

# Emancipation Proclamation

Read the text and answer the questions.

President Lincoln first proposed the idea for the Emancipation Proclamation to his advisors in the summer of 1862. He thought that if Confederate slaves were freed, the Confederacy could no longer use their labor. He also predicted that freed slaves would join the Union cause. However, Lincoln waited for an event that would prove the Union could support such a bold proclamation.

On September 17, 1862, at the Battle of Antietam, Union and Confederate forces clashed on Union soil in the bloodiest single-day battle in American history. The battle resulted in a Union victory, giving President Lincoln the confidence and opportunity to issue the Emancipation Proclamation.

On January 1, 1863, the Emancipation Proclamation declared that all slaves in the ten rebelling Confederate states were free. This applied to 3.1 million slaves in the Confederate states but did not apply to slaves in the Union-sided Border states. Additionally, freedom to all slaves depended on the Union winning the Civil War. With every Union victory in the South, more Confederate slaves were given their freedom.

In effect, the Emancipation Proclamation changed the character of the war. It expanded the focus of the Civil War to the emancipation of slaves as well as the preservation of the Union. The Proclamation also allowed black men to enter the Union army and navy. By the end of the Civil War, approximately 200,000 black men had joined the Union cause for freedom.

1. A. Use a dictionary to define emancipation and proclamation.  
B. Use these definitions to write your own definition of Emancipation Proclamation.
2. Why did President Lincoln wait until after the Battle of Antietam to issue the Emancipation Proclamation?
3. A. What did the Emancipation Proclamation mean for slaves?  
B. Identify at least two ways the power of the Proclamation was limited. Cite evidence from the text to support each answer.
4. How did the Emancipation Proclamation affect the the Civil War?

## INFLUENTIAL PEOPLE

# Leaders of the Civil War

Use what you know and other resources to complete the information for each influential leader in the Civil War. Then do the research and writing activity.

Leaders:	Who am I?	What did I do?	Union or Confederacy
Abraham Lincoln			
Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson			
Robert E. Lee			
Jefferson Davis			
Ulysses S. Grant			
William T. Sherman			
George McClellan			

### Research & Writing

- A. Individually or in small groups, use an online resource to do further research on one of the Civil War leaders from the organizer.
- ~~B. Create a digital presentation with pictures and information about the person's life before the war, during the war, and after the war. Describe his role in the Civil War and his influence on the war's outcome.~~
- ~~C. Share your presentation with your class.~~