a self-generated question) or solve a problem; narrow or broaden the inquiry when appropriate; synthesize multiple sources on the subject, demonstrating understanding of the subject under investigation.

Time Required:

2 days

Recommended Grade Level:

7-12

Topics/Eras:

- The Civil War
- Abraham Lincoln
- The Emancipation Proclamation

Materials:

- Lincoln's Legacy Oral Histories (http://lfg.com/misc/legacy/Oral_Histories.html)
- LCD Projector for PowerPoint
- Emancipation Proclamation Lesson PowerPoint
- Public Hearing Instructions (PDF)

Optional Video Clips

- Lincoln (2012)

Additional Resources:

1. Featured Documents: The Emancipation Proclamation
http://www.archives.gov/exhibits/featured_documents/emancipation_proclamation/
2. 10 Facts about the Emancipation Proclamation
<http://www.civilwar.org/education/history/emancipation-150/10-facts.html>
3. Civil War Trust
<http://www.civilwar.org/150th-anniversary/emancipation-proclamation-150.html>