

DOCUMENT-BASED HISTORIC DOCUMENT



Using your own background knowledge and the following documents, please answer the following question:

**Does Lincoln deserve to be considered the Great Emancipator?**

DBQ: Does Lincoln deserve to be considered the Great Emancipator?

### **DBQ Background:**

#### **Key Events Surrounding the Issuing of the Emancipation Proclamation**

- 1784: Most Northern states have some sort of gradual emancipation
- 1802: Ohio's Constitution bans slavery
- 1807: Prohibition of international slave trade
- 1820 – 1854: Series of Congressional acts limiting and expanding slavery through western portions of the U.S.
- 1831 – 1865: William Lloyd Garrison calls for the “immediate emancipation” of the slaves; antislavery newspapers published throughout northern parts of the U.S.
- 1856: Kansas earns nickname “Bleeding Kansas” as pro and anti-slavery forces clash
- 1857: *Dred Scott* Decision
- 1858: Lincoln – Douglas debates
- 1859: Raid on Harper's Ferry
- Nov. 1860: Lincoln's Election
- Dec. 1860: South Carolina Secedes
- Feb. 1861: Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, Florida, and Georgia Seceded
- 1862: Battle of Antietam
- 1863: Emancipation Proclamation
- Jan. 1865: 13<sup>th</sup> Amendment ratified
- April 1865: Lincoln assassinated

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### Document 1a: Abraham Lincoln giving a speech in Chicago, IL, July 1858

Document Note: The succeeding speech was delivered by Mr. Lincoln, on Saturday Evening, July 10, 1858, at Chicago, Illinois. Senator Douglas was not present.

“ Let us **discard** (get rid of) all this **quibbling** (arguing) about this man and the other man, this race and that race and the other race being **inferior** (lower), and therefore they must be placed in an inferior position. Let us discard all these things, and unite as one people throughout this land, until we shall once more stand up declaring that all men are created equal.”

### Document 1b: Fifth debate with Stephen Douglas at Galesburg, IL, Oct. 7, 1858

Document Note: Fifth joint debate October 7, 1858, at Galesburg, Illinois Douglas, as reported in the Chicago Times. Lincoln, as reported in the Press & Tribune.

“I will say then, that I am not nor never have been in favor of bringing about in any way, the social and political equality of the white and black races; that I am not nor never have been in favor of making voters of the free negroes, or jurors, or qualifying them to hold office, or having them to marry with white people. I will say in addition, that there is a physical difference between the white and black races, which I suppose, will forever forbid the two races living together upon terms of social and political equality, and inasmuch as they cannot so live, that while they do remain together, there must be the position of superior and inferior, that I as much as any other white man am in favor of the superior position being assigned to the white man.”

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**Document 1a: Abraham Lincoln giving a speech in Chicago, IL, July 1858**

1. Who is Lincoln referring to as the inferior race?
2. What is all the arguing about?
3. Where did the Lincoln get the phrase “all men are created equal?”
4. According to the document above, what does Lincoln want the American people to do?

**Document 1b: Fifth debate with Stephen Douglas at Galesburg, IL, Oct. 7, 1858**

1. Who does Lincoln believe should be assigned the superior position?
2. What positions is Lincoln not in favor of free negroes holding?
3. Did Lincoln change his position from Document 1a to 1b? Use a quote from each document to support your answer.
4. Why did Lincoln change his position between giving a speech and then having a debate

From this document should Lincoln be considered the “Great Emancipator”?

YES

NO

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**Document 2: “A Job for the Cabinet Maker”**

Document Note: Featured in Frank Leslie’s Illustrated Magazine, February 2, 1861 after the South had seceded.



Source: Featured in Frank Leslie’s Illustrated Magazine, February 2, 1861

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**Document 2: “A Job for the Cabinet Maker”**

1. What is broken in the cartoon, and what does it represent?
2. How are repairs being made?
3. Is the damage small or great? Why?
4. Who in history is the “cabinet maker?”
5. What is the cartoonist telling the reader about the cabinet maker’s goal?
6. What issue is missing from this cartoon and why?

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### Document 3a: The Corwin Amendment

**Document Note:** Approved by House of Representatives, February 28, 1861 and by Senate March 2, 1861 but not ratified by the States. Had this amendment been ratified, it would have become the 13th Amendment.

“No amendment shall be made to the Constitution which will authorize or give to Congress the power to abolish or interfere, within any State, with the domestic institutions thereof, including that of persons held to labor or service by the laws of said State.”

### Document 3b: Lincoln’s 1st Inaugural Address March 4, 1861

**Document Note:** Lincoln’s address to the nation after his election.

Excerpt 1:

“It is found in nearly all the published speeches of him who now addresses you. I do but quote from one of those speeches when I declare “I have no purpose, directly or indirectly, to interfere with the institution of slavery in the States where it exists. I believe I have no lawful right to do so....”

Excerpt 2:

“...I understand a proposed amendment to the Constitution...has passed Congress, to the effect that the Federal Government shall never interfere with the domestic institutions of the States, including that of persons held to service....I have no objection to its being made express and **irrevocable** (final).”

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**Document 3a: The Corwin Amendment & Document 3b: Lincoln's 1st Inaugural Address March 4, 1861**

1. What term means slavery in the above excerpts?
2. What was Lincoln's policy concerning the abolition of slavery at the time he assumed the office of the Presidency in 1861?
3. What is Lincoln's position on the Corwin Amendment?
4. In your opinion, why would Lincoln support this amendment?

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Document 4: Lincoln, "I'm sorry to have to drop you, Sambo, but this concern won't carry us both."



Lincoln, "I'm sorry to have to drop you, Sambo, but this concern won't carry us both."

**Sambo – a common slave name, but that later is considered a racist term**

Document Note: **Freemont's Proclamation** - In late August 1861, Fremont placed all of Missouri under martial law. He believed that slavery aided the guerillas and that a direct strike at that institution would crush them. On August 30, he issued his own "emancipation proclamation", declaring Missouri's slaves "forever free", without informing President Lincoln. This act, of course, far exceeded the authority of his position. When he found out what Fremont had done, Lincoln asked him to modify his proclamation to conform to official policy, which under the Confiscation Act of 1861, freed only those slaves used by Confederates to aid the war effort and did not extend to general abolition. Fremont refused.

This placed the president, who later called Fremont's act "dictatorial", in a very difficult political position. He could not risk alienating the conservatives in this crucial border state; yet he did not to upset the Radical Republicans who were pressing for abolition. The president felt he needed to be cautious; at this stage of the war, Union victories were not numerous enough to justify bold political actions. Within weeks, Fremont was relieved of his command and his proclamation was revoked. Although this incident helped to sharpen the nation's focus on the need for abolition, Lincoln's slow-but-steady course was politically wiser.

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**Document 4: Lincoln, "I'm sorry to have to drop you, Sambo, but this concern won't carry us both."**

1. What does the sail say in the background? Based on the reading, what does the sail represent?
2. Who is the person Lincoln is pushing down/away?
3. What is the cartoonist trying to say about Lincoln?
4. Describe the type of seas that you see in the cartoon.
5. How would you describe Lincoln's response to the Fremont Proclamation? Use the cartoon to support your answer.
6. Explain the caption.

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**Source 5: Letter from Charles Sumner to the Duchess of Argyll, August 11, 1862**

Document Note: President Lincoln was concerned about reaction in the Border States and the Army. Massachusetts Senator Charles Sumner repeatedly urged President Lincoln to adopt a policy of emancipation. A few weeks later, Sumner quoted the President as telling him.....

"I would do it if I were not afraid that half the officers would fling down their arms and three more states would rise," President Lincoln told Sumner. A few weeks later, Sumner quoted the President as telling him: "Wait — time is essential."

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**Source 5: Letter from Charles Sumner to the Duchess of Argyll, August 11, 1862**

1. Who are the officers that Lincoln refers to?
2. Why is Lincoln afraid to issue a proclamation that would free the slaves?
3. What states is Lincoln referring to when he states “more would rise”?
4. What does Lincoln mean that more states would “rise”?
5. Why does Lincoln feel that they must wait and that “time is essential”?

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### Source 6: Abraham Lincoln to Horace Greeley, August 22, 1862

Document Note: Horace Greeley was an American newspaper editor, a reformer, and a politician. His *New York Tribune* was America's most influential newspaper from the 1840s to the 1870s and "established Greeley's reputation as the greatest editor of his day." Greeley used it to promote the Whig and Republican parties, as well as slavery. Greeley made the *Tribune* the leading newspaper opposing the Slave Power, that is, what he considered the conspiracy by slave owners to seize control of the federal government and block the progress of liberty. In the secession crisis of 1861 he took a hard line against the Confederacy.

"My **paramount** [main] objective in this struggle is to save the Union, and is not either to save or destroy Slavery. If I could save the Union without freeing any slave, I would do it; and if I could save it by freeing all the slavers, I would do it; and if I could do it by freeing some and leaving others alone, I would also do that. What I do about Slavery and the colored race, I do because it helps to save the Union . . . I have stated here my purpose according to my view of official duty, and I intend no [change] of my . . . personal wish that all men, everywhere, could be free."

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Source 6: Abraham Lincoln to Horace Greeley, August 22, 1862

1. What is the struggle that Lincoln is speaking about?
2. What does Lincoln describe as his main goal in fighting the war?
3. What does he say is his "personal" wish? Why is it only a personal wish?
4. Put the following excerpt into your own words:  
"If I could save the Union without freeing any slave, I would do it; and if I could save it by freeing all the slaves, I would do it; and if I could do it by freeing some and leaving others alone, I would also do that."
5. How does Lincoln's personal and official views conflict?

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### Document 7: "Writing the Emancipation Proclamation."

Document Note: Although many Northerners, including Abraham Lincoln, initially hoped to fight the war without interfering with slavery as it existed, pressure from slaves who fled to Union lines, abolitionist sentiment in the North, and a deteriorating military situation pushed Lincoln to consider abolishing slavery. In September 1862 Lincoln issued a preliminary Emancipation Proclamation.

A political cartoon by Adalbert J. Volck titled Caricature of Lincoln writing the Emancipation Proclamation. A demon holds Lincoln's inkwell. Lincoln has his foot on the US Constitution. Art on Lincoln's wall glorifies John Brown and the slave revolt in Haiti.



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**Document 7: "Writing the Emancipation Proclamation."**

1. Using the picture and seeing how Lincoln is drawn, what do you think the artist is trying to express by drawing Lincoln the way he does?
2. How is John Brown portrayed in the painting above Lincoln's head? What object do you see above John Brown's head?
3. Why is there a demon holding the inkwell that Lincoln is using?
4. Why do you think the cartoonist portrayed Lincoln with his foot on the Constitution?

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### Document 8: Emancipation Proclamation

Document Note: The Emancipation Proclamation is an executive order issued by United States President Abraham Lincoln on January 1, 1863, during the American Civil War under his war powers. It proclaimed the freedom of 3.1 million of the nation's 4 million slaves, and immediately freed 50,000 of them, with the rest freed as Union armies advanced.<sup>[1]</sup> On September 22, 1862, Lincoln announced that he would issue a formal emancipation of all slaves in any state of the Confederate States of America that did not return to Union control by January 1, 1863. The actual order was signed and issued January 1, 1863; it named the locations under Confederate control where it would apply. Lincoln issued the Executive Order by his authority as "Commander in Chief of the Army and Navy" under Article II, section 2 of the United States Constitution

"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.....

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.....

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."

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**Document 8: Emancipation Proclamation**

1. What date was the Emancipation Proclamation issued?
2. What authority did Lincoln cite to issue the Emancipation Proclamation?
3. Which slaves were actually set free by the Emancipation Proclamation?
4. Restate what you think is the most important phrase from this document.
5. Who does the document say can join the armed forces?
6. Why do you think that Lincoln did not free all the slaves in all states? What is his motivation for this decision?

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**Document 9: Lincoln Letter to Senator A.G. Hodges (Excerpt from Letter to A.G. Hodges, April 4, 1864)**

Document Note: This was in response to issues surrounding the Border States after the Emancipation Proclamation.

“...I am naturally anti-slavery. If slavery is not wrong, nothing is wrong. I cannot remember when I did not so think, and feel. And yet I have never understood that the Presidency conferred upon me an unrestricted right to act officially upon this judgment and feeling. It was in the oath I took that I would, to the best of my ability, preserve, protect, and defend the Constitution of the United States...”

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**Document 9: Lincoln Letter to Senator A.G. Hodges (Excerpt from Letter to A.G. Hodges, April 4, 1864)**

1. What is Lincoln's "personal" view of slavery?
2. What was one thing Lincoln committed to when he took an oath to become President?
3. Why didn't Lincoln make his personal viewpoint on slavery public policy?

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**Document 9: 13<sup>th</sup> Amendment to the U.S. Constitution**

Document Note: Proposed on January 31, 1865 and ratified on December 1865. Lincoln approved on February 1, 1865 and actively ensured its passage. 20 states had ratified the amendment at the time of Lincoln's assassination on April 12, 1865.

Section 1. Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for crime whereof the party shall have been duly convicted, shall exist within the United States, or any place subject to their jurisdiction.

Section 2. Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.

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**Document 9: 13<sup>th</sup> Amendment to the U.S. Constitution**

1. What does the 13th amendment say about slavery?
2. How will this amendment be enforced?
3. In your opinion, how could Lincoln have supported both the 13th Amendment and the Corwin Amendment?

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YES

NO