



Name: _____ Date: _____

YOUR MISSION: RUN THE NEWSPAPER. It's the 1800s, and you've just inherited a newspaper. A land deal doubles the country, four wars cross your desk, and the biggest story of the century—a nation tearing itself apart over slavery—is about to break. Watch the episode, then execute the tasks as you take on more responsibility.

Level 1 | APPRENTICE—Gather the Facts

No story runs without checked facts. As you watch, match each item to its meaning—write the letter in the blank.

1. ____ Louisiana Purchase	A. The war between the northern states and the southern states
2. ____ War of 1812	B. Fought largely over the independence of Cuba
3. ____ Mexican-American War	C. Land bought from France under President Jefferson—it nearly doubled the size of the country
4. ____ 1898 Spanish-American War	D. Women's rights advocate whose work helped win women the vote (19th Amendment)
5. ____ American Civil War	E. America's second war against Britain
6. ____ Abraham Lincoln	F. Declared all slaves in the rebellious states to be free, recalling the founding principles of freedom and equality
7. ____ Emancipation Proclamation	G. The president who saved the Union and freed the slaves
8. ____ Susan B. Anthony	H. The result of a border dispute between Mexico and Texas, which had joined the U.S. in 1845

Level 2 | TYPESETTER—Set the Dominoes

The century's biggest story isn't one event—it's a chain of them, each one knocking over the next. The dominoes got scrambled on the layout desk. Number them 1–6 in the order they fell.

- ____ Southern states try to break away from the country to preserve slavery.
- ____ The Louisiana Purchase nearly doubles the size of the United States.
- ____ The 13th, 14th, and 15th Amendments abolished slavery, granted citizenship to former slaves, and guaranteed that the right to vote cannot be denied because of race.
- ____ New states begin to form—and the nation fights over whether each will allow slavery.
- ____ Lincoln issues the Emancipation Proclamation in the middle of the war.
- ____ The Civil War begins: the North fights to hold the country together.



Connections. Editors never write “and then”—they write “**because.**” Explain the two links below.

The Purchase led to the slavery fight because: _____

The Proclamation led to the amendments because: _____

Level 3 | EDITORIAL BOARD—The Lincoln Decision

1862. As the Civil War rages, the president weighs an order declaring all slaves in the rebelling states free. Two advisors speak. Weigh the evidence and commit—no peeking at what happened.

THE CAUTIOUS ADVISOR: “Mr. President, we are in the middle of a war we have not yet won. Proclaim the slaves free and nothing changes on the ground—our soldiers must still fight on, perhaps for years. Why risk it now? Wait for victory; then act.”

THE BOLD ADVISOR: “Mr. President, this war needs its true cause. America’s founding championed freedom and equality for all—declare it now, and you drive a stake in the ground that no victory or defeat can pull up. The country must know what it is fighting for.”

Reasons to issue it now	Reasons to wait
_____	_____
_____	_____

The board’s decision (circle one): ISSUE IT NOW / WAIT FOR VICTORY —because:

NOW READ WHAT HAPPENED: Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation on January 1, 1863—in the middle of the war. Union soldiers fought on for two more years. But the Proclamation was the shining light—the stake in the ground—that recalled the founding principles of freedom and equality and set in motion the 13th, 14th, and 15th Amendments.

Level 4 | PUBLISHER—Stop the Presses

April 1865: the war is over, and this is the biggest edition your paper will ever print. Write the headline and opening paragraph (3– 5 sentences), including all three—check each box:

- ☐ The outcome—what was saved ☐ What it means for slavery ☐ One cause that started it all

HEADLINE: _____

Rank achieved: ☐ Apprentice ☐ Typesetter ☐ Editorial Board ☐ Publisher

Answer Key | 1800s U.S. History

Level 1 | Apprentice

1-C, 2-E, 3-H, 4-B, 5-A, 6-G, 7-F, 8-D

Level 2 | Typesetter—Set the Dominoes

Order (top to bottom): 3, 1, 6, 2, 5, 4. (Purchase → new states and the slavery fight → secession → Civil War → Emancipation Proclamation → 13th, 14th, and 15th Amendments.)

1. **Sample link:** The Purchase created vast new territory, and every new state formed from it forced the question—slave or free?—reopening the fight again and again. Look for “new states → slave or free,” not merely “the country got bigger.”
2. **Sample link:** The Proclamation declared the slaves free but was a wartime order—the amendments made freedom, citizenship, and voting rights permanent in the Constitution itself. Look for “set in motion,” “made it permanent/constitutional.”

Level 3 | Editorial Board—The Lincoln Decision

1. **The weighing chart:** Issue now—the war gains its true cause; the founding’s promise of freedom and equality demands it; a stake in the ground no defeat can pull up. Wait—the war isn’t won; nothing changes on the ground; soldiers must fight on regardless (and in fact fought two more years).
2. **The decision:** either choice is acceptable *if the reasoning engages both sides*—the risk of acting mid-war against the power of declaring the war’s true cause. Mark down answers that ignore one side entirely. History’s answer is in the reveal box: Lincoln issued it, mid-war, on January 1, 1863.

Level 4 | Publisher—Stop the Presses

Front pages will vary. Mark student responses correct if the edition accurately reports (1) the outcome—the North’s victory preserved the Union; the country held together; (2) slavery’s fate—declared ended by the Proclamation and made permanent by the 13th Amendment (with citizenship and voting rights to follow in the 14th and 15th); and (3) at least one cause—the southern states’ determination to preserve slavery, framed as “states’ rights,” along with economic differences between North and South. Look for headlines that capture the stakes (“THE UNION IS SAVED”), not just “War Ends.”

Note: This worksheet can be completed with the episode alone or as part of the full lesson—see the accompanying lesson plan.