

Effects of the Civil War: A Primary Sources Analysis Activity

Primary sources are first hand accounts of an event or situation in history. These accounts can be verbal (a quote, journal, or other written piece) or they may be visual (an image, sign, video...). The person providing the information in the account actually **lived through** and **experienced** the history. This makes primary sources very important for **understanding** history. Still, you must consider the source, its **relevance for the time period**, the **reliability** of the account, and any **bias** that may be held by the person providing the information.

"The war is over; the rebels are our countrymen again, and the best sign of rejoicing after the victory will be to abstain from all demonstrations."

Ulysses S. Grant

"The war being at an end, the Southern states having laid down their arms, and the question at issue between them and the northern states having been decided, I believe it to be the duty of everyone to unite in the restoration of the country and the reestablishment of peace and harmony."

Robert E. Lee

1. Based on these statements, what feeling or view do both generals share?

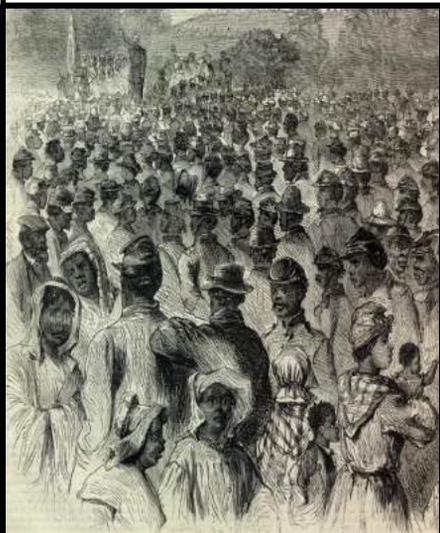
2. What does General Lee want for the United States? Why?



1. What is occurring in this image?

2. Based on the image, what actions were the opposition willing to take against the president to achieve their goals?

FACT: The plan acted on by John Wilkes Booth to assassinate the president was originally a plan by a number of Confederates and sympathizers to kidnap him, as well as other U.S. officials for the harsh policies against Confederates during the Civil War.



Freed Slaves after Civil War

What do you see in this image?

Where do you think the freed slaves would go?

What problems do you see occurring as a result of the end of slavery and the freeing of the slaves?

