



Guidelines for *Paths to Freedom* Character Biographies

Every character in this play has a corresponding biography page.

Have students complete the Character Journal to make sure they understand their characters' positions in the play and within the historic context of the Civil War era.

Some biographies contain important vocabulary to understand as well.

If a student is playing a "double character", they will have 2 biographies to review.

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Character Journal

Student Name _____

My Character _____

Who are You?

Write three things you learned about your character:

- 1) _____
- 2) _____
- 3) _____

Write three **adjectives** that describe your character:

- 1) _____
- 2) _____
- 3) _____

An **adjective** is a word that describes a person, place, or thing. For example:
Karen is a **nice** person!
Bob is **strong**.

How do you think your character feels about the **Emancipation Proclamation**?

The **Emancipation Proclamation** was signed by Abraham Lincoln on January 1, 1863. It declared that all enslaved people living in the Confederacy were free.

YOU ARE . . . **FREDERICK DOUGLASS**

“Paths to Freedom” Narrator

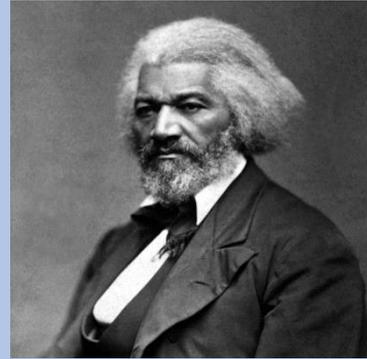
You were born enslaved on the Eastern Shore of Maryland. As a young boy, your owner taught you to read. Although she got in trouble for teaching you, you continued to teach yourself and other slaves to read.

After several attempts, you finally escaped to freedom at the age of twenty. When you arrived in the north, you met many abolitionists (people against slavery) and reformers. This led you to become an abolitionist and speak and write against the evils of slavery.

On January 1st, 1863, the day the Emancipation Proclamation was issued, you were waiting for the announcement that President Lincoln truly had signed this important document. You wrote, “We were waiting and listening as for a bolt from the sky. . . we were watching. . . by the dim light of the stars for the dawn of a new day. . . we were longing for the answer to the agonizing prayers of centuries.”

In our play, you will act as the **narrator**. You will tell us how you feel as you wait in Boston for the president to sign the Emancipation Proclamation.

FREDERICK DOUGLASS



FACTS

- Formerly enslaved man who escaped to freedom
- Learned to read and taught other slaves to read
- As an adult, he was an active abolitionist.
- Published the newspaper “The North Star”
- Wrote many books, including his own autobiography.

POSITION ON SLAVERY:

Convinced that the Civil War’s purpose must be to end slavery.

YOU ARE . . . ABRAHAM LINCOLN

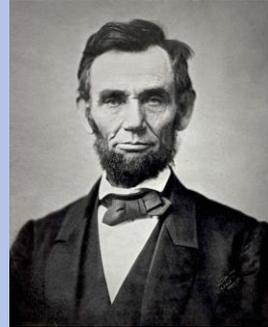
The President of the United States

You are the President of the United States. The country is divided into two parts: the Union and the Confederacy. Because of this division, we are fighting in a Civil War. As the president, your biggest concern is to keep the country together.

Up to this point, the Union has not been doing well. You have decided to sign the Emancipation Proclamation to free the slaves living in the Confederate States. You believe that this will help end the war more quickly. You said: "I never in my life felt more certain that I was doing right, than I do in signing this paper. If my name ever goes into history it will be for this act, and my whole soul is in it."

You are married to Mary Todd Lincoln and have two sons, Tad and Robert (Robert is away at college). Your son Willie died of typhoid fever last year. You work with a group of seven men, who are called your Cabinet. They assist you and give you advice.

ABRAHAM LINCOLN



FACTS

- President of the United States during the Civil War
- Signed the Emancipation Proclamation, freeing slaves in the Confederate States

POSITION ON SLAVERY:

Did not personally agree with slavery, but believed that the Constitution allowed slavery to continue in the areas where it already existed. His biggest concern was to end the war and keep the country together.

YOU ARE . . . **MARY TODD LINCOLN**

The First Lady

You are married to Abraham Lincoln, the President of the United States during the Civil War. You have two sons, Tad and Robert. Tad is only nine years old, and lives in the White House. Robert is older, and away at college. Last year, your son Willie died of typhoid fever. You are still grieving (very sad about) his loss. Even though it's been more than a year after he died, you still only wear the color black.

When you were a girl, your family owned slaves. Your family is from Kentucky, a state which borders the Confederacy. During the Civil War, many of your family members are fighting for the Confederacy. This is a real problem because you are married to the President of the United States! As a result, some people did not trust you, even though you strongly support your husband and the Union.

MARY TODD LINCOLN



FACTS

- President Lincoln's wife
- Mourning the loss of her son Willie
- Originally from Kentucky
- Her family was divided during the Civil War

POSITION ON SLAVERY:

From a slave-owning family, but later was against slavery.



YOU ARE . . . TAD LINCOLN

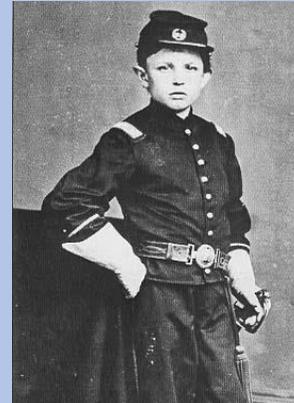
Abraham Lincoln's son

You are Abraham Lincoln's youngest son. Mary Todd Lincoln is your mother. She has been very sad lately because she is mourning the death of your older brother Willie. You have an older brother named Robert who is away at college.

During the Civil War, there are soldiers living at the White House. You like to dress up in military uniform (see your picture!) and be around them. You are known to be quite a troublemaker at the White House. You like to set your pet goat loose to chase visitors, yank men's beards, and interrupt your father's important meetings by shooting toy cannonballs at the door.

Although you are a troublemaker, you also have a sweet side. In the "Paths to Freedom" play you will be collecting money for the **Contraband Relief Association**, founded by Elizabeth Keckley (your mother's dressmaker). The Contraband Relief Association raised money and collected clothes for poor former slaves, many of whom moved into Washington, D.C. during the Civil War.

TAD LINCOLN



FACTS

- Abraham Lincoln's youngest son
- Liked to dress in military uniform
- Troublemaker, but kind at heart

Contraband Slave:

During the Civil War, slaves who escaped from Confederate into Union territory were known as "contraband slaves."



YOU ARE . . . EDWIN STANTON

Secretary of War

You are the Secretary of War in President Lincoln’s **Cabinet**. As the Secretary of War, you are responsible for all military affairs during the Civil War.

Right now, President Lincoln is preparing to sign the Emancipation Proclamation, a document that will free all slaves in Confederate territory. You believe that the Emancipation Proclamation will help the Union win the war. Once the slaves in the Confederacy are freed, many rebels (people living in the Confederacy) and their families will not be able to support themselves at home. You believe that former slaves should be troops in the Civil War; you believed this even before President Lincoln did!

After the Emancipation Proclamation was announced, you said that your goal was to “carry out the great scheme of emancipation so as to overcome the rebellion.” In other words, you wanted to help free slaves so that the Union would win the Civil War.

EDWIN STANTON



FACTS

- Member of Abraham Lincoln’s Cabinet
- Duties: responsible for military affairs
- Originally from Ohio

POSITION ON SLAVERY:

Favors emancipation in the Confederate States;

Believes that emancipation will help the Union win the Civil War

Cabinet: A group of people who head the executive departments (departments who fall under the president’s command). These people are all official advisers to the

YOU ARE . . . WILLIAM SEWARD

Secretary of State

You are the Secretary of State in President Lincoln's **Cabinet**. As Secretary of State, one of your most important duties is to keep friendly relationships with other countries. This is called foreign policy.

In 1860 you were the leading candidate for the Republican Presidential nomination. You are a very experienced politician! You have held positions as both a lawyer and Governor of New York. After losing the presidential nomination to him, President Lincoln asked you to be on his Cabinet. At first you were not sure if you liked President Lincoln, but over time you have become very good friends.

When you were a child, your father owned slaves. He had allowed the enslaved children to go to the local school with you and your siblings. They were the only black children in the school. You also knew an enslaved boy your own age who was whipped, tried to escape, was captured and wore an iron collar, but escaped again successfully. These childhood experiences made you decide that slavery is wrong.

Your son, Fred Seward, is your Assistant at the State Department. While you are in D.C. you are living with your son, his wife Anna, and your daughter Fanny. Your wife, often in poor health, stays at your home in New York.

WILLIAM SEWARD



FACTS

- A member of Abraham Lincoln's Cabinet
- Duties: foreign policy
- Originally from New York

POSITION ON SLAVERY:

Against slavery

Approves of the Emancipation

Proclamation, but believes that it should be announced once the Union has a military victory.

Cabinet: A group of people who head the executive departments (departments who fall under the president's command). These people are all official advisers to the president.

YOU ARE . . . SALMON P. CHASE

Secretary of Treasury

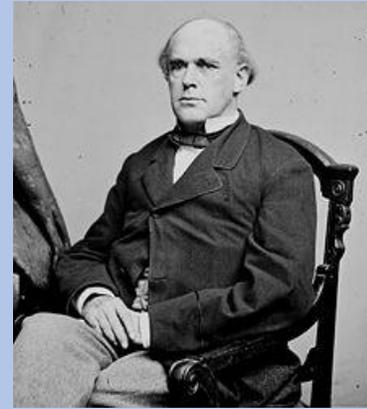
You are the Secretary of the Treasury on President Lincoln's **Cabinet**. As the Secretary of the Treasury, your duties include managing finances (money and funds) for the United States and you are also in charge of manufacturing currency (money).

You are very determined, especially for the Presidency. In 1860, just three years ago, you believed you would win the Republican nomination for the presidency, but you lost to Abraham Lincoln. You are well educated and have held positions as both Governor and Senator of Ohio.

You are a strong supporter of the abolitionist cause. You agree with the Emancipation Proclamation but believe that the President should do more to help free the slaves.

You have a daughter named Kate, who is one of your biggest supporters and one of Washington, D.C.'s most popular young women during the Civil War.

SALMON P. CHASE



FACTS

- A member of Abraham Lincoln's cabinet
- Duties: finance minister for US, also in charge of manufacturing currency
- Born in New Hampshire, but lived in Ohio

POSITION ON SLAVERY:

A strong supporter of the abolitionist cause. Didn't think that the Emancipation Proclamation did enough to end slavery, he wanted to do more.

Cabinet: A group of people who head the executive departments (departments who fall under the president's command). These people are all official advisers to the

YOU ARE . . . EDWARD BATES

Attorney General

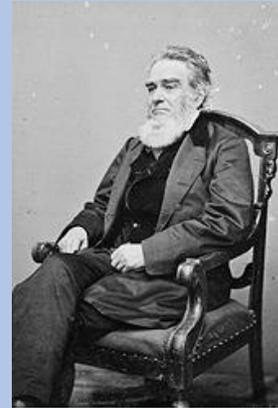
You are the Attorney General in President Lincoln's **Cabinet**. An attorney is a lawyer. As the Attorney General, you give the government, including the president, legal advice. You are also the main person responsible for making sure that the laws of the United States are put into effect. This is called law enforcement. Finally, you are the primary lawyer for the government (although you rarely argue cases before the Supreme Court).

Even though you never joined the Republican Party, you were put forward as a presidential candidate in 1860. You lost to Abraham Lincoln.

When you were a child, your father owned slaves in Virginia. Even though you come from a slave-owning family, you are now against slavery. You want this war to end quickly.

During the Civil War, your family is divided. Because your family lives in Missouri (a border state), you have one son fighting for the Confederacy (the south) and another son fighting for the Union (the north).

EDWARD BATES



FACTS

- A member of Abraham Lincoln's Cabinet
- Duties: Main legal advisor to government, top government law enforcement officer, chief lawyer for government (although rarely argues cases before Supreme Court)
- Born in Virginia, but moved west to Missouri with his family

POSITION ON SLAVERY:

Opposed slavery

Cabinet: A group of people who head the executive departments (departments who fall under the president's command). These people are all official advisers to the

YOU ARE . . . MONTGOMERY BLAIR

Postmaster General

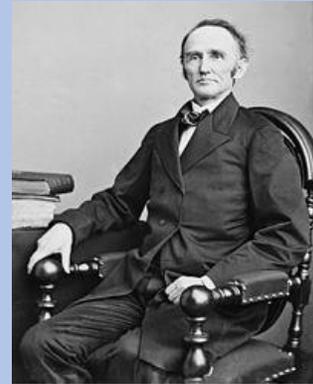
You are the Postmaster General in President Lincoln's **Cabinet**. As the Postmaster General, you are in charge of the United States postal system. The postal system is our system of sending mail.

Specifically, you are in charge of finding people to work in post offices, printing stamps, and delivering the United States' mail. During the 1860s, mail moved across the country by boat, horseback, horse and carriage, and train.

Before you became the Postmaster General, you were a lawyer. Often, you argued cases in front of the Supreme Court (our country's most important court). Your most famous case is known as the Dred Scott case. You defended an enslaved man named Dred Scott. He was suing for his freedom. Unfortunately, he lost.

You are against slavery; however, you live in Maryland, a border state where slavery is legal. You support emancipation (freeing slaves), but you worry that your state may leave the Union if President Lincoln issues the Emancipation Proclamation.

MONTGOMERY BLAIR



FACTS

- A member of Abraham Lincoln's Cabinet
- Duties: making sure Americans receive their mail!
- Defended Dred Scott, an enslaved man who was suing for his freedom

POSITION ON SLAVERY:

Opposed to slavery and wanted his state, Maryland, to stay in the Union.

Cabinet: A group of people who head the executive departments (departments who fall under the president's command). These people are all official advisers to the



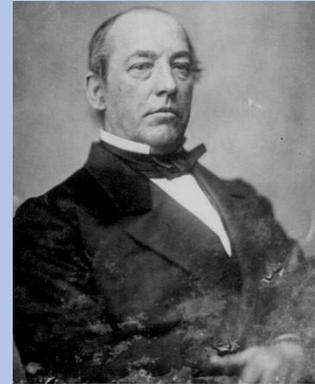
YOU ARE . . . CALEB SMITH

Secretary of Interior

You are the Secretary of the Interior for President Lincoln’s **Cabinet**. The secretary of the Interior was in charge of the country’s affairs at home (internal affairs). Your department is sometimes called “the department of everything else” because there are so many responsibilities. These include: exploration of the west, governing of western territories, administering Indian affairs, use of public lands, taking the census, issuing patents on new inventions, paying military pensions, and even management of the DC jail and water system. You are having trouble with all these responsibilities, and some people say you are doing a poor job.

In 1860, you seconded Abraham Lincoln’s nomination to the presidency. Now, however, you are troubled by the president’s talk of emancipating (freeing) slaves in the southern states. You have told some of your friends that you may leave office if the Emancipation Proclamation is put into effect. In December of 1862, you did resign from your position of Secretary of the Interior due to bad health. Now, on January 1st, 1863, you are already back home in Indiana.

CALEB SMITH



FACTS

- Poor at managing many aspects of his job
- Excellent at public speaking (speaking in front of people)
- Kept a diary
- Resigned (left his position) in December of 1862
-

POSITION ON SLAVERY:

Felt emancipation may be a bad idea, and warned that he may resign if slavery was abolished. He did resign before the Emancipation Proclamation was signed, but claimed it was for health reasons.

Cabinet: A group of people who head the executive departments (departments who fall under the president’s command). These people are all official advisers to the president.

YOU ARE . . . GIDEON WELLES

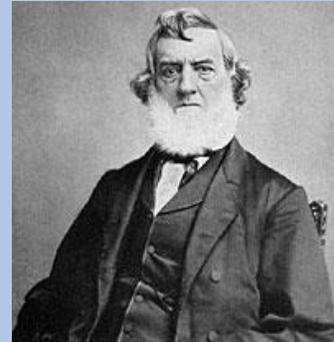
Secretary of Navy

You are the Secretary of the Navy for President Lincoln's **Cabinet**. As the secretary of the Navy, you are responsible for protecting American ships at sea and defending our shores. You must buy all the equipment for the Navy. You must also find sailors, organize them, and make sure each sailor is paid.

During the Civil War, one of your biggest jobs is to carry out a naval blockade of southern ports (places where ships unload materials). The blockade prevented ships from getting into and out of southern ports. This meant that the south could not trade things like cotton with other countries.

You agree with Abraham Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation, which will free slaves in the Confederacy (south). As a military man, you see the advantage of using former slaves to fight on Union ships.

GIDEON WELLES



FACTS

- **Duties:** responsible for military affairs involving the navy
- Kept a diary during the Civil War
- Did not like the Secretary of State, William Seward

POSITION ON SLAVERY:

- Against slavery
- Agreed with the Emancipation Proclamation

Cabinet: A group of people who head the executive departments (departments who fall under the president's command). These people are all official advisers to the

YOU ARE . . . FRED SEWARD

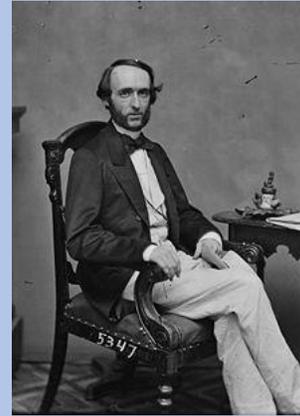
Assistant Secretary of State

You are the assistant Secretary of State and your father, William, is President Lincoln's Secretary of State. If your father was busy or out of the city, you would replace him at the president's **Cabinet** meetings. You have been trained as a lawyer.

You are also a fine writer. After the Civil War, you will help write the story of your father's life and publish many of his letters. This book will help future historians understand what life was like in Washington during the Civil War.

You don't know this yet, but on the same day that President Lincoln is killed in April 1865, men will come into your father's home and try to murder him. You and your father will be injured in the attack but will survive.

FRED SEWARD



FACTS

Today we know what President Lincoln did and said when he signed the Emancipation Proclamation because Fred Seward wrote down the events and words. They were printed in a book titled *Seward at Washington*.

Cabinet: A group of people who head the executive departments (departments who fall under the president's command). These people are all official advisers to the



YOU ARE . . . FANNY SEWARD

Daughter of William Seward (Secretary of State)

You are eighteen years old. You have learned music, painting, and horseback riding from private tutors. But still you are not very confident and think that other young ladies your age, like Kate Chase, are smarter and more sophisticated than you.

You are proud of your father, who is the Secretary of State, and your brother, Fred, who is the assistant Secretary of State. You often act as hostess at your father's house during parties because your mother is often ill.

During the "Paths to Freedom" play, you will talk to your sister-in-law, Anna, and Kate Chase.

FANNY SEWARD



© Seward House

FACTS

Fanny Seward's diary describes the New Year's Day reception at President Lincoln's White House in 1863. Words from this diary are used in the play, *Paths to Freedom*. The diary is at the Library of Congress.



YOU ARE . . . KATE CHASE

Daughter of Salmon P. Chase (Secretary of the Treasury)

You are the intelligent and beautiful daughter of Treasury Secretary Salmon P. Chase. You often have conversations with your father about how President Lincoln and his generals are fighting the war.

Your father is thinking about running for president in 1864. You dream about what it would be like to live in the White House (but you never will since Lincoln wins another term).

Later in 1863 you will be married. President Lincoln will attend the wedding and the Marine Band will play a special tune just for you, “The Kate Chase March.”

KATE CHASE



FACTS

Kate Chase, like her father, was in favor of emancipation. She kept up to date on military battles and politics in Washington. She tried to convince people that her father should be the next president of the United States.



YOU ARE . . . ANNA SEWARD

Wife of Fred Seward (Assistant Secretary of State)

You are the wife of Fred Seward. You are from Albany, New York and married Fred in 1854. On Mondays, ladies of Washington visited the wives of Cabinet members. Because the wife of Secretary of State Seward was often ill, you would host the ladies when they visited the Seward house, which faced Lafayette Park and the White House.

ANNA SEWARD



© Seward House

FACTS

- Acted as a hostess for Secretary of State, William Seward.
- Lived in a house near the White House.



YOU ARE . . . LORD RICHARD LYONS

Diplomat from Great Britain, Minister to the United States

You are the ambassador to the United States from Britain. You represent Britain when you meet with President Lincoln. You have also served as a diplomat in Italy and Greece.

You don't trust Secretary of State William Seward, who doesn't seem to want to deal with you and your country. Some newspapers have reported that you are also meeting with Democrats behind the back of Lincoln, a Republican.

Some in the British government are worried that the Union army will invade Canada, which is under British rule, but you don't think that will happen.

LORD RICHARD LYONS



FACTS

Britain has no slavery and criticizes the United States for continuing to allow men and women to live in bondage. But Lyons also has to consider that Britain needs cotton from the southern states that cotton grown and picked by slaves.



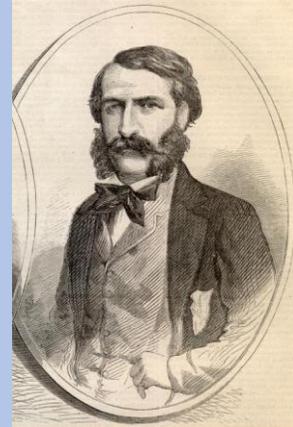
YOU ARE . . . HENRI MERCIER

Diplomat from France, Minister to the United States

You are the ambassador to the United States from France. Your nation's leader is Emperor Napoleon III and he listens carefully to your reports on the U.S. Civil War and President Lincoln.

American newspapers have reported that you often talk to those in favor of secession. It is thought that you are trying to have the Emperor step in and settle the differences between the Union and Confederates so that the war will end.

HENRI MERCIER



FACTS

France is worried about President Lincoln's naval blockade. Lincoln has ordered Navy ships to patrol the southern coast and make sure that cotton is not shipped to Europe and that supplies do not get delivered to Confederate troops. Lincoln wants to cut off any trade that will help the Confederates, but this means that cotton is not getting through to French textile mills.



YOU ARE . . . COUNT ADAM GUROWSKI

Polish Noble

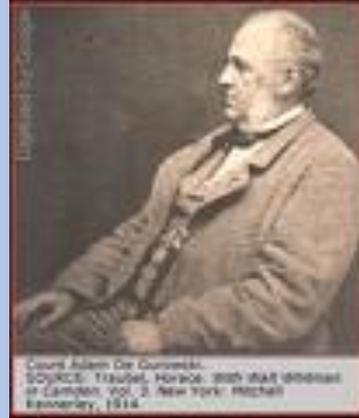
You are Count Adam Gurowski. You are from Poland, but you left your country to live in the United States.

You have lived all over the world, and are best known for causing trouble wherever you go! You have very strong opinions against slavery, and you speak out against slavery every chance you get. In 1862, you published a book called “Slavery in History.”

During the Civil War, you felt that President Lincoln and his Cabinet members managed the war poorly. Because of your criticisms, many people thought you may be a threat to Abraham Lincoln’s safety.

During the “Paths to Freedom” play, you will speak to Lord Lyons and M. Mercier. You will argue with them about the war and slavery.

COUNT ADAM GUROWSKI



FACTS

- Speaks 14 languages!
- Wore a cape and blue tinted glasses
- Published his personal diary

POSITION ON SLAVERY:

Strongly opposed slavery, and spoke out against it every chance he had.



YOU ARE . . . CHARLES SUMNER

Senator from Massachussets

You are a senator from Massachusetts. You are a passionate abolitionist who wants a quick end to slavery throughout the entire United States, not just in the Confederate states. You speak honestly and loudly about freeing the slaves and will argue with anyone that doesn't agree with you.

A few years before the Civil War started, a Congressman from South Carolina became so angry with you that he beat you with a cane in the U.S. Capitol building! After that, you were a hero to anti-slavery groups.

CHARLES SUMNER



FACTS

In the Senate, you work to make sure that England and France do not help the Confederate states. You are known as the South's biggest enemy because of your abolitionist beliefs.



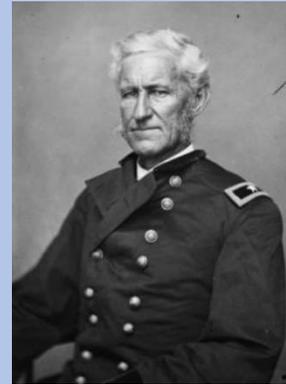
YOU ARE . . .
GENERAL LORENZO THOMAS

Adjutant General of the US Army

You are the Adjutant General of the US Army during the Civil War. As the Adjutant General, you are the chief military administrative officer. You spoke for the Commander of the Army (General Ambrose Burnside) and organized volunteers for the Union Army.

You are a West Point graduate who fought in both the Seminole War in Florida and the Mexican-American War in Mexico.

**GENERAL
LORENZO THOMAS**



FACTS

General Thomas was the Adjutant General of the US Army during the Civil War. He organized volunteers for the Union Army

DID YOU KNOW?

General Thomas not only spoke for the Commander of the Army, he also signed letters and official messages for him.

YOU ARE . . . **ADMIRAL ANDREW FOOTE**

Admiral during Civil War

You are an admiral in the Navy during the Civil War. You have served in the US Navy since 1822.

Between 1849-1851, you were in charge of a ship off the coast of Africa. During that time, you worked to limit the slave trade. That experience convinced you that **abolitionists** are right. You often speak out against slavery.

You are friends with Navy Secretary Gideon Welles, who put you in charge of the naval forces along the Mississippi River in 1861. You helped General Ulysses S Grant cut the Confederacy off from its supplies and were very successful.

Abolitionist: A person who wanted slavery to be abolished. Before the Civil War, Americans who were against slavery were known as abolitionists.

ADMIRAL ANDREW FOOTE



FACTS

- Served in the US Navy since 1822
- Helped restrict the slave trade off of the African coast

Position on Slavery:

Frequent abolitionist speaker; also published antislavery papers

YOU ARE . . . **GENERAL AMBROSE BURNSIDE**

Commander of the Army of the Potomac

You are the Commander of the Army of the Potomac. As the Commander, you are responsible for all of the soldiers in your troops.

You graduated from West Point (a military school) in 1847, but left the military six years later to become a manufacturer and railroad executive. You returned to military life in 1861 during the beginning of the Civil War. You turned down the command of the Army of the Potomac twice before accepting in November 1862.

As the Commander, your troops have not had much success. You lost a terrible battle in Fredericksburg, VA (known as the Battle of Fredericksburg).

On the New Years Day of 1863, you met with President Lincoln to consider resigning your position. He talked you out of it. Later that same day, you attended a reception at the White House.

GENERAL AMBROSE BURNSIDE



FACTS

Turned down the command of Army of the Potomac twice before accepting in November 1862!

DID YOU KNOW?

General Burnside is best known for his hair. He had hair running from his ears to his mustache, which became known as sideburns in his honor. The syllables in his name are reversed to make the word sideburns!

YOU ARE . . . JAMES BAYARD

Senator from Delaware

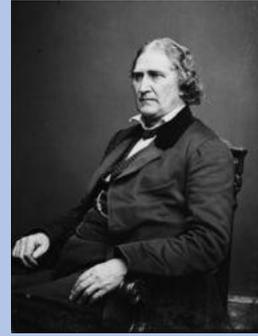
You are a senator for the state of Delaware. A senator represents his state in the United States Congress, our country's body of lawmakers.

During the Civil War, Delaware was a border state. Even though Delaware was part of the Union, slavery was still allowed. You personally think that states should be allowed to **secede**. This means that you think the Confederacy (the south) should be allowed to be their own country. You very much dislike abolitionists (people who are against slavery) because you believe that slaves are property.

In 1864, you will resign (leave) from your Senate seat. You will do this because you do not want to promise your loyalty to the Union.

In the "Paths to Freedom" play, you are visiting the White House for a New Year's Day reception. You talk to Senator Sumner, who you greatly dislike! You and Senator Sumner disagree on many issues, including slavery.

JAMES BAYARD



FACTS

- Senator from Delaware, a border state
- Many family members have been senators too!
- Will resign from the Senate in 1864

POSITION ON SLAVERY:

Believes that slaves are property, and do not have the rights of a real person.

Secede: to leave your country.

During the Civil War, many southern states **seceded** from the United States to form the Confederate States of America.



YOU ARE . . . REBECCA POMROY

Served as Nurse for Tad Lincoln

You were born in the northern state of Massachusetts. In 1861, at the age of 45, you came to Washington, D.C. to be a nurse.

You wrote to Dorothea Dix (the Superintendent of Army Nurses) offering her your services. Through the entire Civil War, you helped wounded and dying soldiers.

In 1862, one of the Lincoln children, Willie, died from **typhoid fever**. The Lincoln's youngest son, Tad, was also very sick. President Lincoln asked Dorothea Dix to recommend a nurse, and she sent you! You went to the White House where you nursed Tad and his mother (who was very sad that Willie had died) back to health. You understood how sad the Lincoln family felt about Willie's death because you lost two of your own sons.

In our "Paths to Freedom" play, you will be visiting the White House during a New Year's Day Reception. During this party, you will talk to Elizabeth Keckley, who is Mrs. Lincoln's dressmaker.

REBECCA POMROY



FACTS

- Civil War Nurse
- Nursed Tad Lincoln back to health in 1862
- Comforted Mary Todd Lincoln after Willie died.

Typhoid Fever:

During the Civil War, many people living in Washington, D.C. got sick from typhoid fever because the water supply was dirty.

YOU ARE . . . ELIZABETH KECKLEY

Dressmaker for Mary Todd Lincoln; Founder of the
Contraband Relief Association

You were born enslaved in Virginia and moved to different owners in North Carolina and Saint Louis. At the age of thirty, in 1855, you saved enough money to buy your freedom.

In 1860, you moved to Washington, D.C. as a free woman, and you earned an income as a seamstress. You had become a skilled seamstress when you were still enslaved. When the Lincolns moved to Washington in 1861, you became Mrs. Lincoln's dressmaker.

Mrs. Lincoln considered you her good friend. You tried to comfort her when her son Willie died from typhoid fever in 1862. You could understand her grief because your own son was killed in battle in 1861.

During the Civil War, you became worried when many former slaves fled into Washington, D.C. Most of these people, known as **contraband slaves**, had no money or food. You founded the Contraband Relief Association, which raised money and collected clothes for poor former slaves, many of whom fled into DC.

ELIZABETH KECKLEY



FACTS

- Formerly enslaved but bought her freedom
- Skilled dressmaker to wealthy women
- Founder of the Contraband Relief Association
- Mrs. Lincoln considered you her a "best friend"

POSITION ON SLAVERY:

Elizabeth Keckley worked to help other formerly enslaved people. She founded the Contraband Relief Association to help them with money and food.

Contraband Slave:

During the Civil War, slaves who escaped from Confederate into Union territory were known as "contraband slaves."

YOU ARE . . . WARD HILL LAMON

Marshal of the City of Washington

You were born in Virginia and grew up to be a lawyer. Before the Civil War, you were Abraham Lincoln's law partner in Illinois.

During the Civil War, your job is "Marshal of the City of Washington." In this job, you enforced the fugitive slave law in Washington, D.C. (which forced runaway slaves to be returned to their owners).

Despite this job, you took it upon yourself to guard the president. At a height of 6 feet 4 inches tall (the same as the president!), you had a tough presence. You would often warn the president of threats to his personal safety. You are so concerned that you sometimes sleep outside Lincoln's bedroom door!

Another responsibility you had was to act as the White House protocol officer where you introduced important people to the president during receptions.

During our play, you will be acting as the protocol officer. You will be introducing important guests to the president.

WARD HILL LAMON



FACTS

- Lamon is pronounced "Lay-mon."
- President Lincoln called him "Hill."
- As one of President Lincoln's guards, Mr. Lamon sometimes slept outside his bedroom door at the White House!
- Mr. Lamon was as tall as Abraham Lincoln at 6' 4"!

PERSONALITY:

- High spirited and enthusiastic
- Showy behavior
- Very loyal to President Lincoln
- Liked to sing

YOU ARE . . . EDWARD ROSEWATER

Telegraph Operator for the War Department

At the age of fifteen, you immigrated to the United States from Bohemia.

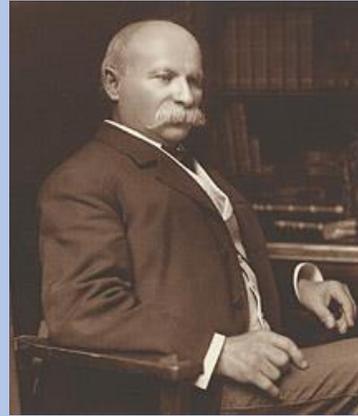
Before the war, you worked for Western Union, a telegraph company. When you joined the Union military at the beginning of the Civil War, you served as a telegraph operator on the battlefield.

Later, you were sent to Washington, D.C. to work for the White House telegraph office! Through this job, you deliver important messages to President Lincoln himself. Your messages help the president stay informed of what is happening on the war front. Often, your telegraphs inform him of a win or loss on the battlefield.

On, January 1st, 1863, you sent out a very important message through the telegraph: the Emancipation Proclamation.

During our play, you will talk to President Lincoln at a White House reception. President Lincoln will mention to you a special message he might have later that day. What do you think it will be?

EDWARD ROSEWATER



FACTS

- Born in Bohemia (A country in Europe)
- Worked as a telegraph manager for Western Union

On **January 1st, 1863**, he sent out an important telegraph announcing the **Emancipation Proclamation** to the nation.



YOU ARE . . . A UNION SOLDIER

At the outbreak of the Civil War, many men were called to be soldiers for the Union army. These soldiers were supposed to be at least age 18. However, sometimes boys as young as 10 or 11 enlisted in the army!

Because Washington, D.C. was located so close to the Confederacy (the south), soldiers were needed to protect the White House. These soldiers slept in nearby houses, and some even slept inside the White House!

A typical Union soldier would carry the following supplies:

- Belt with a cartridge box, a cap box, a bayonet and scabbard
- a haversack (bag) for rations
- a canteen (for water)
- a blanket roll with a wool blanket, sometimes a rubber blanket or poncho.
- Writing paper and envelopes
- Pen, ink, and stamps
- A Razor
- Toothbrush and comb

UNION SOLDIER



FACTS

During the Civil War, Union soldiers guarded the White House from potential attacks. Some soldiers even slept in the East Room at the White House!



YOU ARE . . . AN EXTRA GENTLEMAN

When Abraham Lincoln lived in the White House, receptions were often open to the public. This meant that anyone, including people who did not know the president and his family, were welcome to visit the White House.

You are a member of the public who has decided to visit the White House today, January 1st, 1863. Imagine who you might be (what kind of job might you have, why are you visiting the White House) and write a little bit about yourself on the “Who Am I” worksheet in your Journal.

EXTRA GENTLEMAN



Write about yourself!
Create your own character.

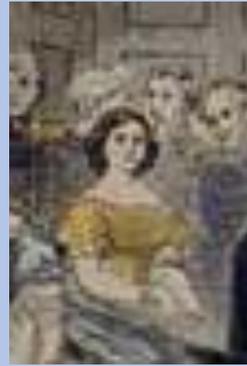


YOU ARE . . . AN EXTRA LADY

When Abraham Lincoln lived in the White House, receptions were often open to the public. This meant that anyone, including people who did not know the president and his family, were welcome to visit the White House.

You are a member of the public who has decided to visit the White House today, January 1st, 1863. Imagine who you might be (for example: why are you visiting the White House) and write a little bit about yourself on the “Who Am I” worksheet in your Journal.

EXTRA LADY



Write about yourself!
Create your own character.