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## The Emancipation Proclamation

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*President Abraham Lincoln did not originally envision the abolition of slavery as a goal of the Civil War; his only purpose was to preserve the Union. However, to accomplish this he had to have the support of radicals in the Republican Party who wanted slavery abolished. In July 1862 he decided to take the leadership of the antislavery movement and prepared to issue an executive proclamation based on his war powers as commander in chief, freeing slaves in the Confederacy. He wanted to wait on a public announcement until a favorable turn in the war when he felt it would have a greater impact on public opinion. On September 22, 1862, after the battle of Antietam, Lincoln issued his preliminary Emancipation Proclamation. In it he stated he would issue a final document on January 1, 1863, thus giving 100 days grace for states to return to the Union and not be subject to the proclamation. Although it freed slaves in most of the South, the Emancipation Proclamation did not abolish slavery as an institution. That action was taken early in 1865, when Congress approved the Thirteenth Amendment, which abolished slavery everywhere.*

"That on the 1st day of January, A.D. 1863, 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...

"...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 1st day of January, A.D. 1863, and in accordance with my purpose so to do, publicly proclaimed for the full period of one hundred days from the first day 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:

"...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-defense; and I recommend to them that, in all case 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.

Abraham Lincoln, September 22, 1863

- 1) Exactly what did the Emancipation Proclamation do? Did it free all slaves in the U.S.?
  
- 2) What incentive does Lincoln offer for southern states that re-join the union.
  
- 3) What part of the Constitution gives Lincoln the power to do this?
  
- 4) How did the Emancipation Proclamation change the purpose of the Civil War?
  
- 5) What political factors might have influenced the timing of Lincoln's announcement?
  
- 6) How did the Emancipation Proclamation change the purpose of the Union's war on the South as defined by Lincoln?