



## GOAL 4 | LESSON PLAN | HIGH SCHOOL 1862: Antietam and Emancipation

**GRADES:** High School

**APPROXIMATE LENGTH OF TIME:** 50 minutes

**GOAL:** Students will analyze the meaning and impact of the Emancipation Proclamation.

### OBJECTIVES:

1. Students will be able to discuss the political and military conditions that led to the issuance of the Emancipation Proclamation.
2. After reading the document, students will be able to summarize, in writing, the meaning of the Emancipation Proclamation.
3. After reading reactions to the proclamation, students will be able to discuss the different attitudes and viewpoints that people had towards the Emancipation Proclamation.

### Common Core:

[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.9-10.3](#)

Analyze in detail a series of events described in a text; determine whether earlier events caused later ones or simply preceded them.

[CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RH.11-12.9](#)

Integrate information from diverse sources, both primary and secondary, into a coherent understanding of an idea or event, noting discrepancies among sources.

### NCSS STANDARDS FOR SOCIAL STUDIES:

- 1—Culture
- 2—Time, Continuity, and Change
- 3—People, Places, and Environment
- 5—Individuals, Groups, and Institutions
- 6—Power, Authority, and Governance
- 9—Global Connections
- 10—Civics, Ideals, and Practices

**MATERIALS:**

1. Sticky Notes
2. Antietam and Emancipation PowerPoint
3. Timeline
4. Graphic Organizer
5. Battle of Antietam Summary
6. Emancipation Proclamation Analysis Sheet
7. Emancipation Proclamation Analysis Sheet Teacher Version
8. Quiz – online at <https://www.battlefields.org/learn/quizzes/how-well-do-you-know-emancipation-proclamation>
9. Quiz – online at <https://www.battlefields.org/learn/quizzes/african-americans-civil-war-history>
10. **Optional** Quiz – online at <https://www.battlefields.org/learn/quizzes/how-well-do-you-know-abraham-lincoln>
11. The Public Reacts
12. **Optional** – *Antietam and Emancipation* Essay by Daniel Welch

**ANTICIPATORY SET/HOOK:**

1. Write on the board: What does “emancipation” mean?
2. As students enter the room, they will pick up a sticky note and write their answer on it.
3. Talk about why this might be an important word to consider during their study of the Civil War.

**PROCEDURE:**

Print out the PowerPoint with notes prior to class. There are notes included with the slides that can be on the printed slides, but won't be seen by your students during the presentation.

## Activity 1

1. Use the *Antietam and Emancipation PowerPoint* to guide the lesson.
  - a. Hand out the *Timeline*, *Graphic Organizer*, *Battle of Antietam Summary*, *Emancipation Proclamation Analysis Sheet* and *The Public Reacts*.
  - b. Have students use the *Graphic Organizer* throughout the Power Point, the other pages will be referred to in the PowerPoint for activities.
  - c. The Quiz is mentioned in the PowerPoint.

**CLOSURE:**

1. Students will complete the essay question.

**ASSESSMENT IN THIS LESSON:**

1. Informal assessment through discussion questions within PowerPoint.

2. Completed *Emancipation Analysis* sheet; students will complete the associated questions, noting when the proclamation went into effect and under which conditions slaves were freed.
3. Completion of the questions in *The Public Reacts*; students will discuss the different attitudes and viewpoints that people had towards the Emancipation Proclamation.
4. A complete final essay with quotes from primary sources such as the Emancipation Proclamation and the public reaction quotes.



AMERICAN  
BATTLEFIELD  
TRUST ★ ★ ★

---

PRESERVE. EDUCATE. INSPIRE.



## Battle of Antietam Summary

**Location:** Washington County, Maryland

**Date(s):** September 17, 1862

**Commanders:** Maj. Gen. George B. McClellan [United States] versus Gen. Robert E. Lee [Confederate States]

**Estimated Casualties (died, injured, or captured):** 22,700 total

In September 1862, Confederate general Robert E. Lee left the South and moved his army into Maryland. No one could be sure exactly what he planned to do, but in an incredible stroke of luck, a copy of Lee's plans (which had been wrapped around three cigars) was discovered by Union soldiers and given to Union general George B. McClellan. Knowing Lee's plan, on September 17, 1862, McClellan's army attacked Lee's army at Antietam Creek in Maryland.

The Battle of Antietam (also called the Battle of Sharpsburg) was the bloodiest single day in American history. Lee lost 10,300 men to death, injury, or capture while McClellan lost 12,400. However, having limited reinforcements and supplies, Lee was forced to retreat, and the North declared the battle a Union victory. Even though the Union won, it did not continue to chase and fight Lee's army. Since Lee and his army got away, the war did not end here; more battles were to come.



## Emancipation Proclamation Analysis Sheet

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.*

On what date did Lincoln issue the Emancipation Proclamation? \_\_\_\_\_

On what date would this document go into effect? \_\_\_\_\_

Slaves in which states would be free?  
\_\_\_\_\_

Who would enforce the freedom of the former slaves? \_\_\_\_\_

*"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."*

If the states did this, they would not be considered to be in rebellion: \_\_\_\_\_

*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-defense; 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.*

What can former slaves now do?

---

*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 could Lincoln only free the slaves in the states that were in rebellion and not all of the slaves throughout the country?

---

---

---

---

---

Why did Lincoln allow states to return to the United States before he emancipated the slaves?

---

---

---

---

---

If a state had returned would their slaves have been freed or would they have remained in slavery?

---

---

---

---

---



## Emancipation Proclamation Analysis Sheet

### (Teacher Version)

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.*

On what date did Lincoln issue the Emancipation Proclamation: **September 22, 1862**

On what date would this document go into effect? **January 1, 1863**

Slaves in which states would be free? **Those in rebellion**

Who would enforce the freedom of the former slaves? **the U.S. government, including the military**

*"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."*

If the states did this, they would not be considered to be in rebellion: **If they send representatives from their state to Congress.**

*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-defense; 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.*

What can former slaves now do? **Labor for wages and join the U.S. armed forces**

*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 could Lincoln only free the slaves in the states that were in rebellion and not all of the slaves throughout the country?

**The president did not have the power to end slavery within the United States; this would have been a matter of changing the Constitution, which cannot be done by the president alone.**

Why did Lincoln allow states to return to the United States before he emancipated the slaves?

**He was offering this as a way to end the war, which he knew would not be accepted by the Confederate states**

If a state had returned to the Union, would their slaves have been freed or would they have remained in slavery?

**The slaves would have remained in slavery for the time being, but the writing was on the wall, that the institution of slavery was about to end**

# Timeline – Spring-Summer 1862

**1861** – First shots at Fort Sumter. First major battle at Bull Run (1<sup>st</sup>. Manassas). Some minor battles as states secede, volunteers are organized, leadership is organized and a blockade of southern ports is put into place.

**February, 1862** – Fort Henry and Fort Donelson, both in Tennessee, surrender to Union forces under Ulysses S. Grant.

**April, 1862** – Battle of Shiloh, Tennessee. Union victory.

**April, 1862** – Battle of Yorktown, Virginia. No real victor, the Confederate forces fall back.

**May-June, 1862** – Battle of Seven Pines, Virginia. No apparent victor, but Commanding Confederate General Joseph E. Johnston is severely injured.

**June 25 – July 1, 1862** – Robert E. Lee defends Richmond in what's known as The Seven Days Battles. Seven battles in seven days.

**September, 1862** – Robert E. Lee and the Army of Northern Virginia enter Maryland, which is not part of the Confederacy.

**January, 1862** – Battle of Mill Springs, Kentucky. Union Victory. Allowed for Union troops to move into Tennessee.

**March, 1862** – Battle of Pea Ridge, Arkansas. Union victory

**Spring, 1862** – Peninsula Campaign begins. General George McClellan begins to move his Union troops from the southern peninsula in Virginia to the Confederate capital, Richmond, Virginia.

**May, 1862** – Battle of Williamsburg, Virginia. No real victor. Confederate forces continue to move back.

**June, 1862** – Robert E. Lee takes command of the Army of Northern Virginia.

**August, 1862** – Robert E. Lee begins his move north with Victories at the Battle of Cedar Mountain, Virginia and the Battle of Second Manassas, Virginia.

Events with a black border take place on the western front of the war, basically anywhere south or west of Virginia.



## The Public Reacts

"a proposal for the butchery of women and children, for scenes of lust and rapine, and of arson and murder, which would invoke the interference of civilized Europe." –Horatio Seymour, a Democrat running for the governorship of New York

"In the name of freedom of Negroes, [the proclamation] imperils the liberty of white men; to test a utopian theory of equality of races which Nature, History and Experience alike condemn as monstrous, it overturns the Constitution and Civil Laws and sets up Military Usurpation in their Stead." - Henry A. Reeves, a Democrat and editor for the Greenport, New York  
*Republican Watchman*

"The Emancipation Proclamation has done more for us than all our former victories and all our diplomacy." – Henry Adams, U.S. ambassador to the United Kingdom

"Posterity will call you the great emancipator, a more enviable title than any crown could be, and greater than any merely mundane treasure." - Giuseppe Garibaldi, Italian military and political figure

"We joyfully honor you for many decisive steps toward practically exemplifying your belief in the words of your great founders: 'All men are created free and equal.'" - Alan Van Dyke, a representative for workers from Manchester, England

"What it will effect will be to destroy utterly and forever the legal tenure of slavery in the rebel States, and to deprive the slaveholders, wherever our armies go, of the peculiar property on whose behalf they made war upon us, and for whose protection they desire to erect a separate

government. In point of fact, the slaves, when freed, are much more likely to trouble us than their old masters. We shall have to feed them until some new organization of their labor can be effected.... The thing, the only thing, which the rebels do fear is the loss of "four thousand millions of property." The chivalry see that after 1st January, if the rebellion lasts, they will have to work for their living, instead of fattening on the unpaid labor of four millions of blacks. This is the awful prospect which unmans them. It is this which convulses the rebel newspapers, and has thrown their Congress into paroxysms of anguish." - *Harper's Weekly*, October 18, 1862

"I have told you that this war is carried on for the Negro. There is the proclamation of the President of the United States. Now fellow Democrats I ask you if you are going to be forced into a war against your Brethren of the Southern States for the Negro. I answer No!" –David Allen, a Copperhead, Columbiana, Ohio

"a gross outrage on the rights of private property and an invitation to servile war, and therefore should be held up to the execration of mankind and counteracted by such severe retaliatory measures as, in the judgment of the President, may be best calculated to secure its withdrawal or arrest its execution." – Mr. Semmes, a Confederate senator from Louisiana

"the proclamation itself does not in the least alter the character of the war, as it has been an abolition contest from the beginning: the Yankees have stolen and set free all the negroes who were willing to go wherever their soldiers had possession of the country." – *The Richmond Dispatch*

"for my part I am quite satisfied with it [the Emancipation Proclamation]. That letter his to HORACE GREELEY convinced me of the honesty of the man. I know he is not going to do anything unless absolutely necessary, and when anything is necessary for the Union of course that thing must go. I have two slaves, and if parting with them could save the Union, they

should go; although I know there are plenty of men about here who could better spare forty than I can those two." – Citizen of Hagerstown, Maryland

“...the Proclamation has made an excellent beginning. We have no doubt that it will continue to justify itself more and more in the same respects, up to the very day of its practical application. And when it is once fairly in operation, it will make, we believe, very quick work of the rebellion. With our army cordon stretched from the Chesapeake to the furthest frontier, with a strong foothold in every rebel State without exception, and with our gunboats penetrating the swollen rivers in all directions, the rebels will find it an absolute impossibility to prevent this Proclamation of freedom from bringing to a speedy end the whole system through which alone they have been able to keep their rebellion alive thus far. Slavery, in less than a month, from the first day of January, will be so utterly demoralized and broken up, that even the most obdurate rebel will admit that the last slave-grown crop has been raised, and that stark famine confronts the Confederacy.” – *New York Times*, “A Month of the Proclamation”, October 22, 1862

---

What were the reactions of people in the Union? Were they all the same or varied?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

What were the reactions of people in the Confederacy?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

What was the reaction in Europe?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

Do you think Lincoln was expecting these reactions? Do you think any surprised him?

---

---

---

---

---

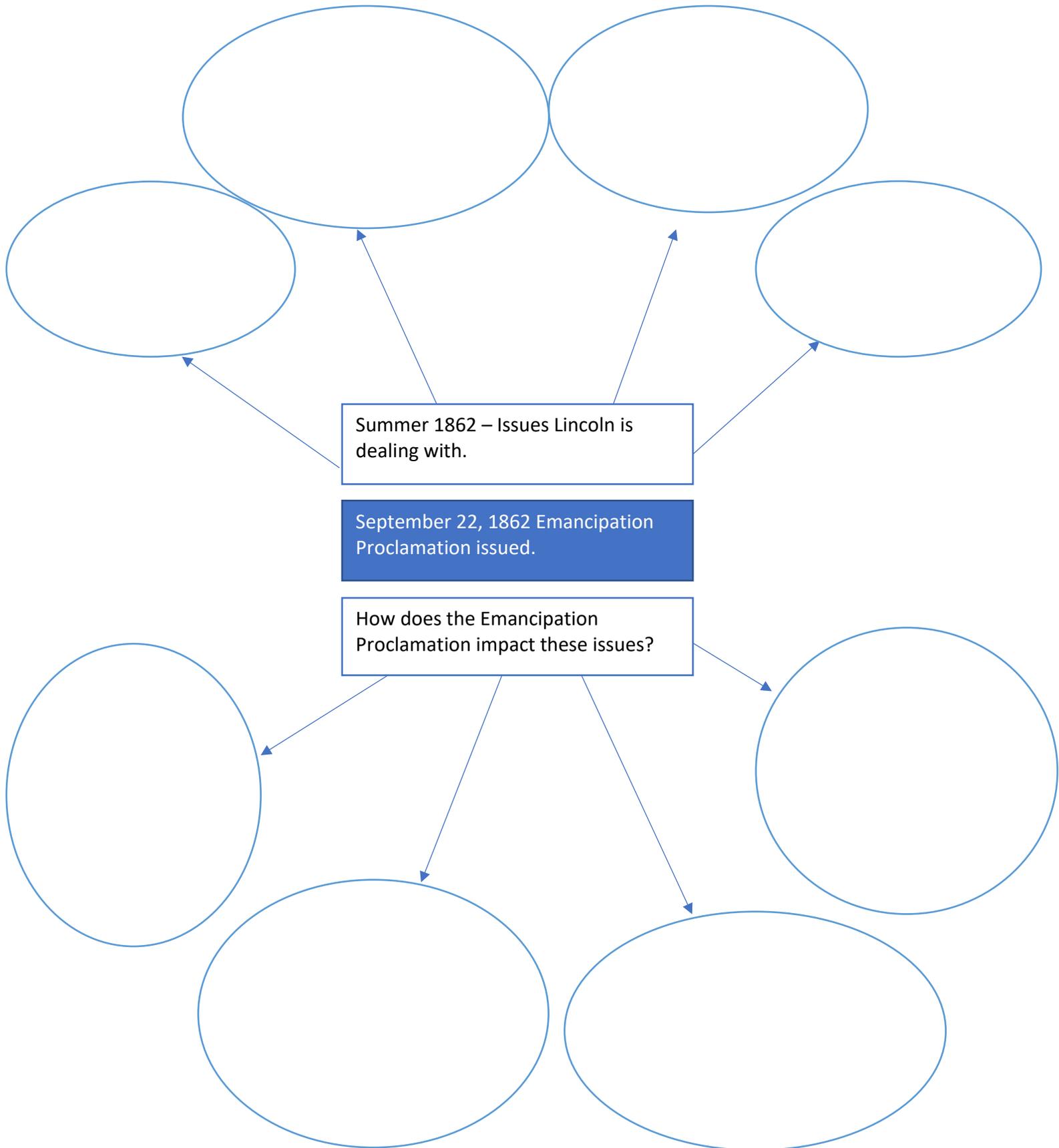
---

---

---

---

---



## Antietam and Emancipation

By Daniel Welch

It was Autumn of 1862, more than a year after the start of the conflict that had rent the nation in two. The latest battle in a long summer of engagements had taken place in Sharpsburg, Maryland. The nation was shocked, not because another battle had occurred, but rather because of the immense number of losses the battle had produced. The Battle of Antietam remains the single bloodiest day in American military history. For the northern war effort, the high cost of human lives had finally granted the Union Army a victory in the field. Although the fighting outside of Sharpsburg had produced somewhat inconclusive results, the Union Army of the Potomac held the battlefield in the days following the engagement, a sign of success in nineteenth century warfare. After Antietam, President Abraham Lincoln finally had what he needed to take the next steps on the political front of the Federal war effort.

During the American Civil War, two primary parties, Republican and Democrat, dominated the political stage, although they had different political platforms and agendas than their modern counterparts. At the outset of the conflict, each of the political parties had specific aims they hoped to accomplish by waging war. Northern Democrats sought to restore the Union. This meant that the United States would come back together again and exist as it had before the hostilities. This also meant that slavery would be allowed to continue as a way of life in the South. The Republicans, on the other hand, particularly the more radical among them, sought to free all the slaves, ending the institution of slavery once and for all. Emancipation, however, did not necessarily mean equality.

President Lincoln, a Republican, faced several challenges while seeking to accomplish his party's war goals. First, Lincoln knew that the United States Constitution did not grant the president authority to override state laws about slavery. This meant that he could not free slaves in states where existing laws protected the practice. Lincoln feared that if he attempted to do so, the decision would go to the Supreme Court where, it would be ruled unconstitutional. Second, most of the general public did not necessarily favor the radical Republicans' war aims. Although many in the North wanted to defeat the Confederates and restore the Union, emancipating the slaves did not garner as much support. During his presidency, Lincoln reminded radical Republicans and abolitionists of his inability as President to repeal state laws, while also reminding them of his obligation to lead the nation through the war. As Lincoln expressed in his own words, "My paramount object in this struggle is to save the Union and is not either to save or to destroy slavery."

If Lincoln wanted to free the slaves, his options as President were limited. He knew he could not emancipate them in his role as civilian president. Yet, as commander in chief of all the Union armies in the field and the Federal war effort as a whole, he might be able to emancipate the slaves using his war powers. Such an action had never been

attempted before. During the summer of 1862, the Federal war effort had reached a low point, and a Confederate war victory seemed possible. Lincoln knew that the opportunity to emancipate the slaves and end the peculiar institution could pass if he did not act.

By the end of July, the Federal army had suffered numerous disheartening defeats in Virginia. On July 22, Lincoln assembled his Cabinet and informed them that he was going to pursue a policy of emancipation. In the meeting, Lincoln read his draft proclamation to the cabinet, which mandated that “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.” In essence, the proclamation would free the slaves in any state that had joined the Confederacy and was actively fighting against the Union.

The Cabinet supported their president’s proclamation, with one notable objection. Secretary of State William Seward asked President Lincoln to wait to issue the Emancipation Proclamation until the Union army achieved a military victory. After all, just weeks earlier, Confederate forces had pushed the massive Federal Army of the Potomac back in defeat from the outskirts of Richmond, the Confederate capital. Seward felt that if Lincoln issued the proclamation immediately, it would appear as though its release was a final act preceding the collapse of the Federal war effort. Lincoln agreed. He would wait until the tide of war shifted.

As the weeks passed following the Cabinet meeting and Seward’s suggestion, a Union battlefield victory seemed impossible. On August 9, a new Union army, the Army of Virginia, suffered a significant defeat against famed Rebel commander Lt. Gen. Thomas J. “Stonewall” Jackson and a portion of the Confederate army. Several weeks later, the Army of Virginia lost another battle, the Battle of Second Manassas, or Second Bull Run, after three days of fighting. As the Union army retreated back towards Washington, D.C., they suffered yet another battlefield defeat at Chantilly, also known as the Battle of Ox Hill.

Though the Confederates suffered a high number of casualties, Lee’s army enjoyed elevated spirits and a feeling of invincibility in the wake of the previous month’s repeated victories. As a result of their recent battlefield success, Lee moved his army into Maryland. The Union army would have another chance, it seemed, to provide the much-needed military victory that Northerners desired, and Lincoln required to issue his emancipation policy.

On September 14, Union and Confederate armies engaged in combat at South Mountain. Three days later, on September 17, the forces clashed again, fighting across the rolling fields and woods around Sharpsburg, Maryland in what would become known as the Battle of Antietam.

The Battle of Antietam was hard fought. After nine hours of combat, the combined casualties from both armies numbered more than 23,000. The following day, the Union

army held the field, and could claim a tactical and strategic victory if not a sweeping triumph. It was enough for the President. Five days after the battle, on September 22, 1862, Lincoln issued the preliminary Emancipation Proclamation. On January 1, 1863 the proclamation went into effect. The Proclamation did not end slavery everywhere, nor immediately, but it was a step towards the institution's ultimate demise, and its passage signaled a shift in the Federal government's war aims. If it were not for the Army of the Potomac's battlefield victory on the rolling fields of Sharpsburg, Maryland, Abraham Lincoln may not have had the same opportunity to issue the Emancipation Proclamation, drastically altering the course of the Federal war effort and the fate of the nation.



AMERICAN  
BATTLEFIELD  
TRUST ★ ★ ★

---

PRESERVE. EDUCATE. INSPIRE.

