Turning Points, Lasting Freedom

Read how Civil War events changed the war and its goals.

8.C.12.4 "Summarize the significance of key battles and turning points of the Civil War. Explain how the Battle of Antietam proved that the Union could withstand the Confederate Army..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline what changed after each battle or surrender. Circle words that show why ending slavery required more than winning a battle.

Winning the War, Making Freedom Real

1 In September 1862, Confederate general Robert E. Lee invaded Maryland, hoping a victory on Union soil would weaken Northern support for the war. At Antietam, Union troops stopped his advance, and Lee withdrew to Virginia. Neither army won a clear battlefield victory, but the Union had withstood Lee's invasion. This gave President Abraham Lincoln the confidence to announce the Emancipation Proclamation. Effective January 1, 1863, it declared enslaved people free in areas rebelling against the Union. The Union now fought to end slavery as well as preserve the nation.

2 In July 1863, Lee invaded the North again. Union troops defeated his army at Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, ending this second attempt. In the Gettysburg Address months later, Lincoln linked victory to the nation's founding promise of equality and a "new birth of freedom." He argued that government by the people must survive. That same July, Confederate troops surrendered Vicksburg, Mississippi, to the Union. The loss opened the way for Union control of the entire Mississippi River. Once Union forces secured the river, Confederate armies and supplies on opposite sides were cut apart.

3 The proclamation did not free everyone at once: Union forces had to reach Confederate territory to enforce it. It also left slavery untouched in Union border states. On June 19, 1865, Union troops announced freedom to enslaved people in Galveston, Texas. Juneteenth honors that announcement and the struggle to make freedom real. Earlier, on April 9, Lee surrendered his army to Ulysses S. Grant at Appomattox Court House, Virginia. Grant required soldiers to surrender weapons and promise not to fight again. He let them return home with their own horses.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did Antietam give Lincoln an opening to announce the Emancipation Proclamation, and how did the proclamation change the Union's goals?

2. What did Gettysburg end, and what reason for winning did Lincoln give in the Gettysburg Address?

3. Why was the Confederate loss of Vicksburg a turning point for control of the Mississippi River?

4. What terms did Grant give Lee's soldiers at Appomattox, and why did Juneteenth still matter after that surrender?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a four-sentence museum caption explaining how two military turning points changed the Union's chances of winning. Then explain why the Emancipation Proclamation and Juneteenth show that winning battles and making freedom real were not the same thing.

ANSWER KEY

Turning Points, Lasting Freedom

GRADE 8 · 8.C.12.4

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline what changed after each battle or surrender. Circle words that show why ending slavery required more than winning a battle. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did Antietam give Lincoln an opening to announce the Emancipation Proclamation, and how did the proclamation change the Union's goals?	**The Union withstood Lee's invasion, giving Lincoln confidence to announce the proclamation. Ending slavery became an open goal alongside preserving the Union.**
2	What did Gettysburg end, and what reason for winning did Lincoln give in the Gettysburg Address?	**Gettysburg ended Lee's second attempt to invade the North. Lincoln argued that victory would uphold equality, bring a new birth of freedom, and protect government by the people.**
3	Why was the Confederate loss of Vicksburg a turning point for control of the Mississippi River?	**It opened the way for Union control of the entire river, cutting apart Confederate armies and supplies on opposite sides.**
4	What terms did Grant give Lee's soldiers at Appomattox, and why did Juneteenth still matter after that surrender?	**The soldiers surrendered weapons and promised not to fight again, but could return home with their own horses. Juneteenth marks the later announcement of freedom in Galveston, showing that freedom still had to be made real.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

At Antietam, Union troops withstood Lee's invasion, giving Lincoln confidence to announce the Emancipation Proclamation. The loss of Vicksburg opened the way for Union control of the Mississippi River and divided Confederate forces. The proclamation made ending slavery a Union goal, but soldiers still had to reach Confederate territory to enforce it. Juneteenth marks the later announcement of freedom in Galveston, showing that making freedom real took time.

Accept answers that explain the effects of events rather than only naming them. For the museum caption, students may choose Gettysburg or Appomattox as a turning point if they accurately explain its significance.