Promise and Proof

Compare a wartime order with a later account

AWH.P.3.1.A "Cite specific textual evidence to support analysis of primary and secondary sources, evaluating features such as author, date, and origin of information."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline a phrase in Source A that defines the order's reach, circle a detail in Source B about what happened afterward, and number the author and date of each source to help you judge what each can prove.

What Did the Order Change?

1. On January 1, 1863, President Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation during the Civil War. It declared freedom for enslaved people in places then in rebellion against the United States, not in every slaveholding area. To study what the order said and what followed, compare two sources below. Source A is a short passage from Lincoln's federal proclamation, issued in Washington, D.C., on that date. Source B is an explanation written by the author of this worksheet in 2026, using the proclamation and later historical knowledge. The sources were created for different purposes.

2. Source A, primary source, Abraham Lincoln, January 1, 1863: "all persons held as slaves within any State or designated part of a State, the people whereof shall then be in rebellion against the United States, shall be then, thenceforward, and forever free." This wording sets a rule for areas in rebellion. Because the president issued the order while the war was still underway, the document shows what the federal government announced, not whether each person could immediately leave enslavement. The proclamation also called for the armed forces to "recognize and maintain the freedom of said persons."

3. Source B, secondary source, worksheet author, 2026: The order did not apply to slaveholding border states that remained in the Union. Even in Confederate territory, its promise could not be enforced everywhere at once, because Union forces did not control all of that territory. As Union armies advanced, more enslaved people gained a path to freedom. This account looks back on events that Lincoln could not yet know in January 1863. Its later date helps explain the order's effects and limits, but it cannot replace the original proclamation as evidence of the exact words Lincoln used.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Quote words from Source A that identify where the order applied. Why does the source's origin make it useful for checking the order's terms?

2. What phrase in Source A shows what Lincoln expected federal authorities to do? Explain why its author matters.

3. Cite a detail in Source B about border states. How does this later account help you interpret the limit stated in Source A?

4. Cite Source B's detail about Union armies. How does its 2026 date affect what it can explain about the order?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Evaluate this claim: "A wartime order is enough to prove that its promise took effect everywhere immediately." In four to six sentences, cite one specific detail from each source and explain how each source's author, date, or origin affects what it can prove.

ANSWER KEY

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HIGH SCHOOL · AWH.P.3.1.A

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline a phrase in Source A that defines the order's reach, circle a detail in Source B about what happened afterward, and number the author and date of each source to help you judge what each can prove. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Quote words from Source A that identify where the order applied. Why does the source's origin make it useful for checking the order's terms?	**It applied within a state or part of a state whose people "shall then be in rebellion against the United States." As the federal proclamation itself, Source A provides the order's terms directly.**
2	What phrase in Source A shows what Lincoln expected federal authorities to do? Explain why its author matters.	**The phrase is "recognize and maintain the freedom of said persons." Lincoln's authorship matters because he issued the order as president.**
3	Cite a detail in Source B about border states. How does this later account help you interpret the limit stated in Source A?	**Source B says the order "did not apply to slaveholding border states that remained in the Union." This clarifies that Source A's restriction to areas in rebellion excluded those states.**
4	Cite Source B's detail about Union armies. How does its 2026 date affect what it can explain about the order?	**Source B says that as Union armies advanced, more enslaved people gained a path to freedom. Written long after the war, it can describe developments Lincoln could not yet know when he issued the order.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The claim is not supported by these sources. In Source A, Lincoln declared that people held as slaves in areas in rebellion "shall be then, thenceforward, and forever free." Because Lincoln issued this proclamation in 1863, it is direct evidence of what the government ordered, but not proof that the order took effect everywhere at once. Source B says Union forces did not control all Confederate territory. Written in 2026, that account can look back on the limits of enforcement, though it is not the order itself.

Accept accurate excerpts or close paraphrases paired with an explanation of how authorship, date, or origin affects what the source can establish. Distinguish the proclamation's declared terms from evidence about their enforcement.