



Interpreting the Founding at the Civil War

American Heritage Discussion Series for Learners with Littles



Our Learning Journey

Abraham Lincoln, President
During the Civil War

Slavery and the
American Civil War

Frederick Douglass

Photography at the Civil War

Community Building
During the Civil War

Abraham Lincoln

- Last time we learned about the first president of the United States, George Washington. This time, we are learning about the president during a very difficult time in our country.
- Abraham Lincoln liked to study and think deeply. He believed in the ideas of the Declaration of Independence that “all men are created equal.”
- He also believed that the men who created the United States Constitution did a good thing.

Who knows something about Abraham Lincoln?



Abraham Lincoln's Boyhood Home

- Many U.S. presidents came from families with lots of money.
- Lincoln's family did not have lots of money. His earliest memory is from living in a tiny log cabin with his family.
- This picture is of a recreation of Lincoln's boyhood home. It is a log cabin.
- Log cabins were not as good at keeping out the harsh weather as other houses.
- When Lincoln was a young man, he made money by chopping wood with an ax.

What do you think it would be like to live in a log cabin, especially in the winter?

Activity preview: Make Lincoln's log cabin





If you are 1 years old, 2 years old, 3 years old, or 4 years old,
go to these activity tables now:

1. Coloring table
2. Make Abraham Lincoln's Log Cabin

American Civil War

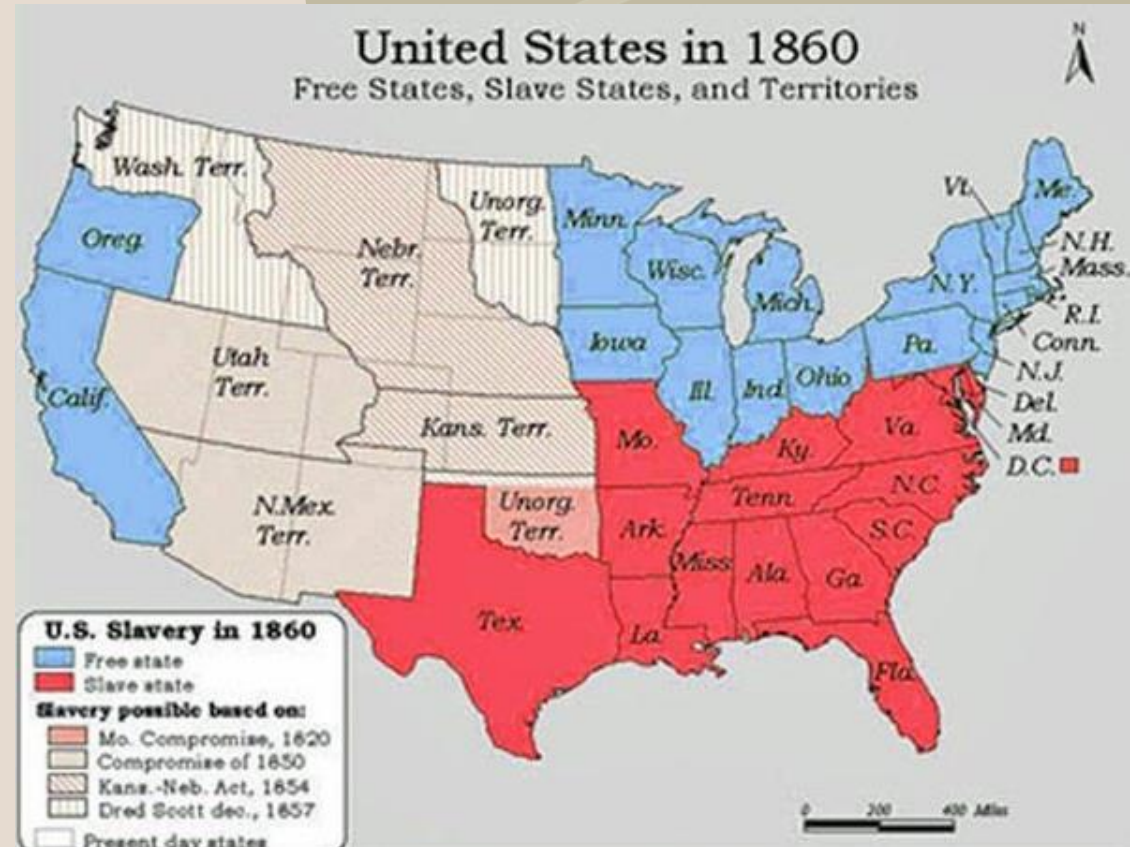
- When Lincoln became president, the country began fighting a **civil war**.
- Civil war means that people in the same country are fighting each other.
- The Civil War had lots of causes, but a main cause was that the southern states wanted to spread their practice of slavery to newly created western states. Since many people in the northern states did not want that, both sides fiercely argued.
- The southern states decided to break away and create their own country.
- The northern states said the southern states couldn't break away. They believed the Constitution meant that all the states had to stay together.
- Violence broke out.



Free States and Slave States at the Start of the Civil War

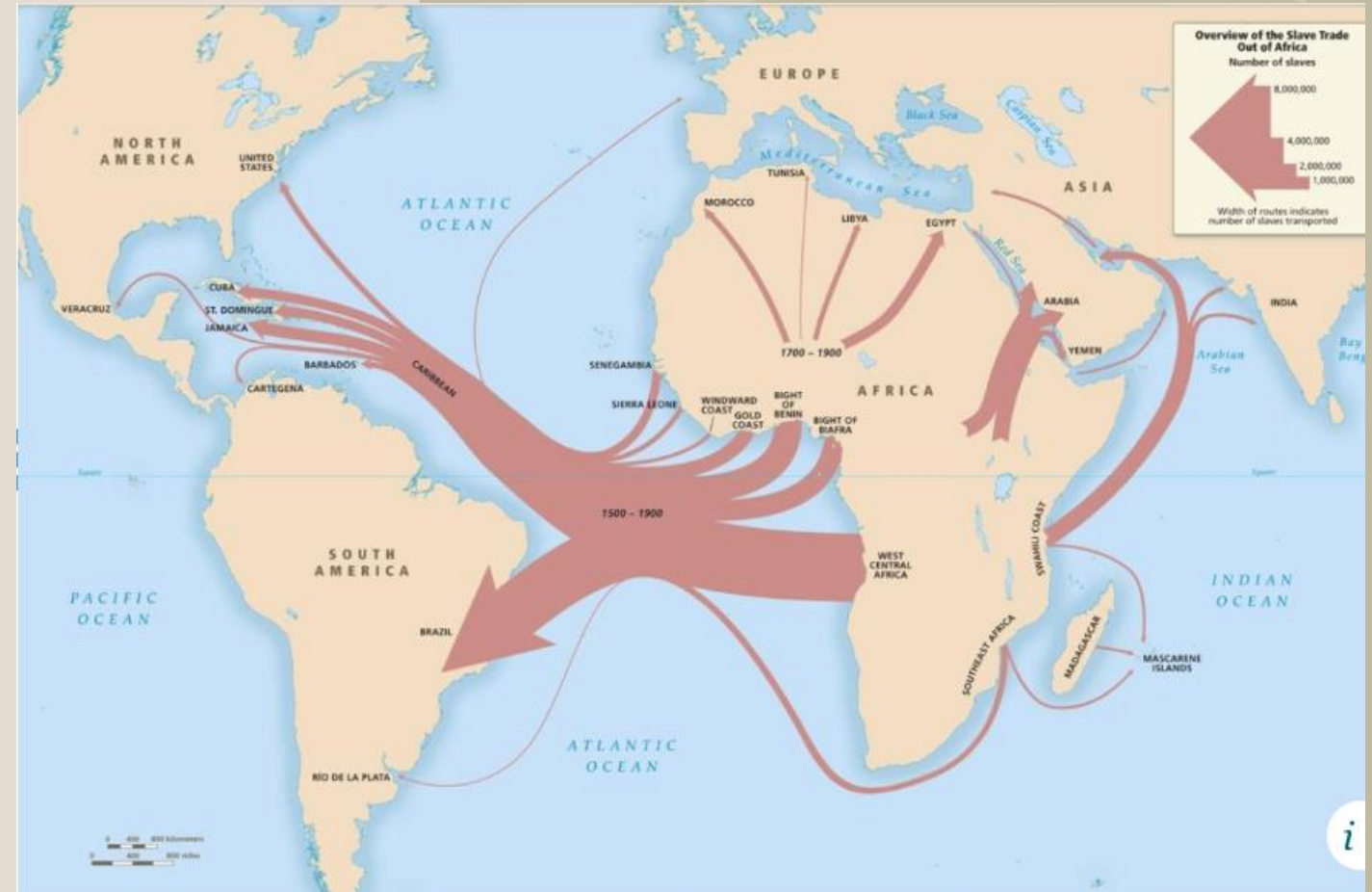
- When someone is forced to work and they have no choice, it's called **slavery**.
- The red states were the areas that allowed slavery. Notice they are in the southern part of the United States.
- The blue states were the areas that had outlawed slavery. Notice they are in the northern part of the United States and the west coast.
- The states in between were still being decided if they would be free or slave.

How did slavery start in the United States?



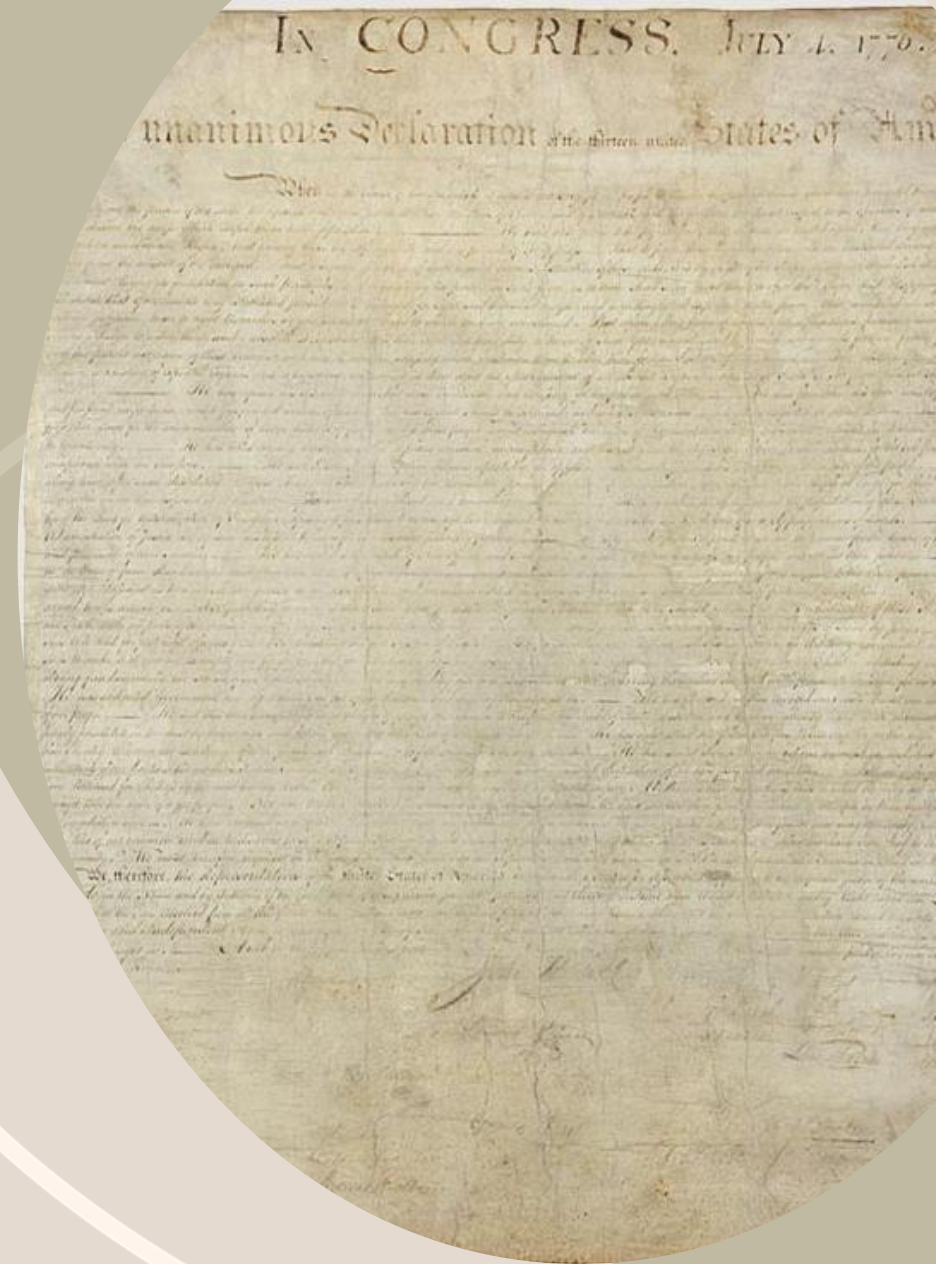
When Europeans first began to set up colonies in the Americas, it was common to kidnap Africans and force them to work in America

- When many countries were getting very good at sailing ships, Europeans began a practice of kidnapping people from West Africa away from their families and moving them to the Americas. This was called the **Transatlantic Slave Trade**.
- Because people who came from West Africa usually had darker skin than Europeans, people living in America usually thought of people of color as slaves.



The Declaration of Independence in 1776 introduced the idea that “all men were created equal” and some people began to question slavery

- When Europeans first began to set up colonies in America, people thought that slavery was normal and acceptable.
- A religious movement in the 1750s and 1760s called the **First Great Awakening** led some people in America to begin to oppose slavery.
- Then, in 1776, ideas in the Declaration of Independence, that “all men were created equal” began to spread.
- After the ideas of the American Revolution began to pass around more broadly, more and more people began to think that ordinary people were important, too.
- These ideas led more people in American society to begin to rethink that slavery was normal and acceptable.

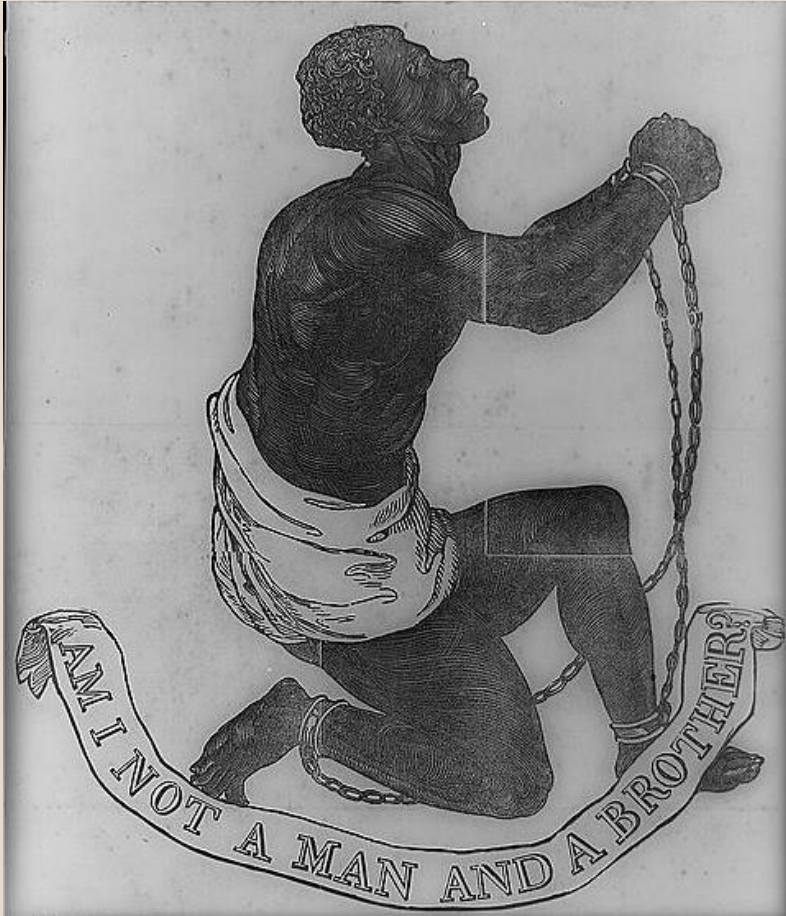


From 1776-1787, some states began to make slavery against the law, but not states in the South.

- As more people began to question slavery, some states began to outlaw it.
- By the time the Constitution was adopted in 1787, about half of the states in the United States had begun the process of ending slavery.
- These states were only located in the northern part of the United States.
- Ending slavery was gradual in these northern states. Some states passed laws that when a baby was born into slavery, when he or she turned 20, 21, or 25 years old, he or she would become free.
- Massachusetts was not gradual with ending slavery. That state ended slavery completely in 1790 by Supreme Court decision.
- The southern states did not end slavery. They wanted to continue it and protect it.



Leading up to the Civil War, more people began to work to end slavery in American society.



- Drawing on ideas in the Declaration of Independence and the Bible, some people began to speak up more loudly to end slavery. These people became known as **abolitionists**.
- Because many people still thought slavery was normal and acceptable, there was resistance to the effort to end slavery. These people often used the Bible to support keeping slavery.
- This image is one of the first “viral” images spread by abolitionists. It was published in 1837 by the American Anti-Slavery Society. Its message was to show that enslaved people were humans and not property.

Frederick Douglass

- Frederick Douglass was born into slavery. Then he escaped.
- He taught himself to read because it was not allowed to teach enslaved people to read.
- He became an abolitionist. He was a talented speaker. He began speaking out to persuade others to end the terrible practice of slavery.
- To inform others about why slavery was wrong, he wrote an **autobiography**. An autobiography is when you tell the story of your own life.

Activity preview: Today, you can write your own autobiography, like Frederick Douglass.



Photography was invented at the time of the Civil War.



- Photography was invented at the time of the Civil War, so we have photographs from this time.
- Some men of color escaped slavery and chose to fight as soldiers in the Union army on the side of the North. Some free men of color also chose to fight for the Union army.
- Photographs of these soldiers in uniform sometimes were passed around. This helped to inform people that men of color were helping fight for the Union cause.

Gladstone, William A. Gladstone collection of African American photographs Ambrotype/Tintype filing series (Library of Congress) Sitters possibly Baldy Guy (left) and George Guy (source: researcher S. Gardner, 2019).

Photography was invented at the time of the Civil War.



[Brigadier General William Sackett of 19th Illinois Infantry Regiment and 9th New York Cavalry Regiment in uniform and his wife, Anna Sisselberger Sackett]. Photograph by Moulton & Larkin, [between 1861 and 1862]. Library of Congress, Prints and Photographs Division.



Private Thomas H. Stockton of Co. H, 15th Pennsylvania Cavalry Regiment in uniform] / F. Gutekunst, photographer, 704 & 706 Arch St., Philada.

Photography was invented at the time of the Civil War.



[Brothers William and Philip J. Letsinger of Company D, 14th Indiana Regiment posing with rifles in front of Camp Michigan painted backdrop]. Unknown photographer, [between 1861 and 1862]. Library of Congress, Prints and Photographs Division. Corporal Philip J. Letsinger was killed on September 17, 1862, at Antietam.



[Maria M.C. Hall, Civil War nurse at Washington, D.C., Virginia, and Maryland]. Photograph by Mathew B. Brady, [between 1861 and 1865]. Library of Congress, Prints and Photographs Division. Maria M.C. Hall was nurse who worked at Smoketown Hospital at Antietam. She also worked at the Patent Office Hospital in Washington, D.C., Daniel Webster hospital ship in the Peninsular Campaign, and General Hospital #1 in Annapolis, MD. After the war she worked with prisoners from Andersonville Prison.

Take Your Civil War Era Photograph Today

- Today you can take a photograph in a Civil War Era style.
- Have other kids in your family here today? Take a picture together!



Women Made Quilts to Support the Soldiers During the Civil War

- At the time of the Civil War, the government did not supply soldiers with all that they needed. Women volunteered to make bedding for the soldiers, including quilts.
- Making quilts built a sense of community as the women worked together.
- The quilts were generally made of basic fabrics and block patterns, so they could make them quickly.
- Sometimes women would sell their quilts to raise money for soldiers.

Activity preview: Make your own quilt block

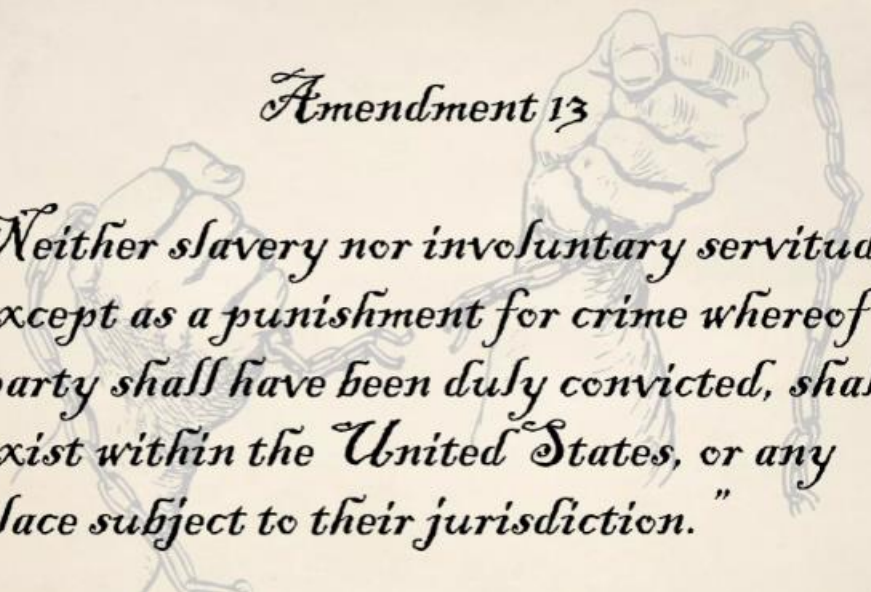
[See Quilting101.com](http://Quilting101.com)



End of Civil War, Constitution Changed

- Amendment 13—Slavery is ended in America
- Amendment 14—Granted citizenship to all persons “born or naturalized in the United States” including former enslaved people
- Amendment 15—Black men receive the right to vote.

Amendment 13

An illustration of a hand in chains, symbolizing slavery, is positioned behind the text of Amendment 13. The hand is clenched into a fist, and the chains are attached to the wrist and fingers.

“Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for crime whereof the party shall have been duly convicted, shall exist within the United States, or any place subject to their jurisdiction.”

The background features a light grey base with several organic, rounded shapes in muted colors: a large brown shape on the left, a green shape in the top right, and a light grey shape in the middle right. A white silhouette of a pine branch is visible in the top left corner. A white wavy line curves across the bottom right area.

Choose Stations