Freedom in Stages

Tracing emancipation during and after the Civil War

SS24.US1.12e "Trace the progression of emancipation during and after the Civil War, including the effects of self-emancipation, the Emancipation Proclamation, Juneteenth, and the Thirteenth Amendment."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Number four stages in the passage from earliest to latest. At each stage, underline words that show who acted or how freedom's reach changed.

No Single Day of Freedom

1 In 1861, enslaved people near Union army camps faced a dangerous choice. Many left plantations, carried news about Confederate forces, and sought protection behind Union lines. Their actions, often called self-emancipation, challenged the idea that slavery could continue untouched while the war went on. At first, Union officers did not follow one consistent policy: some returned escapees, while others refused. As thousands sought refuge, Congress barred Union forces from returning escapees to enslavers. Escaping did not guarantee safety or permanent legal freedom, but these choices pushed the war toward a fight over slavery.

2 On January 1, 1863, President Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation. It declared enslaved people free in states and parts of states still in rebellion, but it did not apply to loyal slaveholding border states or to certain Confederate areas already under Union control. The order made emancipation an explicit Union war aim and authorized Black men to serve in Union forces. Nearly 180,000 Black men served in the Union Army by war's end, strengthening the fight against the Confederacy. Still, a federal order alone could not free people in places the Union army had not reached.

3 Texas shows the gap between a national order and freedom on the ground. On June 19, 1865, Union General Gordon Granger announced in Galveston that enslaved people in Texas were free. The date became known as Juneteenth, yet learning about freedom and securing it took longer for many people. Texas was not the last place where slavery persisted: the proclamation had never covered loyal slaveholding states. Ratified in December 1865, the Thirteenth Amendment ended slavery throughout the United States, except as punishment for a crime after conviction. Its nationwide rule went beyond wartime orders, though freedom still did not bring equal rights or safety.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did self-emancipation change the Union's response to slavery before 1863?

2. How did the Emancipation Proclamation expand the Union's goal while leaving a limit on who it covered?

3. Why did the June 19, 1865, announcement in Texas matter if the proclamation had been issued more than two years earlier?

4. How did the Thirteenth Amendment extend emancipation beyond both the proclamation and the announcement in Texas?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a museum label of 75 to 95 words explaining why emancipation unfolded in stages rather than on one date. Connect actions by enslaved people, wartime federal policy, the arrival of Union troops in Texas, and a constitutional change; include one limit of an earlier stage.

ANSWER KEY

Freedom in Stages

GRADE 10 · SS24.US1.12e

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Number four stages in the passage from earliest to latest. At each stage, underline words that show who acted or how freedom's reach changed. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did self-emancipation change the Union's response to slavery before 1863?	**As enslaved people sought refuge behind Union lines, Congress barred Union forces from returning escapees to enslavers.**
2	How did the Emancipation Proclamation expand the Union's goal while leaving a limit on who it covered?	**It made emancipation an explicit Union war aim and declared enslaved people free in areas still in rebellion. It did not cover loyal slaveholding border states or certain Confederate areas already under Union control.**
3	Why did the June 19, 1865, announcement in Texas matter if the proclamation had been issued more than two years earlier?	**The proclamation could not be enforced everywhere when it was issued. Union forces reached Texas and announced freedom there in 1865, though securing freedom still took time.**
4	How did the Thirteenth Amendment extend emancipation beyond both the proclamation and the announcement in Texas?	**It ended slavery nationwide, including in loyal slaveholding states the proclamation had not covered, except as punishment for a crime after conviction.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

A museum label cannot put freedom on a single calendar square. Enslaved people who fled to Union lines forced the army to confront slavery as the war unfolded. Lincoln's proclamation turned emancipation into a Union war aim, but it excluded loyal slaveholding states and could not be enforced everywhere at once. In Texas, the arrival of Union troops made the announcement of freedom on Juneteenth possible, although securing freedom took time. The Thirteenth Amendment then banned slavery nationwide, with an exception for punishment after a criminal conviction.

Accept responses that connect the four stages and distinguish a legal declaration from freedom secured on the ground. Do not treat Juneteenth as the date slavery ended everywhere in the United States.