

The Civil War And The Meaning of Liberty

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STUDENT READINGS

Part I: Antebellum America (1830-1850)

Selected Key Events	Selected Key People	Selected Key Terms
Nullification Crisis, 1832 Indian Removal Act, 1830 Mexican-American War California statehood	Andrew Jackson James K. Polk David Wilmot John O’Sullivan	antebellum South antebellum North white supremacy domestic slave trade

Part II: Abolition and the National Politics of Slavery (1830-1860)

Nat Turner’s Rebellion Compromise of 1850 Kansas-Nebraska Act presidential election of 1860	American Anti-Slavery Society Frederick Douglass Dred Scott John Brown	sectionalism resistance, rebellion, flight abolitionist movement “a house divided”
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Part III: The Civil War and the Meaning of Liberty (1860-1865)

Crittenden Compromise Emancipation Proclamation Draft Riots of 1863 Battle of Gettysburg Special Field Order, No. 15	Abraham Lincoln Clara Barton General Ulysses Grant General Robert E. Lee	secession emancipation <i>habeas corpus</i> Thirteenth Amendment
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PRIORITIZING UNDER-REPRESENTED HISTORIES

- Illustrates relationships among slavery, race, the growth of the economy, and the acquisition of territory through dispossession of Native people from their lands by the United States.
- Shows the agency enslaved people expressed through resistance, rebellion, and flight.
- Highlights leadership of Blacks in the abolition movement.
- Presents motivations and roles of Black and Native American soldiers in the war.
- Documents the participation of free and enslaved women during the war.

SKILL DEVELOPMENT THROUGH LESSONS

A short description of each lesson can be found on the unit webpage [here](#).

Students will:

Inquire about the meaning of “liberty.”

Read maps and interpret data sets to explain the growth of the cotton economy.

Analyze images such as period political cartoons, battlefield drawings, and photographs.

Compare and contrast points of view among Black abolitionists.

Close read *Address to the People of the United States* and evaluate change over time in interpretation of the U.S. Constitution.

Analyze letters, diaries, and written narratives to understand the impact of the war on individuals and families.

Use food as a historical source.

Summarize one of four political positions, acting as historians and using primary source excerpts, that was taken in the spring of 1864 on the Thirteenth Amendment.

Design a memorial to understand the phenomena of historical memory.

LINKS FOR FURTHER CURRICULUM EVALUATION

Videos - A free online [video collection](#) accompanies this unit, and the videos are incorporated throughout the Digital Editions. These selected videos highlight under-represented voices:

- [What is the importance of the abolition movement?](#)
- [What did freedom mean to enslaved people?](#)
- [How did enslaved people create freedom?](#)

Print Format - This unit [preview](#) includes the table of contents, a reading excerpt, and a sample lesson plan.

Digital Editions Format - Interested in what the Digital Editions format looks like? Check out our web-based curriculum [here](#).