



Slaves Freed of the Civil War

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History
Grades 6-8



Introduction

In 1862, President Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation which declared enslaved people be freed. Then in January 1863, all enslaved people were finally freed from slavery. In this writing prompt, students will write an essay as if they were a freed slave of the Civil War.

Learning Objectives

([CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.7.3](#)) Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, relevant descriptive details, and well-structured event sequences.

Materials Needed

- Pencil and paper
- Graphic organizer

Procedure

1. Have a class discussion about the Civil War. Discuss how enslaved people played an active role in their own emancipation as well as discuss the Emancipation Proclamation and how it came to fruition.
2. Discuss how some emancipated slaves stayed south around their own neighbors while others fled north and became wage laborers.
3. Have students fill out a graphic organizer detailing what they think they would have done if they were a freed slave after the Civil War. Have students write down where they would go: south, where they knew their environment or north, where they didn't know what the weather would be like or if they could find a job.
4. Once students have filled out their graphic organizer, have them write an essay using the information from their graphic organizer. Instruct students that their essay is based on answering the following question.

If you were a freed slave of the Civil war, where would you go? Would you stay in the south where everyone and everything was familiar? Or would you go north where you didn't know what the climate would be like or if you could find a job?

Evaluation

Students will be assessed on how well they followed the guidelines for the writing prompt.