

Teaching with Primary Sources Across Tennessee

PRIMARY SOURCE SET: REACTIONS TO THE EMANCIPATION PROCLAMATION

Historical Background

On September 22, 1862, President Abraham Lincoln announced that if the Confederate states did not end their rebellion by January 1, 1863, and rejoin the Union that he would free their slaves. Consequently, Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation on January 1, 1863.

Although the proclamation did not immediately free all the slaves, it changed the character of the war and had an immediate impact on African Americans across the Union and the Confederacy. It confirmed the Civil War had become a war for freedom and advanced the fight for the complete abolition of slavery in the United States.

In response to the Emancipation Proclamation, a flurry of political cartoons and prints were created, revealing public opinion on both sides of the issue of the permanent abolition of slavery. Having no force of law in areas under Union control, the need to formally abolish slavery continued to be an issue. In 1865, the ratification of the Thirteenth Amendment formally abolished slavery throughout the United States, completing what the Emancipation Proclamation had begun.

From the Library of Congress:

- [Emancipation Proclamation](#)
- [Analyzing Political Cartoons](#)
- [Today in History, September 22: The Emancipation Proclamation](#)

Also see:

- [Tennessee Civil War National Heritage Area](#)
- [Contraband Camps, Slavery in Tennessee, Reconstruction](#) from the *Tennessee Encyclopedia of History and Culture*
- [Emancipation in Tennessee](#) from Tennessee History For Kids



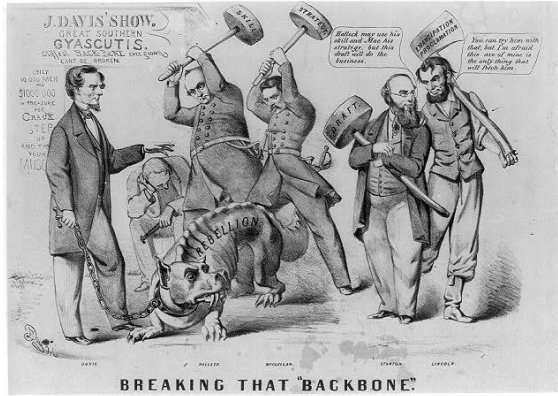
President Lincoln, writing the Proclamation of Freedom.
[1863]

Suggestions for Teachers

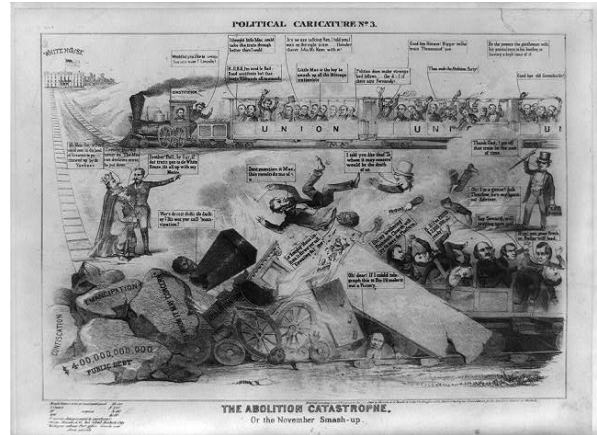
The Library of Congress offers a wide variety of primary sources related to the Emancipation Proclamation, allowing students to think about this seminal document and how people at the time reacted to it.

This primary source set focuses on political cartoons and other illustrations to help students understand public opinion and the differing ways both the Emancipation Proclamation and Abraham Lincoln were viewed. You may choose to analyze all the sources, or select one or two to help students learn to “read” different kinds of sources.

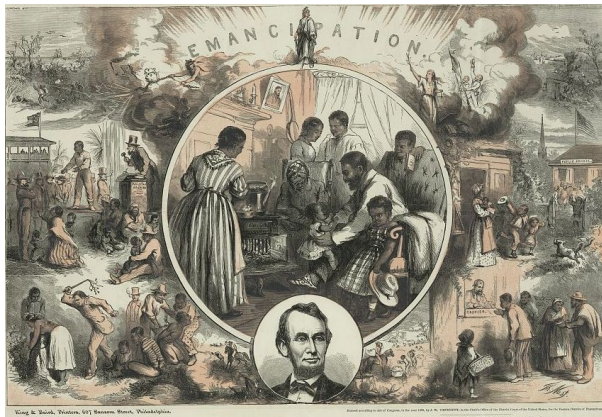
When analyzing, consider the following discussion questions to direct students along the path of critical thinking: How was the Emancipation Proclamation viewed? How did the point of view differ from North to South? What was the view of Abraham Lincoln and his role? How did positive or negative reactions to emancipation differ based on regional, political, or economic circumstances? How was the Emancipation Proclamation used by cartoonists during the 1864 presidential campaign?



Breaking that "backbone" [by Benjamin Henry Day, 1862 or 1863]



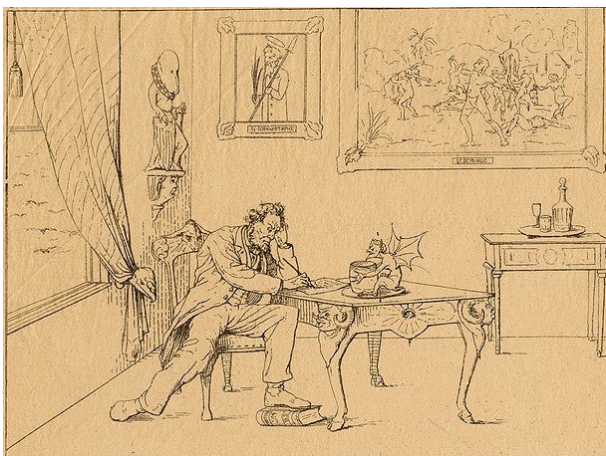
Political caricature. No. 3, The abolition catastrophe. Or the November smash-up [by G.W. Bromley & Co., 1864]



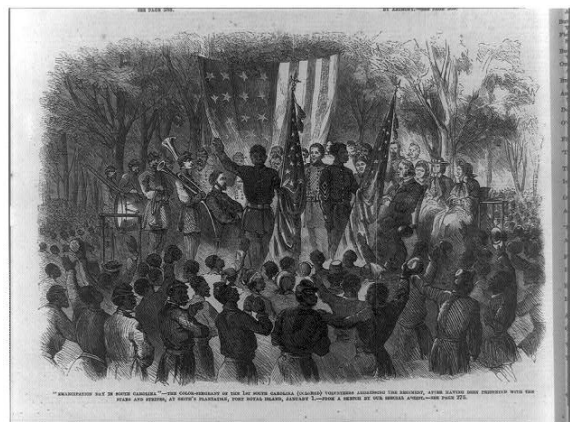
Emancipation [by Thomas Nast, 1865]



Emancipation [by Felix Octavius Carr, 1867]



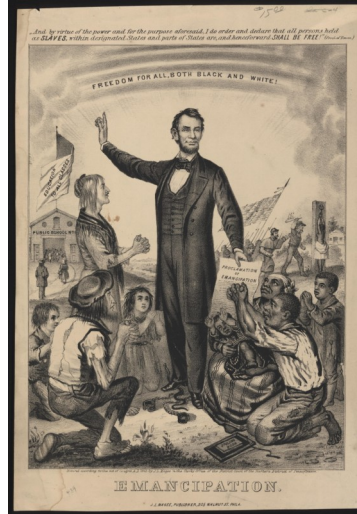
Writing the Emancipation Proclamation. [by Adalbert John Volck, 1863]



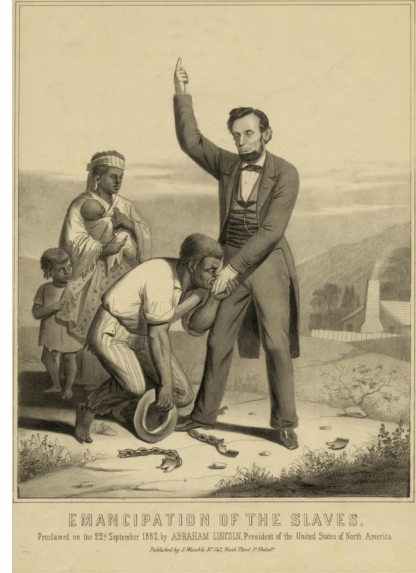
"Emancipation Day in South Carolina" [1863]



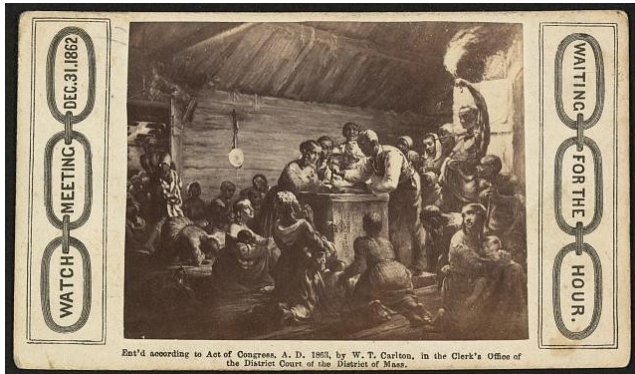
Emancipation Carte de Visite [by G.G. Fish, 1863]



"Emancipation. And by virtue of the power. . ." [Undated]



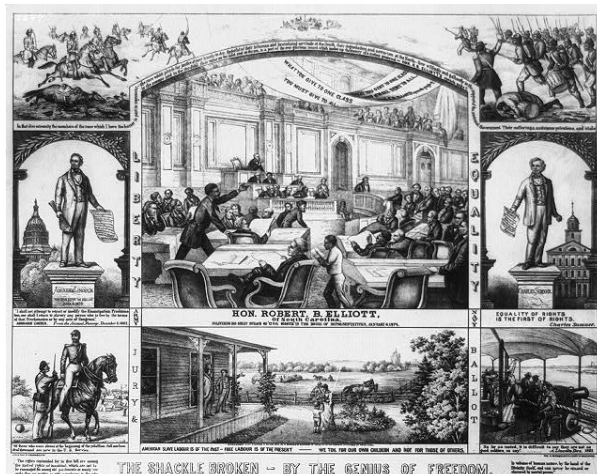
Emancipation of the slaves [by J. Waeshle, 1862]



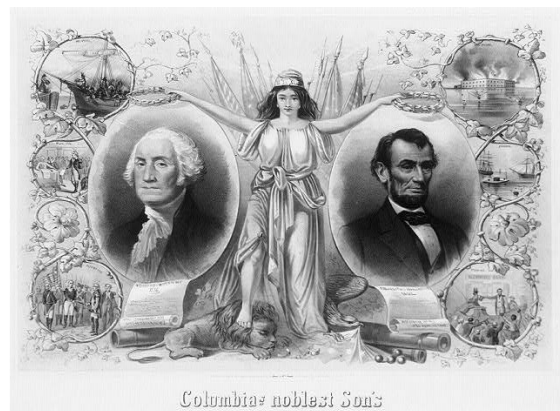
Watch meeting, Dec. 31, 1862--Waiting for the hour [by Heard & Mosley, 1863]



President Lincoln, writing the Proclamation of Freedom, January 1st, 1863 [by David Gilmour Blythe, 1863]



The shackle broken - by the genius of freedom [by E. Saschse & Co., 1874]



Columbia's noblest sons [by Kimmel & Forster, 1865]

Citations: Political Cartoons and the Emancipation Proclamation

Teachers: Providing these primary source replicas without source clues may enhance the inquiry experience for students. This list of citations is supplied for reference purposes to you and your students. We have followed the Chicago Manual of Style format, one of the formats recommended by the Library of Congress, for each entry below, minus the access date. The access date for each of these entries is November 16, 2010.

Day, Benjamin Henry, artist. "Breaking that 'backbone'." Political cartoon. 1862 or 1863. From The Library of Congress, *American Cartoon Prints Collection* and *Popular Graphic Arts Collection*. <http://www.loc.gov/pictures/item/2003674578/>.

Bromley & Co., G.W, lithographer. "Political caricature. No. 3, The abolition catastrophe. Or the November smash-up." Political cartoon. 1864. From The Library of Congress, *American Cartoon Prints Collection*. <http://www.loc.gov/pictures/item/2008661681/>.

Nast, Thomas, artist. "Emancipation." Political cartoon. 1865. From The Library of Congress, *American Cartoon Prints Collection* and *Popular Graphic Arts Collection*. <http://www.loc.gov/pictures/item/2004665360/>.

Darley, Felix Octavius Carr, creator. "Emancipation." Print. 1867. From The Library of Congress, *Miscellaneous Items in High Demand Collection*. <http://www.loc.gov/pictures/item/2010646655/>.

Volck, Adalbert John, artist. "Writing the Emancipation Proclamation." Etching. 1863. From The Library of Congress, *Civil War Treasures from the New York Historical Society*. [http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/h?ammem/cwnyhs:@field\(DOCID+@lit\(ab01005\)\)](http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/h?ammem/cwnyhs:@field(DOCID+@lit(ab01005))).

"Emancipation Day in South Carolina" - the Color-Sergeant of the 1st South Carolina (Colored) addressing the regiment, after having been presented with the Stars and Stripes, at Smith's plantation, Port Royal, January 1." Engraving. 1863. From The Library of Congress, *Miscellaneous Items in High Demand Collection*. <http://www.loc.gov/pictures/item/99614128/>.

Fish, G.G., artist. "Emancipation." Cartes de Visite. 1863. From The Library of Congress, *William A. Gladstone Collection*. <http://www.loc.gov/pictures/item/2010647791/>.

Magee, J.L., publisher. "Emancipation. And by virtue of the power and for the purpose aforesaid, I do order and declare that all persons held as slaves, within designated states and parts of States are, and henceforward [sic] shall be free!" Print. Undated. From The Library of Congress, *The Alfred Whital Stern Collection of Lincolniana*. http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/ampage?collId=lprbscsm&fileName=scsm0450/lprbscsm0450.db&recNum=0&itemLink=D?scsmbib:12:/temp/~ammem_byMM:

Waeshle, J., lithographer. "Emancipation of the slaves, proclaimed [i.e. proclaimed] on the 22nd September 1862, by Abraham Lincoln, President of the United States of North America." Lithograph. 1862. From The Library of Congress, *Popular Graphic Arts Collection*. <http://www.loc.gov/pictures/item/2003677940/>.

Heard & Mosley, photographer. "Watch meeting, Dec. 31, 1862--Waiting for the hour." Cartes de Visite. 1863. From The Library of Congress, *William A. Gladstone Collection*. <http://www.loc.gov/pictures/item/98501210/>

Blythe, David Gilmour, artist. "President Lincoln, writing the Proclamation of Freedom. January 1st, 1863." Lithograph. 1863. From The Library of Congress, *American Cartoon Prints Collection* and *Popular Graphic Arts Collection*. <http://www.loc.gov/pictures/item/2004665377/>.

Saschse & Co., E., lithographer. "The shackle broken - by the genius of freedom." Lithograph. 1874. From The Library of Congress, *American Cartoon Prints Collection* and *Popular Graphic Arts Collection*. <http://www.loc.gov/pictures/item/2003690777/>.

Kimmel & Forster, lithographer. "Columbia's noblest sons." Lithograph. 1865. From The Library of Congress, *American Cartoon Prints Collection* and *Popular Graphic Arts Collection*. <http://www.loc.gov/pictures/item/2004665370/>.