

# Daily Comprehension

# FEBRUARY

REM 1107

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# INTRODUCTION

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*Daily Comprehension* is a 12-book series with each volume covering a single month from September through May. The format features an "on-this-day-in-history" approach. A short, factual story about a person, place, or event is presented for each day of the month and was chosen because of its particular significance on that certain date.

Each story is accompanied by an activity page which test the student's comprehension of the article's content. Activities include questions, crossword puzzles, fill-in-the-blanks, and more. A related research project for each story requires the use of a dictionary, almanac, encyclopedia, or atlas.

The books are designed for use in grades 5 - 12. Readability is on the 3rd - 4th grade level.

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# NATIONAL FREEDOM DAY



On February 1, 1865, President Abraham Lincoln approved a proposed amendment, or change, to the United States Constitution. It would be a law that would abolish, or put an end to, slavery in all of the United States.

Getting every member in Congress to agree to this 13th Amendment was not easy. Many people felt that the government had no right to tell slave states that they could no longer have slaves. These people thought that the people of each state should decide whether it was right or wrong to have slaves.

Even Abraham Lincoln, when he first became President, did not favor a constitutional law against slavery. He did not like slavery. He once said, "As I would not be a slave, so I would not be a master." However, Lincoln

also felt that the U.S. government should not interfere in the rights of the slave states.

It was the length and hardships of the Civil War that changed Lincoln's mind. He knew there would be no real peace unless the Constitution guaranteed freedom for all the people.

It took almost one year for all the members of Congress to agree to the 13th Amendment. Lincoln signed it into law on December 18, 1865.

February 1 became a holiday called National Freedom Day. It was the day President Lincoln stated he wanted the Constitution changed to outlaw slavery in the United States.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## NATIONAL FREEDOM DAY

**Write your answers on the lines. Then, find the answers in the word search.**

1. A change to the Constitution is called an \_\_\_\_\_.
2. A word meaning "to put an end to" slavery is \_\_\_\_\_.
3. Many felt that certain states had a right to own \_\_\_\_\_.
4. Lincoln said he would not be a slave or a \_\_\_\_\_.
5. The President at first thought the U.S. \_\_\_\_\_ should not interfere in the rights of states.
6. It was the \_\_\_\_\_ War that changed the President's mind.
7. It took \_\_\_\_\_ almost one year to agree to the amendment.
8. President \_\_\_\_\_ signed the amendment into law.
9. February 1 is known as National \_\_\_\_\_ Day.
10. The 13th Amendment outlaws \_\_\_\_\_ in the United States.



**Research:** Look up *Civil War* in an encyclopedia. When did it begin?  
When did it end?