

Name _____

Lincoln's Big Decision

Open-Ended Response Answer Key

1. Answers will vary. Some students might say Lincoln would have eventually ended slavery, while others might argue that the war forced him to act sooner.
2. Answers will vary. Some students might say the war would have lasted longer, while others might say enslaved people would have found other ways to gain freedom.
3. Answers will vary. Some students might say enslaved people felt joyful and hopeful, while others might say they felt unsure about what would happen next.
4. Answers will vary. Some students might say it's important to remember the Emancipation Proclamation because it was a big step toward ending slavery, while others might say it helped shape America's fight for equality.

