**Mr. Kerin’s Class SS assignment #4, May 11-May 15**

*Instructions: Read the following. If you are doing this from a print out, make sure you put your full name, period, date, subject, and teacher, on the front of your paper which you will turn in on the drop off date. If you are doing this online, please make sure to include all information in your email to me. Don’t forget to save your changes! If you prefer to print it out (which you don’t need to), you may print it, take a picture, and email it to me.*

*Read this article about the Emancipation Proclamation, the freeing of the slaves during the Civil War, and then answer the questions that follow.*

**10 Facts about the Emancipation Proclamation**

**Learn the history and politics surrounding this document**

*The Emancipation Proclamation is arguably one of the top ten most important documents in the history of the United States; however, it is also one of the most misunderstood. Here are ten facts providing the basics on the proclamation and the history surrounding it.*

**Fact #1: Lincoln actually issued the Emancipation Proclamation twice.**[Abraham Lincoln](http://www.civilwar.org/150th-anniversary/abraham-lincoln.html) issued the preliminary Emancipation Proclamation on September 22nd, 1862. It stipulated that if the Southern states did not cease their rebellion by January 1st, 1863, then Proclamation would go into effect. When the Confederacy did not yield, Lincoln issued the final Emancipation Proclamation on January 1st, 1863.

**Fact #2: The Emancipation Proclamation only applied to the states in rebellion.**

President Lincoln justified the [Emancipation Proclamation](http://www.civilwar.org/150th-anniversary/emancipation-proclamation-150.html) as a war measure intended to cripple the Confederacy. Being careful to respect the limits of his authority, Lincoln applied the Emancipation Proclamation only to the Southern states in rebellion.  
  
See [Abraham Lincoln's Draft of the Emancipation Proclamation »](http://www.civilwar.org/education/history/primarysources/abraham-lincolns-draft-of.html)

**Fact #3: Lincoln’s advisors did not initially support the Emancipation Proclamation.**

When President Lincoln first proposed the Emancipation Proclamation to his cabinet in the summer of 1862, many of the cabinet secretaries were apathetic, or worse, worried that the Proclamation was too radical. It was only Lincoln’s firm commitment to the necessity and justice of the Proclamation, along with the victory at [Antietam](http://www.civilwar.org/antietam), which finally persuaded his cabinet members to support him.

**Fact #4: The Battle of Antietam (also known as Sharpsburg) provided the necessary Union victory to issue the Emancipation Proclamation.**

President Lincoln had first proposed the Emancipation Proclamation to his Cabinet in July 1862, but Secretary of State [William Seward](http://www.civilwar.org/education/history/biographies/william-h-seward.html) suggested waiting for a Union victory so that the government could prove that it could enforce the Proclamation. Although the Battle of Antietam resulted in a draw, the Union army was able to drive the Confederates out of Maryland – enough of a “victory,” that Lincoln felt comfortable issuing the Emancipation just five days later.

**Fact #5: The Emancipation Proclamation was a firm demonstration of the President’s executive war powers.**

The Southern states used slaves to support their armies on the field and to manage the home front so more men could go off to fight. In a display of his political genius, President Lincoln shrewdly justified the Emancipation Proclamation as a “fit and necessary war measure” in order to cripple the Confederacy’s use of slaves in the war effort. Lincoln also declared that the Proclamation would be enforced under his power as Commander-in-Chief, and that the freedom of the slaves would be maintained by the “Executive government of the United States.”

**Fact #6: The Emancipation Proclamation changed the focus of the war.**

Up until September 1862, the main focus of the war had been to preserve the Union. With the issuance of the Emancipation Proclamation freedom for slaves now became a legitimate war aim.

**Fact #7: The Emancipation Proclamation helped prevent the involvement of foreign nations in the Civil War.**

Britain and France had considered supporting the Confederacy in order to expand their influence in the Western Hemisphere. However, many Europeans were against slavery. Although some in the United Kingdom saw the Emancipation Proclamation as overly limited and reckless, Lincoln's directive reinforced the shift of the international political mood against intervention while the Union victory at Antietam further disturbed those who didn't want to intervene on the side of a lost cause.

**Fact #8: The Emancipation Proclamation paved the way for African-Americans to fight for their freedom.**

Lincoln declared in the Proclamation that African-Americans of “suitable condition, would be received into the armed service of the United States.” Five months after the Proclamation took effect; the War Department of the United States issued General Orders No. 143, establishing the United States Colored Troops (USCT). By the end of the war, over 200,000 African-Americans would serve in the Union army and navy.

**Fact #9: The Emancipation Proclamation led the way to total abolition of slavery in the United States.**

With the Emancipation Proclamation, the aim of the war changed to include the freeing of slaves in addition to preserving the Union. Although the Proclamation initially freed only the slaves in the rebellious states, by the end of the war the Proclamation had influenced and prepared citizens to advocate and accept abolition for all slaves in both the North and South. The 13th Amendment, which abolished slavery in the United States, was passed on December 6th, 1865.

**Fact #10: Lincoln considered the Emancipation Proclamation the crowning achievement of his presidency.**

Heralded as the savior of the Union, President Lincoln actually considered the Emancipation Proclamation to be the most important aspect of his legacy. “I never, in my life, felt more certain that I was doing right, than I do in signing this paper,” he declared. “If my name ever goes into history it will be for this act, and my whole soul is in it."

Fill in the table below, ranking the ten facts from above from MOST important, in your opinion, to LEAST important:

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| Ranking | Fact # | What it says, briefly, in your own words |
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1. Why did you pick the fact you did for MOST important? Explain in a complete sentence.
2. What did you learn that surprised you the most? Explain in complete sentences.

*I wrote a Civil War poem just for you! Next to each stanza (a paragraph in a poem), put it into your own words for what is happening.*

**Civil War Stars** by Mr. Nicholas Kerin Shakespeare ☺

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| |  |  | | --- | --- | | **Poem** | **What do you think it means? Put in your own words.** | | **Several stars from our great war**  **The U.S. was devastated**  **The South declared independence**  **Legends were created** |  | | **Many generals rose to stardom**  **Through their deeds and bravery**  **Abe Lincoln saved the country**  **And put an end to slavery** |  | | **Many generals failed Abe**  **Before one did come through**  **The hero for the Union**  **Was the general with the U.** |  | | **Ulysses Grant helped win the war**  **Robert E. Lee led the South**  **Burnside was a northern general**  **With hair beside his mouth**  **(Do some research, you will learn**  **He invented the sideburn)** |  | | **“This man, he fights,” Lincoln said of Grant**  **Into battle he would fly**  **The result was northern victory**  **Though two million men would die** |  | | **Jefferson Davis, the southern pres.**  **The southern states’ top guy**  **His top man, Robert E. Lee**  **Then Stonewall Jackson, though he’d die**  **(A huge oopsie way back then,**  **Shot accidentally by his men)** |  | | **Abe Lincoln was the northern pres.**  **Ulysses Grant his top guy**  **Just below him, William Tecumseh Sherman**  **Sending smoke into the sky**  **(For Sherman’s “March to the Sea”**  **He destroyed all as they did flee)** |  | | **Several stars from our great war**  **The U.S. was devastated**  **The South declared independence**  **Legends were created** |  |   *Bonus Track: The South had Robert E. Lee, He helped the war go later,*  *The North should feel lucky, The South didn’t have Darth Vader ☺*  *Now it’s time for YOU to write a poem! Try to incorporate things you’ve learned about the Civil War, facts, into your poem.*  Civil War Acrostic Poem   |  | | --- | | An acrostic poem is one where you choose a word or name and use each letter in the name as the beginning of a word or line that tells something about that person or topic.  Example: An acrostic poem using the word "friend."  **F**rank from my class  **R**eally helped me when I got hurt. He ran to the nurse and got  **I**ce for my leg  **E**venwhen I lost  **N**elly my pet frog, his mom  **D**rove us all around looking for her. |   Write an Acrostic Poem using the word below.  C  I  V  I  L  W  A  R |