

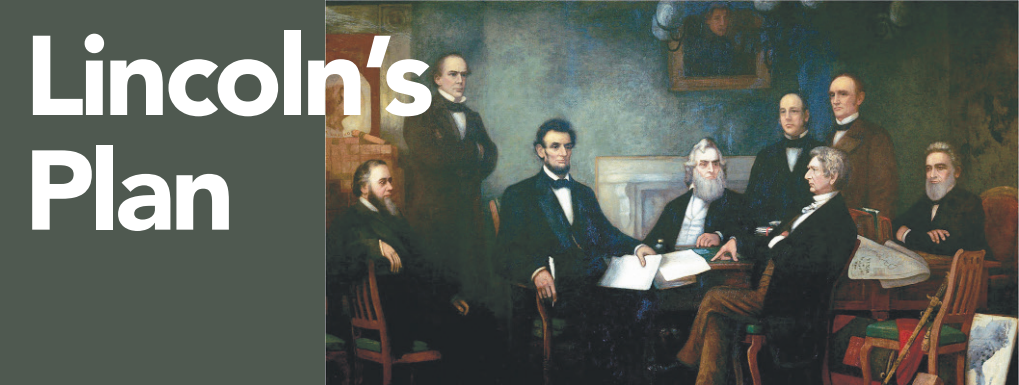


The Mini Page

Issue 37, 2025

Founded by Betty Debnam

Next Week:
Time to visit
the doctor!



The Emancipation Proclamation, written by President Abraham Lincoln, was published on Sept. 22, 1862. It said all enslaved people in any state in rebellion against the Union would be free as of Jan. 1, 1863. The proclamation was the first step in stopping the practice of slavery in the United States.

This week, The Mini Page learns more about Lincoln's proclamation and how it affected our country.

What is slavery?

Slavery is the practice of one human being owning another human being, just as someone might own a car or a house.

This means that at any time, an enslaved person could be sold and sent far away from their family. They might never see each other again.

How did slavery begin?

Since the early 1600s, Africans had been brought to North America by slave traders and sold to work on farms and plantations. (A **plantation** is a large farm where crops are grown and workers live on the property.)

The Africans did not want to come; they were kidnapped, chained together and then forced onto a ship to cross the Atlantic Ocean. The ships were overcrowded, and people often got sick. Many died during the trip.

The kidnapped Africans didn't understand the language of their captors. They didn't know what would happen to them. After they arrived in the Americas,

most were sold to work growing tobacco, rice, sugar and cotton. Some also worked in the homes of the plantation owners.

Lincoln acts

Abraham Lincoln was a young man when he probably got his first close-up view of slavery. He traveled down the Mississippi River, where he saw men, women and children in chains and at slave sales. Lincoln was shocked at these scenes, and he began to hate the idea of slavery.

After he became president, Lincoln hoped the Southern states would change their minds about slavery. But in April 1861, Confederate soldiers attacked Fort Sumter in South Carolina, and the Civil War began.

In the summer of 1862, Lincoln began working on his document that would free the slaves. He shared it with his Cabinet, and it was published in September.

The 13th Amendment

In December 1865, the 13th Amendment to the Constitution made slavery **unconstitutional**, or against the law, in the United States.



This drawing of an escaped slave serving the Union Army appeared in Harper's Weekly magazine in July 1864.

Kids in slavery

Children who were born to slaves started working as soon as they were able. They didn't go to school; in fact, learning to read was against the law for a slave child.

Some children wore nothing but a long shirt, with no pants, underwear, socks or shoes, even during cold winter months.

Kids didn't get much food to eat. Frederick Douglass, a former slave, wrote: "Our food was coarse corn meal boiled. This was called **mush**. It was put into a large wooden tray or trough, and set down upon the ground. The children were then called, like so many pigs ...". Kids would eat the mush with their hands because they weren't given spoons.

The proclamation

The original Emancipation Proclamation is at the National Archives in Washington, D.C. The original document was five pages long and was tied with narrow red and blue ribbons. After it was published, it freed about 3.5 million enslaved Africans and allowed newly free men to join the Union army.



Slave children, probably recently freed, around 1870.

Resources



On the Web:

- bit.ly/MPEmancipation

At the library:

- "If You Lived During the Civil War" by Denise Lewis Patrick

Try 'n' Find

Words that remind us of the Emancipation Proclamation are hidden in this puzzle. Some words are hidden backward or diagonally, and some letters are used twice. See if you can find:

AFRICA, ARCHIVES, ARMY, CABINET, CHILDREN, CIVIL WAR, DOCUMENT, EMANCIPATION, FREE, LINCOLN, OWNERS, PLANTATION, PROCLAMATION, REBELLION, SLAVERY, UNION, WORK.

B M K S E V I H C R A Y C R C
N R N O I T A P I C N A M E H
I H S S L A V E R Y G W Q B I
P R O C L A M A T I O N U E L
F K L P L A N T A T I O N L D
R N R Y M R A W L I V I C L R
E H M O T N E M U C O D S I E
E O X C W C A B I N E T J O N
N O I N U L I N C O L N Q N U
A F R I C A K W O W N E R S M



Cook's Corner

Watermelon Ice Dessert

You'll need:

- 8 to 10 cups seedless watermelon, chopped
- 1 1/2 cups apple juice
- 1/4 cup fresh lime juice

What to do:

1. Process watermelon (in batches) in a blender until smooth.
2. In a 13-by-9-inch pan, stir apple juice and lime juice into blended watermelon.
3. Cover and freeze for 4 hours.
4. Remove from freezer, break up and blend until smooth a second time. Return to pan and freeze again for 2 hours.
5. Before serving in individual dishes, allow watermelon to sit for 10 minutes to make it easier to break up.



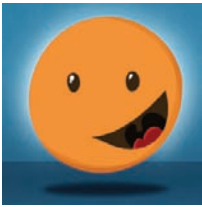
* You'll need an adult's help with this recipe.

7 Little Words for Kids

Use the letters in the boxes to make a word with the same meaning as the clue. The numbers in parentheses represent the number of letters in the solution. Each letter combination can be used only once, but all letter combinations will be necessary to complete the puzzle.

1. it falls from an oak tree (5) _____
2. passage through a mountain (6) _____
3. crunchy vegetable stalk (6) _____
4. person sentenced to jail (8) _____
5. they grow on trees (6) _____
6. cart pulled by a horse (5) _____
7. rock band member (7) _____

MIN	DR	YES	NEL
ORN	UMM	LEA	CEL
ERY	CRI	ON	AC
ER	WAG	TUN	AL



Answers: acom, tunnel, celery, criminal, leaves, wagon, drummer.

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Mini Jokes



Scott: How can you make the odd number seven into an even number?
Sierra: Remove the S!

Eco Note



The U.N. weather agency reports that sandstorms and dust storms are intensifying worldwide due to human-driven climate change and poor land management. The storms carry health risks such as respiratory and cardiovascular disease, with airborne particles contributing to about 7 million premature deaths annually. In 2024, particularly severe storms hit East Asia, West Africa and the Middle East, while dust from the Sahara Desert travels as far away as the Caribbean and Florida at times.

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For later:

Look in your newspaper for articles about presidential proclamations or executive orders.

Teachers: Follow and interact with The Mini Page on Facebook!



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