

Lincoln Helps End Slavery

Week 30 • Tuesday • The Emancipation Proclamation

Reading Time

President Lincoln believed slavery was wrong. During the Civil War, he made one of the most important announcements in American history.

In 1863, Lincoln signed the **Emancipation Proclamation**. That is a big name, but its meaning is simple: enslaved people in the South were declared **free**. Emancipation means setting someone free!

After the war, the country added a new rule to its highest law — the **13th Amendment** — which ended slavery everywhere in America, forever. Brave people who had escaped slavery, like **Harriet Tubman** and **Frederick Douglass**, had worked for freedom for years. At last, freedom became the law of the land.

Reading Questions

1. What did Lincoln sign in 1863?

2. What does emancipation mean?

3. What did the 13th Amendment do?

4. Name one brave person who worked for freedom.

Vocabulary Grid

Write what each word means in your own words.

emancipation

proclamation

free

amendment

law

forever

True or False

Write T for true or F for false in each circle.

- ☐ Lincoln believed slavery was wrong.
- ☐ The Emancipation Proclamation was signed in 1863.
- ☐ Emancipation means putting someone in jail.
- ☐ The 13th Amendment ended slavery everywhere in America.
- ☐ Harriet Tubman worked for freedom.
- ☐ Slavery came back after the war.

Freedom Heroes

Match the person to the clue. Write A for Lincoln, B for Harriet Tubman, or C for Frederick Douglass.

Clue	A, B, or C
I was president and signed the Emancipation Proclamation.	
I escaped slavery and led many others to freedom.	
I escaped slavery and gave powerful speeches for freedom.	

Think About It

1. Why do you think the Emancipation Proclamation is called one of the most important papers in American history?

Fill in the Blanks

1863 Emancipation free 13th Tubman law

1. Lincoln signed the _____ Proclamation.
2. He signed it in _____.
3. It declared enslaved people in the South _____.
4. The _____ Amendment ended slavery everywhere.
5. Harriet _____ led many people to freedom.
6. Freedom became the _____ of the land.

Draw It!

Draw a picture that shows FREEDOM. It could be broken chains, people celebrating, a bell ringing — you choose!



Review

I learned...	Circle one
What the Emancipation Proclamation did	YES / NOT YET
What the 13th Amendment did	YES / NOT YET
About heroes like Tubman and Douglass	YES / NOT YET