

Student name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## EMANCIPATION PROCLAMATION WORKSHEET

The Emancipation Proclamation was limited in many ways. It applied only to states that had seceded from the Union, leaving slavery untouched in the loyal border states. It also expressly exempted parts of the Confederacy that had already come under Northern control. Most important, the freedom it promised depended upon Union military victory.

Although the Emancipation Proclamation did not immediately free a single slave, it fundamentally transformed the character of the war. After January 1, 1863, every advance of federal troops expanded the domain of freedom. Moreover, the Proclamation announced the acceptance of black men into the Union Army and Navy, enabling the liberated to become liberators. By the end of the war, almost 200,000 black soldiers and sailors had fought for the Union and freedom.

From the first days of the Civil War, slaves had acted to secure their own liberty. The Emancipation Proclamation confirmed their insistence that the war for the Union must become a war for freedom. It added moral force to the Union cause and strengthened the Union both militarily and politically. As a milestone along the road to slavery's final destruction, the Emancipation Proclamation has assumed a place among the great documents of human freedom.

Instructions: *In your own words, give the meaning of each of the following four excerpts from the Emancipation Proclamation:*

1. "I do order and declare that all persons held as slaves within said designated States, and parts of States, are, and henceforward shall be free..."

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2. "...and that the Executive government of the United States, including the military and naval authorities thereof, will recognize and maintain the freedom of said persons."

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3. "And I hereby enjoin upon the people so declared to be free to abstain from all violence, unless in necessary self-defense..."

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4. "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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