

Writing Museum Descriptions

Handout E

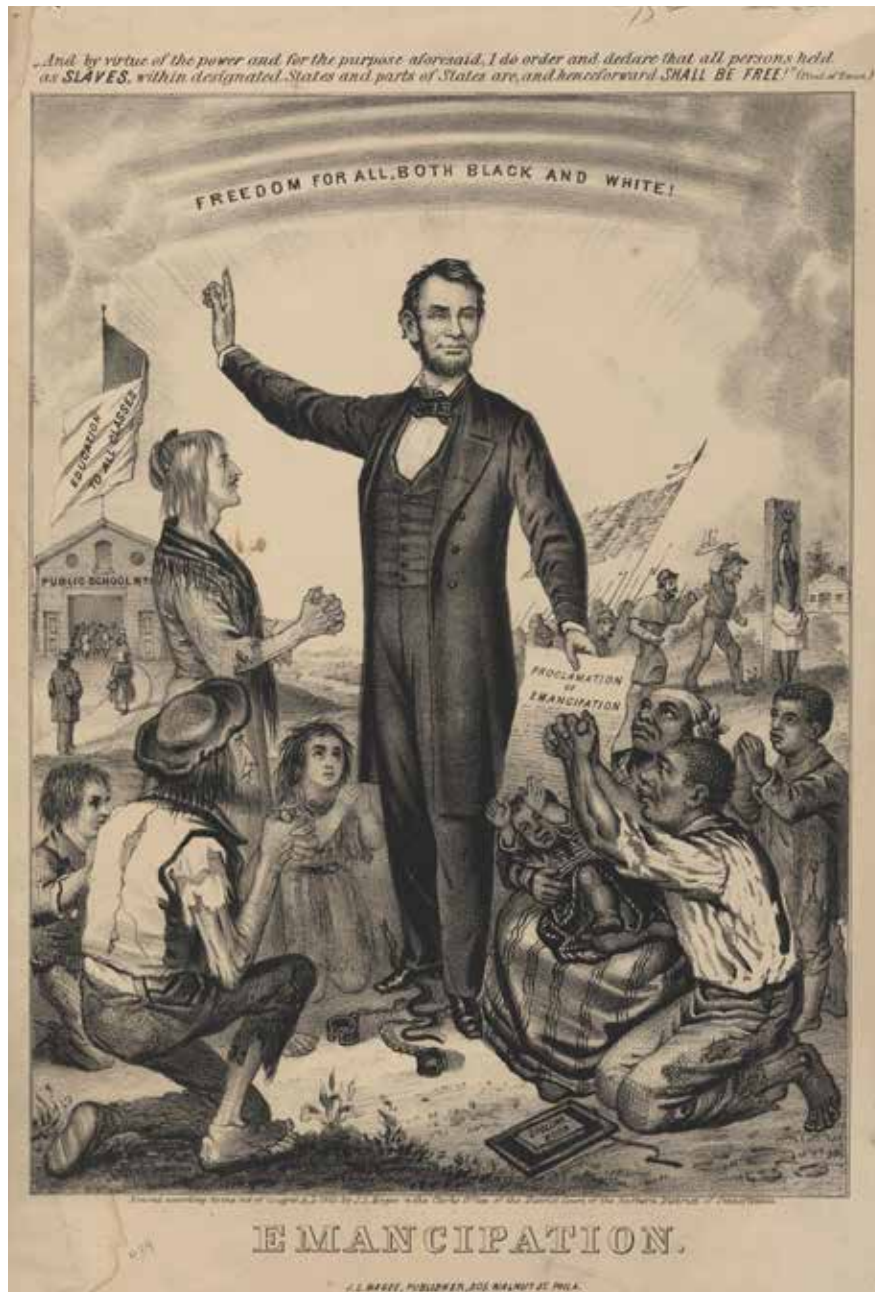
Museums use labels, or placards, to tell visitors about the items on display. This is an example of the information and layout of a museum placard:



Artifact 1

Reading the Emancipation Proclamation
by Herrick and Watts, 1864.

Print shows an enslaved African American family learning about President Lincoln's January 1, 1864, Emancipation Proclamation from a white Union soldier.



Artifact 2

Emancipation by J.L. Magee, ca. 1864.

The text at the top is a quote from the Emancipation Proclamation. "And by virtue of the power and for the purpose aforesaid, I do order and declare that all persons held as slaves, within designated states and parts of States are, and henceforeward shall be free!"

Directions: Choose a title that would fit a museum exhibit displaying these two artifacts. Then use the prompts to explain how these artifacts are connected and why they fit the title.

A title your museum exhibit:

What these artifacts have in common:

Why the artifacts fit the title:
