

**Lesson Title:** Geography and Politics of Border States

**Grade Levels:** 4-8

**Class Time needed:** Varies depending on the age of students

**Content Standard:** See page 36

**Objectives:**

Students will use an 1861 map and the Emancipation Proclamation to learn where slavery ended, what states still allowed slavery, and what states did not allow slavery. Follow-up questions will promote higher-level learning by requiring students to recognize cause-and-effect relationships.

**Rationale:**

By using primary documents and 19th century maps, students will gain a deeper understanding of complexities of the Civil War. They will also more fully understand the importance of geographic location in times of conflict.

**Description of lesson/activity:**

1. A worksheet that includes an 1861 Map, an excerpt of the Emancipation Proclamation, and critical thinking questions.

**Materials:**

Worksheet

**Assessment:**

Formal: Worksheet/Review of questions



## Geography and Politics of Border States

Use the chart of the Balance of Power before the Civil War (below) and the excerpt of the Emancipation Proclamation to complete the map activity on the following page.

FREE	SLAVE
PA	GA
CT	MD
MA	SC
ME	MS
NH	VA
NY	NC
RI	KY
VT	TN
OH	LA
IN	MO
IL	AK
MI	FL
IA	TX
WI	OK Territory
CA	NE Territory
MN	
OR	
KS	

Emancipation Proclamation                      January 1, 1863                      Abraham Lincoln

“That on the first day of January, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty-three, all persons held as slaves within any State or designate part of a State, the people whereof shall then be in rebellion against the United States, shall be then, thenceforward, and forever free;”

“...States and parts of States wherein the people thereof respectively are this day in rebellion against he United States, the following, to wit: Arkansas, Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, Florida, Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina, and Virginia, (except West Virginia)...”

“...I do order and declare that all persons held as slaves within said designated States... are, and henceforward shall be free;”

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1. Shade in the areas on the map where slavery was ended by the Emancipation Proclamation.
  2. In a different color or pattern, shade in the states that still allowed slavery.
  3. Lastly, in a different color, shade in the states that did not allow slavery.



1861 Map:



B. Use your shaded map and the Emancipation Proclamation to answer the following questions.

1. Name 5 places that newly freed people might go.

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2. Do you think the Border States (shaded in the middle) were important to President Lincoln in his quest to retain the Union and win the Civil War? Why or why not?

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3. Why do you think the Border States did not secede from the Union even though they were Slave states?

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4. Why do you think the Emancipation Proclamation only freed slaves in states of rebellion?

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