

# TEACHER'S GUIDE

## Grades 5 to 12

# Freedom and Justice: The Civil War Era

## America's Quest for Freedom Series

**Subject Area:** United States History, Social Studies

**Synopsis:** Examines the push for women's rights and the abolition of slavery during the Civil War era. Identifies the causes of the Civil War and chronicles the major battles and turning points of the War.

### Learning Objectives:

- Objective 1)** Students will be able to discuss the push for women's rights and the abolition of slavery in the Civil War era and identify the contributions of advocates for these causes. Examine the accomplishments of Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Frederick Douglass, Sojourner Truth, and Harriet Beecher Stowe.
- Objective 2)** Students will be able to examine the causes of the Civil War, including the growing Abolitionist movement in the North and the election of Abraham Lincoln.
- Objective 3)** Students will be able to chronicle the major battles of the War, including the battles at Fort Sumter, Antietam Creek, and Gettysburg.
- Objective 4)** Students will be able to explain the significance of the Emancipation Proclamation as well as the 13<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, and 15<sup>th</sup> Amendments to the Constitution.
- Objective 5)** Students will be able to describe African American participation in segregated military units in the Civil War.
- Objective 6)** Students will be able to explain how the South was affected by the Civil War.

### Pre-Viewing Discussion and Activities:

- 1) Ask questions to explore students' knowledge of the Civil War, such as When did the Civil War take place? Who fought in the War? What were the causes of the War?
- 2) Vocabulary: freedom, justice, abolition, abolitionists, secede, surrender, Emancipation Proclamation, segregation, skirmish, reinforcements, retreat, ravaged, Amendments, Reconstruction

### Post-Viewing Discussion and Activities:

- 1) What individuals aided the cause of freedom during the Civil War Era? What were their significant contributions?
- 2) On a map, trace the boundaries constituting the North and the South and identify the states that seceded from the Union to form the Confederate States of America. Also discuss the geographical and industrial differences between the two regions.

- 3) Why did Southern States see abolitionism as an attack on their freedom? What did Southerners fear losing if slavery were abolished? Why did Southerners view the election of Abraham Lincoln as a threat to the Southern way of life? How did the South react to Lincoln's election?
- 4) Jefferson Davis asked fellow Southerners: "Will you be slaves, or be independent? Will you consent to be robbed of your property?" What is a slave? Why did he believe Southerners were being treated like slaves?
- 5) What is the Emancipation Proclamation? In what way was the issuance of the Emancipation Proclamation a turning point in the War?
- 6) Describe the experiences of African American soldiers in the Civil War. Why were Union generals reluctant to allow Black soldiers to fight?
- 7) When Robert E. Lee considered using slaves to fight for the Confederacy one general responded: "If slaves will make good soldiers, our whole theory of slavery is wrong." Why did the general think slaves would not make good soldiers? What was the theory of slavery?
- 8) How did the Civil War affect the South? What challenges would Southern States need to face during the period of Reconstruction?
- 9) What rights are guaranteed by the 13<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> Amendments to the Constitution?

**Additional Activities:**

- 1) Read the Gettysburg Address together as a class. Define any words that students are unfamiliar with and discuss the meaning of the speech.
- 2) Have students write a story about a slave who is released from slavery by the Emancipation Proclamation. Encourage students to write about life as a slave, the Emancipation Proclamation, and life following the Emancipation Proclamation. Guide students to think about where newly released slaves lived, their work, and the challenges they faced.

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