

Midnight Watch

By Nealie Perkins

Objectives:

Students will explain the Emancipation proclamation, and describe its effects on the slaves in the North and South.

TEKS: 5.4d, 5.6a, 5.23c, 5.25b

Time and Materials:

One class period

Plain white paper

Transparency of picture

Overhead projector

Context:

The Emancipation Proclamation was issued on January 1, 1863 by President Lincoln. It said that all slaves living in those parts of the South that were still fighting against the Union were free. This hurt the South's hope of getting help from France or Britain because those nations were against slavery.

The Lesson:

Have students analyze photographic print by Heard & Moseley from the Library of Congress. Ask students:

What do you see?

How would you describe the people in the room?

What is happening?

Why might the people look worried, sad, happy, scared?

Encourage students to point out other details in the picture. Record students observations.

Divide students up in to small groups. Have students read pgs. 461-464 in 5th grade U.S. History textbook on Emancipation Proclamation. Have groups discuss the following question:

What was the Emancipation Proclamation?

What was Lincoln's primary goal in issuing the Emancipation Proclamation?

Extending the Lesson:

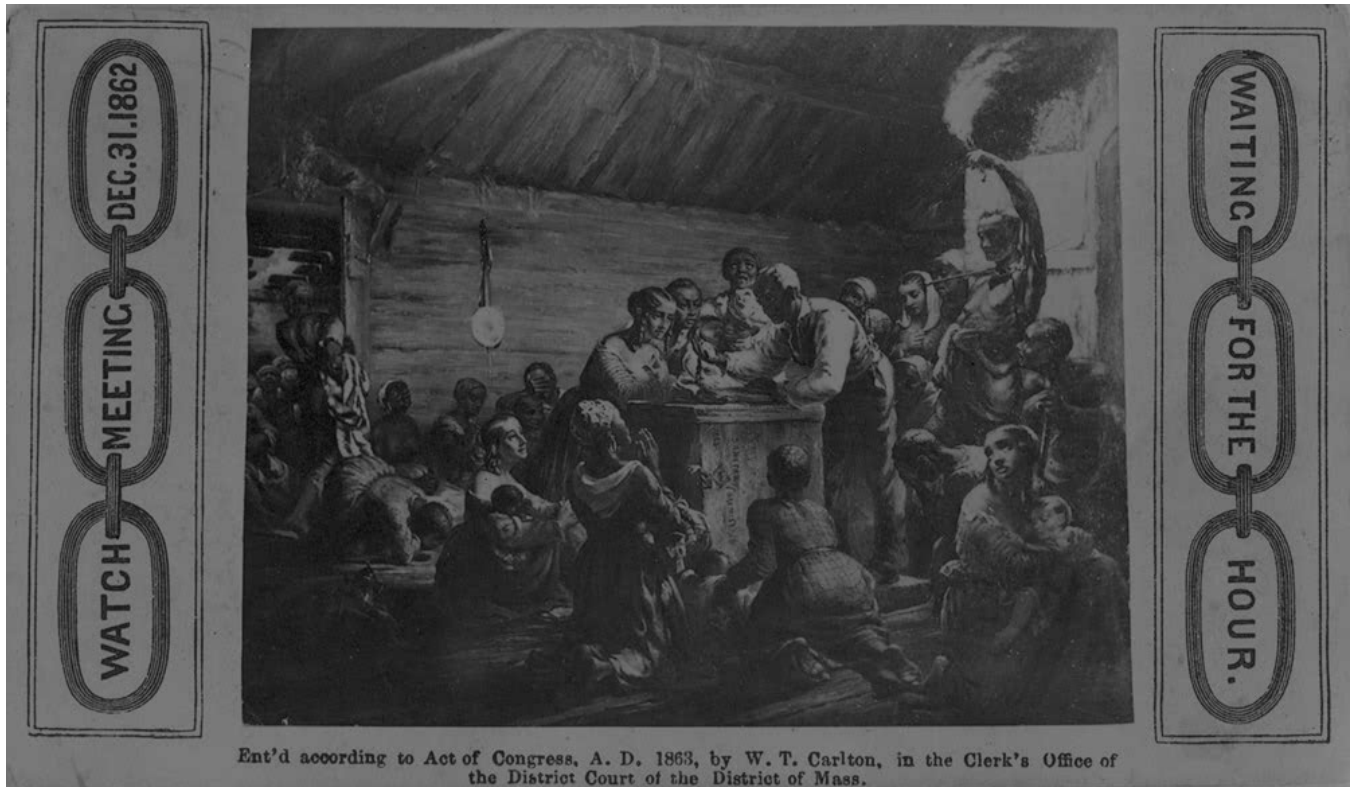
Have students write a diary entry from the point of view of any person in the picture. Students must express in what they feel, what they hear, and what they see. Students must write in the dialect of whichever character they chose. Students will share their diary entries with their group.

Assessment: What two things did the Emancipation Proclamation do?

Multiple Choice

How did the Emancipation Proclamation change the lives of the slaves in the Union?

- A. it set them free
- B. it did not effect them
- C. it made equal citizens
- D. it gave them the right to vote



Library of Congress Title : Watch meeting, Dec. 31, 1862—Waiting for the hour.
Published c1863

[Heard & Moseley.](#)

CREATED/PUBLISHED

c1863.

SUMMARY

African American men, women, and children gathered around a man with a **watch**, **waiting for the** Emancipation Proclamation.

NOTES

Photograph of a painting(?).

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