

THE WHITE HOUSE HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

Classroom: Grades 9-12

President and War Powers: "Lincoln and the Civil War"

Activity - Try This Quiz

Using the Student Text portion of Lesson 3, Parts 1 and 2, choose the best answer to these questions by clicking on the appropriate letter.

1. Abraham Lincoln ran for president in 1860. Which of these statements would be most true about the southern states and the immediate effects of that election? They:

- a. voted against him, but by a surprisingly narrow margin.
- b. left his name off the ballot altogether in at least ten states.
- c. promptly left the Union.
- d. asked for an amendment to guarantee protection of the slavery.

2. In his first inaugural address, Lincoln said:

- a. the Union could not be broken.
- b. he had no intention of disturbing the institution of slavery in the states where it was already protected.
- c. he believed secession was anarchy.
- d. Lincoln said all of these things in his first inaugural address.

3. Lincoln's secretary of state asked him to change the ending of his inaugural address because he:

- a. considered it too conciliatory to the South.

- b. thought it put too much focus on the issue of slavery to the exclusion of Union.
- c. considered it too flowery.
- d. found it too harsh and martial in tone.

4. When Major Anderson, the commander at Fort Sumter, reported he was running low on supplies, Lincoln responded by:

- a. asking him to hold out for at least another three months.
- b. not only sending supplies, but by also adding enough military reinforcements to retake South Carolina.
- c. saying he would provision the fort, as was his duty.
- d. negotiating a deal with the secessionist leaders in Charleston.

5. When Chief Justice Roger Taney ruled that Lincoln had acted unlawfully in the case of John Merryman, the president:

- a. ignored the ruling.
- b. contested the judgment in the case.
- c. lifted his suspension of the writ of habeas corpus.
- d. fortified Baltimore.

6. When in July 1861 Lincoln explained to a special session of Congress his actions in the first months of the war, the response of Congress was to:

- a. authorize retroactively all that he had done to avert the crisis.
- b. pass a War Powers Resolution to restrict his further action.
- c. deny monetary support for provisioning the 42,000 volunteers Lincoln had called up in the early months.

d. approve all measures, but refuse to expand the army or navy further despite a condition of war.

7. In regard to southern states that attempted to leave the Union, Lincoln:

a. disapproved of the action but believed they had a right to depart based on a very narrow reading of the Constitution.

b. considered them sister states that had to be restored through firm leadership to their normal relations with the Union.

c. recognized as legal their secessionist governments as long as they left the Union only after holding a state constitutional convention.

d. reluctantly sent ambassadors to negotiate with President Jefferson Davis.

8. Stephen A. Douglas was Lincoln's political opponent in an 1857 U.S. Senate race. Which of the slavery viewpoints below best characterizes Douglas's position during that campaign:

a. There should be no extension of slavery into the territories.

b. Slavery should be abolished, not only in the territories but in other parts of the United States as well.

c. Open up the remaining Louisiana Territory for settlement, and let the people decide through the ballot whether the area shall be slave or free.

d. Allow slavery in the remaining Louisiana Territory based on the Missouri Compromise line.

9. Which of these statements best describes Lincoln's views on slavery at the beginning of the civil war: Slavery:

a. was degrading and immoral, but was protected in certain states because of the language of the Constitution.

b. should be abolished outright in all areas of the country.

c. could be extended into the territories, but only areas above the southern boundary of Missouri.

d. could be extended into the territories, but only on the basis of "popular sovereignty."

10. With regard to the question of slavery, which of these statements best describes actions taken by Congress from the start of the Civil War until the signing of the Emancipation Proclamation.

a. Slavery was abolished in the District of Columbia, with compensation given to the slaveholders.

b. An act gave freedom to slaves being used for insurrectionary purposes.

c. Slavery was abolished in the western territories.

d. All of these actions were taken by Congress before January 1863.

11. Which statement best characterizes the Emancipation Proclamation of January 1, 1863:

a. Slaves held in states still in rebellion against the Union would be freed

b. Slaves in all secessionist states would be free.

c. Slaves in secessionist states, as well as slaveholding border states, would be free.

d. All slaves would be "thenceforward, and forever, free."

12. Lincoln's justification for the Emancipation Proclamation was:

a. the moral unacceptability of the institution of slavery.

b. the need to bring Britain into the war on the Union side.

c. military necessity.

d. pressure from Peace Democrats in the North.

13. Which of these statements is not true with regard to the passage of the Thirteenth Amendment:

- a. When ratified, it abolished slavery and gave Congress the duty of enforcement.
- b. Its passage became a central issue of Lincoln's re-election campaign.
- c. It passed both houses of the U.S. Congress by the end of January 1865 and was ready to be sent to the states for ratification.
- d. Lincoln was assassinated and thus did not live to see the amendment passed through both houses of Congress.

14. Which of these statements is most true in regard to Lincoln's contribution to the ending of slavery:

- a. Lincoln gained his title the Great Emancipator because he used his war powers to free all of the slaves.
- b. Lincoln believed slavery was evil and should be eradicated; he took an important first step in accomplishing that when he issued the Emancipation Proclamation.

QUIZ ANSWERS

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