

ABOUT THE APPLICATION

CHANGING AMERICA: TO BE FREE is a digital component to the *Changing America: The Emancipation Proclamation, 1863 and the March on Washington, 1963* exhibition. This exhibition, presented by the National Museum of African American History and Culture in collaboration with the National Museum of American History, commemorates these two pivotal achievements on their 150th and 50th anniversaries. It explores their historical context, their accomplishments and limitations, and their impact on the generations that followed.

The exhibition will be on view from December 14, 2012 through September 7, 2014 in the National Museum of African American History and Culture Gallery at the National Museum of American History in Washington, D.C.

===== **CHANGING AMERICA: TO BE FREE** can be downloaded, free of charge, in the **iTunes store**. =====

NOTE TO EDUCATORS

This app is best used after lessons introducing students to slavery, the 19th century, and regional differences. Please be aware the reactions featured are from the North, South and border states.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

**“We are all liberated by this proclamation. Everyone is liberated.
The white man is liberated, the black man is liberated.”
— Frederick Douglass**

Americans reacted to the Emancipation Proclamation in different ways. With **CHANGING AMERICA: TO BE FREE**, you can discover firsthand accounts of individual circumstances and reactions.

In the midst of the Civil War President Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation, an executive decision that freed slaves in the rebel states on January 1, 1863. While the Emancipation Proclamation did not free all of the enslaved, it affected people across the country—men, women, young, old, enslaved and free.

Use **CHANGING AMERICA: TO BE FREE** to go beyond the well-known stories of Emancipation and gain insight into this profound moment in the lives of so many different people. You can search, sort and read personal responses to the Emancipation Proclamation across the north, south and border states from men and women of all ages.

HOW TO USE THE CHANGING AMERICA: TO BE FREE APP:

- View the **introductory slide show** to see quotes from historical figures and imagery that give visual context to the period of emancipation.
- Click on the **“Browse Historic Figures”** button to browse through the viewpoints of various people in history. In this section you can also **filter by age and race**.
- Click on the **“Make a Connection”** button to find how someone like you would have reacted to the Emancipation Proclamation. In this section, you or your students will be able to **select an age range, race, gender, and region** of the country of your choosing.

SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES

- Divide students into pairs and **assign each group an identity based on age, gender, race, and location**. Ask each pair to search to find the **effect of the Proclamation on their assigned identity**. Ensure that an example from the border states is included.
- Have students **identify** a new character, image, and quote **with associated identifying information for his or her chosen character** (age, gender, race and region). Students can present their information in a PowerPoint or other type of presentation format.

BEYOND THE APP

- Have students read this quote from Frederick Douglass **“We are all liberated by this proclamation. Everyone is liberated. The white man is liberated, the black man is liberated.”** Ask students to write what they believe Douglass means by his statement, and whether they agree with his premise. Students can **post their thoughts** in the **“Share Your Thoughts”** section of the app.
- Have students select one of the historical figures from the app and **write a letter from the perspective** of that person. The letter can be to anyone; a fictional family member, President Lincoln, or a friend. In this letter students should use all or a portion of the quote from the app. This letter should expand on his or her experience during the Civil War or around the time of emancipation.
- Ask students to **create a newspaper account** about the Emancipation Proclamation from a Northern abolitionist newspaper and a Southern pro-slavery newspaper. Use the quotes associated with the historic figures and information from the website to create an editorial from the **perspective of one of the characters** in the app (see Joseph Addison Waddell as an example).