

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## The Emancipation Proclamation



On January 1, 1863, President Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation, which freed slaves in all states or parts of states that were in rebellion against the United States.

The Emancipation Proclamation actually freed only about one million slaves. It didn't apply to the three million slaves in states that had not seceded from the Union or even in certain areas of states that had seceded. The states that had formed the Confederacy ignored the order. Slaves remained slaves.

In the Emancipation Proclamation, Lincoln declared that the government, army, and navy would recognize and maintain the freedom of slaves and would do nothing to stop them from any efforts "they may make for their actual freedom."

Lincoln knew that most slave owners would not willingly free their slaves. He did not

want to encourage slaves to revolt or to use violence if it could be avoided. In the words of Lincoln:

"... 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."

It wasn't until after the Civil War ended and the Thirteenth Amendment passed in 1865, that slavery was officially abolished everywhere in the United States. Even then, slaves were not considered "citizens," and even male slaves did not have the right to vote.

On your own paper, answer the following questions:

1. How do you think slaves felt when they learned about the Emancipation Proclamation?
2. How do you think slaves in places not covered by the Emancipation Proclamation felt when they learned the news?
3. What do you think Lincoln meant when he said the above words? Rewrite what Lincoln said in your own words.
4. Since there were no radios or TVs, and few slaves could read, how do you think slaves learned about the Emancipation Proclamation?