

Abraham Lincoln and Slavery

1. **Does Lincoln think slavery should be expanded in the West?** NO
 - “I think...that it is wrong...letting slavery into Kansas and Nebraska—and wrong in its prospective principle, allowing it to spread to every other part of the wide world, where men can be found inclined to take it.”
 - Speech on the Kansas Nebraska Act, October 16, 1854
 - But all this...furnishes no more excuse for permitting slavery to go into our own free territory, than it would for reviving the African slave trade by law.
 - Speech on the Kansas Nebraska Act, October 16, 1854
 - My dear, Sir: Let there be no compromise on the question of extending slavery. If there be, all our labor is lost, and...must be done again. The dangerous ground—is Popular Sovereignty. Have none of it.
 - Letter to John Gimer waiting his First Inauguration, December 1860
2. **Does Lincoln want to end slavery in the South?** NO
Does he think the federal government has the power to end slavery in the South? NO
 - I have no purpose directly or indirectly to interfere with the institution of slavery in the States where it exists. I believe I have no lawful right to do so, and I have no inclination to do so.
 - First Lincoln-Douglas Debate, August 1858
 - The question recurs, what will satisfy [the slave owners]? Simply this: We [Republicans] must not only let them alone, but we must, somehow, convince them that we do let them alone. This, we know, is no easy task. We have been so trying to convince them from the very beginning of our organization, but with no success.
 - Address at Cooper Institute, February 1860
 - I could hardly be justified, as a citizen of Illinois, or as President of the United States, to recommend the repeal [end] of a statue [law] of Vermont or South Carolina.
 - Letter to John A. Gilmer, December 1860
3. **Does Lincoln think it is right for one person to own another person? In other words, does Lincoln approve of slavery?** No—he finds it morally wrong
 - I hate [slavery] because it deprives our republican examples of its just [fair] influence in the world—it enables the enemies of free institutions to taunt us as hypocrites.
 - Speech on the Kansas Nebraska Act, October 16, 1854
 - I object to [the Kansas Nebraska Act] because it assumes that there can be moral right in the enslaving of one man by another.
 - Speech on the Kansas Nebraska Act, October 16, 1854
 - You think slavery is right and out to be extended; we think it is wrong and ought to be restricted.
 - Letter to John Gilmer awaiting Inauguration as President, December 1860

4. **Does Lincoln believe blacks and whites are equal? If so, are they 100% equal or only equal in certain areas (please list these areas if this is the case)?**

_____ He thinks blacks and whites are equal only under the Declaration of Independence. Both blacks and whites have the right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. Lincoln saw blacks and whites as unequal outside of the Declaration. _____

- “What next, free [the blacks], and make them politically and socially, our equals? My own feelings will not admit this; and if mine would, we well know that those of the great mass of white people will not...we can not then make them equals.”
 - Speech on the Kansas Nebraska Act, October 16, 1854
- I think the authors of [the Declaration of Independence] intended to include *all* men, but they did not intend to declare *all* men equal in *all* respects. They did not mean to say all were equal in color, size, intellect, moral developments, or social capacity. They defined...in what respects they did consider all men created equal—equal in “certain inalienable rights, among which are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.” This they said and this they meant.
 - On the Dred Scott decision, June 1857
- I have no purpose to introduce political and social equality between the white and the black races. There is a physical difference between the two, which in my judgment will probably forever forbid their living together upon the footing of perfect equality, inasmuch as it becomes a necessity that there must be a difference, I, as well as Judge Douglas, am in favor of the race to which I belong, having the superior position.”
 - First Lincoln-Douglas Debate, August 1858

5. **Does Lincoln want blacks to have rights? If so, what rights are they entitled to? _Lincoln only wants blacks to have the right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness? The teacher should facilitate a class discussion where students can read the text through multiple lenses.**_____

- There is no reason in the world why the Negro is not entitled to all the natural rights enumerated in the Declaration of Independence, the right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. I hold that he is as much entitled to these as the white man.
 - First Lincoln-Douglas Debate, August 1858
- I will say then that I am not, nor ever have been in favor of bringing about in any way the social and political equality of the white and black races—that I am not nor ever have been in favor of making voters or jurors of negroes, nor of qualifying them to hold office, nor to intermarry with white people, and I will say in addition to this that there is a physical different between the white and black races which I believe will forever forbid the two races living together on terms of social and political equality. And inasmuch as they cannot so live, while they do remain together there must be the position of superior and inferior, and I as much as any other man am in favor of having the superior assigned to the white race.”

- Fourth Lincoln-Douglas Debate, September 1858
 - I am not in favor of Negro citizenship. Now my opinion is that the different States have the power to make a Negro a citizen under the Constitution of the United States if they choose...If the State of Illinois had that power I should be opposed to the exercise of it.
 - Fourth Lincoln-Douglas Debate, September 1858
- 6. **Did Lincoln want to punish the South for its role in slavery?** _____ **No—he knows both sides are too blame for slavery. He knows northern manufactures make money slavery and cotton production just as much as the South**_____
 - When southern people tell us they are no more responsible for the origin of slavery, than we [northerners are] I acknowledge the fact. When it is said that the institution exists and that it is very difficult to get rid of it, in any satisfactory way, I can understand and appreciate the saying. I surely will not blame them for not doing what I should not know how to do myself.
 - Speech on the Kansas-Nebraska Act, October 1854
 - The [fathers of the republic] found the institution existing among us, which they could not help; and they cast blame upon the British King for having permitted its introduction.
 - Speech on the Kansas-Nebraska Act, October 1854
 - I never have been, am not now, and probably never shall be, in a mood of harassing the people, either North or South.”
 - Letter to John A. Gilmer, December 1860