Freedom Takes Time

Trace how a wartime order changed the war and the path to freedom.

8.C.12.4.B "Analyze the Emancipation Proclamation's role in expanding the goals of the war and its impact on slavery, including the significance of Juneteenth."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the sentence that shows how the Union's war goals expanded. Circle two details about the proclamation's limits, then number two details showing how freedom spread after the order.

An Order and Its Reach

1. In 1862, the Civil War was a fight to keep the United States together. President Abraham Lincoln also faced a hard question: How could the Union weaken the Confederacy, which relied on enslaved people to grow crops and supply its armies? On January 1, 1863, Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation. It declared enslaved people free in states and parts of states still rebelling against the Union. The order made ending slavery in those places an official Union war goal, alongside preserving the nation.

2. The proclamation did not free every enslaved person at once. It did not apply to loyal border states where slavery was legal, or to some Southern areas already under Union control. The Union could not immediately enforce the order in Confederate territory it did not hold. Still, as Union troops advanced, the order helped turn military victories into opportunities for freedom. It also authorized Black men to serve in the Union armed forces. Nearly 180,000 Black men served in the Union Army, strengthening the fight against slavery and the Confederacy.

3. In Texas, Confederate forces held power long after the proclamation took effect. On June 19, 1865, Union General Gordon Granger announced freedom for enslaved people in Galveston. The announcement followed the end of the Civil War and brought federal authority to a place where the proclamation had not been enforced. That date became Juneteenth, a celebration of freedom and a reminder that a law or order does not always change life immediately. The Thirteenth Amendment, ratified in December 1865, ended slavery throughout the United States, except as punishment for a crime.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did the Emancipation Proclamation expand the Union's goal in the war?

2. Why did the proclamation not free every enslaved person right away? Give two reasons from the passage.

3. How did the proclamation help the Union fight while advancing its new goal? Use two details from the passage.

4. Why does Juneteenth show a gap between declaring freedom and enforcing it? Use the event in Galveston as evidence.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a 70 to 95 word museum label titled "Freedom Takes Time." Explain how the proclamation changed the Union's goal, why its effect was limited at first, and how Juneteenth helps explain the gap between an order and freedom on the ground. Include how nationwide abolition came later.

ANSWER KEY

Freedom Takes Time

GRADE 8 · 8.C.12.4.B

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline the sentence that shows how the Union's war goals expanded. Circle two details about the proclamation's limits, then number two details showing how freedom spread after the order. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did the Emancipation Proclamation expand the Union's goal in the war?	**It made ending slavery in rebellious areas an official war goal alongside preserving the nation.**
2	Why did the proclamation not free every enslaved person right away? Give two reasons from the passage.	**It did not apply to loyal border states or some Southern areas under Union control, and the Union could not immediately enforce it in Confederate territory.**
3	How did the proclamation help the Union fight while advancing its new goal? Use two details from the passage.	**It authorized Black men to serve in Union forces, strengthening the fight, and Union advances made freedom possible in more places.**
4	Why does Juneteenth show a gap between declaring freedom and enforcing it? Use the event in Galveston as evidence.	**The proclamation took effect in 1863, but federal authority reached Galveston later. General Granger announced freedom there on June 19, 1865.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Freedom Takes Time: The Emancipation Proclamation added freeing enslaved people in rebellious areas to the Union's goal of preserving the nation, but Confederate control limited enforcement. It did not cover loyal border states. As Union troops advanced, freedom became possible in more places. In Galveston, Texas, General Gordon Granger announced freedom on June 19, 1865. Juneteenth marks this announcement and shows that an order did not bring freedom everywhere at once. The Thirteenth Amendment ended slavery nationwide in December 1865, except as punishment for a crime.

Accept wording that distinguishes the proclamation's declared freedom from when and where the Union could enforce it. Student labels should distinguish Juneteenth from the later nationwide abolition of slavery.