Emancipation Proclamation

**Reading Tasks: Students will closely read the Emancipation Proclamation and make the necessary inferences. Students will determine the central idea and analyze how they are developed. Students will analyze the structure of the text and assess the point of view of the writer.**

**Vocabulary Tasks: Students will determine the meaning of the terms by using context clues and create their own definitions.**

**Discussion Tasks: Students will evaluate the purpose of the text and the justification for the proclamation.**

**Writing Tasks: Students will write an argument as to why the proclamation had a limited initial effect but an eventual long term effect on both slavery and the purpose of the Civil War.**

**Essential Question(s): What did the Emancipation Proclamation mean to the slaves held in areas controlled by the Confederate States of America?**

**Text Selection (Background): Emancipation Proclamation as written by President Abraham Lincoln**

**Reading Standards hit: R1, R2, R3, R4, R5, R6, and R8**

**Writing Standards hit: W1, W4, W5, W8, and W9**

**Directions/Introduction**

Due to the short length of the document, this is a one day lesson. Students will be given the handout and asked to read the proclamation. After reading it, they will determine their definitions for the vocabulary. After going over the vocabulary, we will go over the teacher discussion questions and the students will write their responses. As a wrap-up, students will write a short response to the essential question.

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| Text Under Discussion | Directions |
| **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. | Why is this being proclaimed on September 22nd?  Who is affected by this proclamation?  Where?  What does the government promise?  Paraphrase this part of his speech. What Is Lincoln’s legal reasoning for this proclamation? What is the purpose of the complicated and careful definitions in this paragraph?  Why does the President feel he has the authority to do this?  Why are parts of Louisiana and Virginia not included in the proclamation?  What is President Lincoln advising the freed slaves to do here?  What constitutional principles does Lincoln cite for freeing the slaves? |

Student Page

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| Text Under Discussion | Vocabulary | My Thoughts/Notes |
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