**The Emancipation Proclamation Student Worksheet**

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.

All Web links for this lesson can be found at: <http://www.socialstudies.com/uslinks.html>

Directions:

**Transcript of the Emancipation Proclamation**

Go to http://www.socialstudies.com/article.html?article@emancipation\_proclamation Answer the following questions:

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 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 logical next step and free all the slaves?

8. Could Lincoln have taken other steps to provide unity in the North instead of freeing 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.

**The Emancipation Proclamation January 1, 1863**

A Transcription 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**.**