Freedom in the Record

Compare an 1863 order with a later account

TOT.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 one phrase in Source A about who was covered and one phrase in Source B about how freedom spread. Circle each source's date, then number two details that show where the sources' information came from.

What Did the Proclamation Change?

1. On January 1, 1863, President Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation during the Civil War. Source A is a passage from that federal order, issued in Washington that year. It declares that "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." Lincoln named areas in rebellion rather than every state. The words record a decision by the federal government, but they do not describe what happened to each enslaved person on that day.

2. Source B is a classroom history note written in 2026 for this worksheet. Its writer drew on the proclamation and later histories, not on firsthand observation of the Civil War. The note says, "The order did not apply to slaveholding states that remained in the Union. In areas covered by the order, freedom often depended on the arrival of Union forces." Some enslaved people escaped to Union lines before soldiers reached their homes; others learned about the proclamation much later. The note describes a broad pattern, not the story of any one family or town.

3. Lincoln also instructed the Army and Navy to recognize and maintain the freedom of those covered by the order. The proclamation encouraged formerly enslaved men to enter the United States armed services. Fighting continued until 1865, and the Thirteenth Amendment, ratified that December, abolished slavery throughout the United States, except as punishment for a crime. These later events raise two different questions: What did the president announce in 1863, and how did freedom spread during the war? An answer about the order's terms might draw on different evidence than an answer about someone's experience of freedom.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Which source is a document issued during the Civil War? Cite its words and explain how its author and date support your choice.

2. Which source is a later account of the proclamation's effects? Cite a phrase from it and explain what its date and origin tell you about the account.

3. What can Source A establish about where the order applied, and what can it not establish about one person's experience of freedom? Support both points with text.

4. A visitor claims that the proclamation itself abolished slavery in every U.S. state. Evaluate the claim using an exact phrase from Source A and a detail from Source B or the final paragraph.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

A museum researcher asks whether freedom immediately reached people in areas covered by the order. Write a 70 to 95 word source recommendation that quotes both sources, compares their dates or origins, and names one kind of additional firsthand record that could help answer the question.

ANSWER KEY

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HIGH SCHOOL · TOT.P.3.1.A

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline one phrase in Source A about who was covered and one phrase in Source B about how freedom spread. Circle each source's date, then number two details that show where the sources' information came from. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Which source is a document issued during the Civil War? Cite its words and explain how its author and date support your choice.	**Source A is Lincoln's federal order from January 1, 1863. Its declaration that covered people "shall be then, thenceforward, and forever free" records what he ordered during the war.**
2	Which source is a later account of the proclamation's effects? Cite a phrase from it and explain what its date and origin tell you about the account.	**Source B is a classroom note written in 2026 using the proclamation and later histories. Its statement that freedom "often depended on the arrival of Union forces" is a later account, not an observation made in 1863.**
3	What can Source A establish about where the order applied, and what can it not establish about one person's experience of freedom? Support both points with text.	**Source A specifies people held as slaves in a state or part of a state whose people were "in rebellion against the United States." It cannot establish when one person experienced freedom; Source B says freedom "often depended on the arrival of Union forces."**
4	A visitor claims that the proclamation itself abolished slavery in every U.S. state. Evaluate the claim using an exact phrase from Source A and a detail from Source B or the final paragraph.	**The claim is incorrect. Source A limits the order to areas "in rebellion against the United States"; Source B says it did not apply to slaveholding states that remained in the Union. The final paragraph identifies the Thirteenth Amendment as the later nationwide change.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

To investigate whether freedom reached people immediately, I would start with Source A's words "shall be then, thenceforward, and forever free" to see what Lincoln ordered in 1863. Source B, written for this worksheet in 2026, says freedom "often depended on the arrival of Union forces," which addresses what happened afterward. The order records official policy, while the later note draws on other accounts. I would also seek a dated letter from a formerly enslaved person in a covered area to learn when that person first experienced freedom.

Accept accurate quotations of shorter phrases and any well-supported distinction between the order's terms and people's experiences. For the open task, accept a relevant dated firsthand record, such as a letter, diary entry, or testimony, and check that the response is 70 to 95 words.