# LESSON ONE ANSWERS AND DISCUSSION GUIDE

# TEACHER'S GUIDE TO TIMELINE SLIDES

### SLIDE 1: INTRO

In October 1862, Major General Ormsby Mitchel, commander of the Department of the South at Hilton Head Island ordered the construction of a Freedmen's town to serve as a new home for thousands of former slaves who flocked to the island after it fell to Union forces in November, 1861. Mitchelville was more than a refugee camp. The town's new residents built their own homes with materials provided by the Union Army. They were responsible for creating their own government, enforcing town ordinances, establishing schools, and ensuring every child between the ages of six and 15 attended regularly. Mitchelville proved that freed men and women could govern, sustain, and educated themselves.

At its peak in 1865, approximately 3,500 people may have lived in the town. Mitchelville declined after the US Army and the jobs it offered left the island in 1868. By the 1880s, Mitchelville ceased to exist as a formal town. By the 1950s only the island's oldest residents remembered its important history.

### SLIDE 2: THE CIVIL WAR BEGINS: APRIL 12, 1861

The Confederates fire on Fort Sumter; the Civil War begins. President Lincoln orders a Union blockade of southern ports.

### SLIDE 3: CONFEDERATES RESPOND: APRIL 1861

South Carolina Governor Pickens orders General P. T. Beauregard to assess Confederate coastal defenses.

### SLIDE 4: THE FIRST CONTRABANDS: MAY 1861

Three runaway slaves enter Fortress Monroe, VA, a US Army fortification. When their owner arrives to claim them, General Benjamin Butler refuses to return the men. He argues that they are being used to advance the Confederate war cause and can be commandeered. The US Congress agrees, and soon passes the First Confiscation Act, allowing confiscation of any property used to support Confederate secession. Thereafter, many escaped enslaved people are referred to as "contrabands of war."

### SLIDE 5: FORT CONSTRUCTION: JULY 1861

Confederate construction of Fort Walker and Fort Beauregard at Port Royal Sound begins.

### SLIDE 6: PREPARING TO ATTACK: AUGUST 5, 1861

Captain Samuel DuPont and General Thomas W. Sherman of the US Army receive orders to prepare an expedition to seize a harbor along the South Carolina coast.

### SLIDE 7: BATTLE OF PORT ROYAL: NOVEMBER 7, 1861

The battle began on the morning of November 7, 1861. The Confederates were under-manned and out-gunned. The Union armada steamed passed the Confederate forts in an elliptical pattern firing directly into the batteries. By 2:00 pm Confederate forces were defeated. Hilton Head, and later Beaufort and St. Helena Island fell to Union troops. Planters and their families abandoned the Sea Islands. Thousands of enslaved people escaped from bondage.

### SLIDE 8: HILTON HEAD AS HEADQUARTERS: NOVEMBER 8, 1862

Hilton Head Island becomes the headquarters for the US Army's Department of the South and the chief operational port for the Navy's South Atlantic Blockading Squadron. The army built an inland line of defenses including Fort Sherman and Fort Welles, and an encampment with tent housing, Officer's quarters, Quartermaster's depot, guard house, commissaries, stables, blacksmith's shop, carpenter shop, bake house, and hospital.

### SLIDE 9: CONTRABANDS ARRIVE: DECEMBER 8, 1861

As of December 8, 1861, 400 contrabands are living at the Union encampment.

### SLIDE 10: FREE OR NOT? : MAY 9, 1862

In April, 1862, Major-General David Hunter, commanding officer at Hilton Head, issued General Order 11 declaring South Carolina, Georgia and Florida were under martial law and therefore all people held as slaves in those states were "forever free."

President Lincoln rescinded the order 10 days later saying that "…neither General Hunter, nor any other commander, or person, has been authorized by the Government of the United States, to make proclamations declaring the slaves of any State free; and that the supposed proclamation…is altogether void, so far as respects such declaration."

### SLIDE 11: CONTRABAND CAMP: JUNE 1862

The Quartermaster's department provided immediate aid to escaped slaves by establishing refugee camps at Beaufort, Bay Point, and Otter Island. On Hilton Head, they built large barracks described in 1862 by Edward Pierce, Special Agent to the Department of the Treasury as "two long rows of wooden buildings, nicely whitewashed on the outside, and having much the appearance of commissary store-houses, pierced with innumerable windows for the purpose of ventilation." As word spread that the army offered jobs and shelter, these facilities were soon overcrowded and unhealthy.

### SLIDE 12: MITCHILVILLE'S CONSTRUCTION ORDERED: SEPTEMBER 17, 1862

Major General Ormsby Mitchel, a staunch abolitionist, assumed command of Hilton Head Island on September 17, 1862. Mitchel was disturbed by the overcrowded conditions he found in the refugee barracks.  In October he ordered construction of a Freedmen's community north of the Union encampment on a portion of Fish Haul Plantation. Mitchel wanted to move the refugees out of the military depot, improve their living conditions, and give them some autonomy. Mitchelville, he said, would be more than a refugee camp, it would prove that freed men and women could govern, sustain, and educate themselves.

Accounts say General Mitchel organized a contest between his engineers and the refugees, inviting each to build a sample cabin. He selected the house built by the contrabands as the model for Mitchelville's homes. The Army Corps of Engineers laid out streets and lots. Contrabands built their own homes with lumber and nails provided by the army. In late October 1862 Mitchel reported groups of people building six houses a day.

### SLIDE 13: MITCHEL'S SPEECH: OCTOBER 12, 1862

General Ormsby Mitchel speaks to former slaves at First African Baptist Church on Hilton Head Island.

"You have a great work to do, and you are in a position of responsibility. The whole North, all the people in the free States, are looking at you and the experiment now tried in your behalf with the deepest interest. This experiment is to give you freedom, position, home and your own families – wives, property, your own soul. You shall till and cultivate your own crops; you shall gather and sell the products of your industry for your own benefit; you shall own your own savings….This is only for yourselves; but if you are successful this plan will go all through the country and we will have answered the question that has puzzled all good thinking men in the world for one hundred years. They have asked "What will you do with the black man after liberating him?" We will make him a useful, industrious citizen. We will give him his family, his wife, his children – give him the earnings of the sweat of his brow, and as a man we will give him what the Lord ordained him to have."

### SLIDE 14: EMANCIPATION PROCLAMATION: JANUARY 1, 1863

On January 1, 1863 President Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation and freed slaves in the ten states still in rebellion against the Union. Nearly 50,000 slaves in regions where rebellion was subdued, such as Hilton Head and Beaufort, were emancipated immediately. As the Union army took control of Confederate lands, three million more slaves were freed. Celebrations are held in Beaufort.

### SLIDE 15: 1ST SOUTH CAROLINA VOLUNTEER INFANTRY: FEBRUARY 1863

General Rufus Saxton, with proper authority, recruited freedmen for the 1st South Carolina Volunteers (SCVI). Colonel Thomas Higginson arrived on Hilton Head in February 1863 to serve as the regiment's commander. The regiment was re-designated the 33rd United States Colored Infantry in 1864.

### SLIDE 16: 2ND SOUTH CAROLINA VOLUNTEER INFANTRY: MAY 22, 1863

Colonel James Montgomery musters men from Hilton Head and Beaufort into the 2nd SCVI (later the 34th United States Colored Troops).

### SLIDE 17: PLANTATION RAIDS: JUNE 2, 1863

James Montgomery, Harriet Tubman, and the 2nd SCVI raid plantations along the Combahee River and free 800 slaves in a single night.

### SLIDE 18: FORT HOWELL CONSTRUCTION: AUGUST 19, 1864

By August, 1864 military commanders at Hilton Head were concerned their forces and Mitchelville were vulnerable to Confederate attack. The 32nd United States Colored Troops, free-born men recruited in Delaware, Maryland and Pennsylvania, arrived on Hilton Head Island on August 18, 1864. They established Camp Baird at a point just beyond Mitchelville. For five weeks, 500 to 600 men lived at Camp Baird and worked to build Fort Howell under the direction of the 1st New York Engineers.

### SLIDE 19: SAMUEL COOLEY: 1864

Historic photographs taken in 1864 by Civil War photographer Samuel Cooley show the great individuality of Mitchelville's residences. Small framed houses were built on wooden piers or wooden sills set on the ground. Most of the houses were clad in wood siding. Roofs had wood, metal, or bitumen paper shingles. Each house had a chimney or coal-burning stove. Some had glass windows others wooden shutters. The photos also show an assortment of fences, canvas lean-tos, and other

outdoor fixtures. Each family had a one-quarter or one-half acre to cultivate. The majority of historic photos we have of Mitchelville come from Cooley's visit.

### SLIDE 20: 13TH AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION: JANUARY 31, 1865

The 13th Amendment to the Constitution is passed by Congress and ratified by the states on December 6, 1865.

"Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for crime whereof the party shall have been duly convicted, shall exist within the United States, or any place subject to their jurisdiction."

### SLIDE 21: THE CIVIL WAR ENDS: APRIL 9, 1865

### SLIDE 22: US ARMY LEAVES: JANUARY 14, 1868

The Federal army officially left Hilton Head in January 1868 and with it went many paying jobs. The people of Mitchelville did not have clear title to their homes and began to leave, looking for work and a new life. Soon many homes were abandoned; the old houses often salvaged for building materials. In 1875, heirs of the original owner paid back taxes and obtained title to Fish Haul Plantation, including Mitchelville. The heirs subdivided and sold the property in small lots. In 1885, Freedman Gabriel Gardner purchased 650 acres which he divided into small lots to sell. Mitchelville ceased to be a town and became a close-knit, kinship-based community.

By 1900 there were 2,235 people on Hilton Head Island. Almost all were African Americans. Wealthy northerners began to buy large sections of the island including land owned by native islanders. By 1900, African Americans owned only one-quarter of the land. By the early 20th century Mitchelvile no longer appeared on maps of the area. Fish Haul Plantation and the land that was once Mitchelville were sold to the Hilton Head Company in 1950.

### SLIDE 23: ARCHAEOLOGISTS REDISCOVER MITCHELVILLE: 1986

In the late 1980s, Dr. Michael Trinkley found remnants of Mitchelville and recorded them as an archaeological site. Dr. Trinkley conducted the first archaeological investigations and thorough study of Mitchelville in 1986. The site was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1988.

### SLIDE 24:  ARCHAEOLOGISTS EXCAVATE: 2013

Archaeologists identify former houses, wells, and garbage pits associated with Mitchelville at site 38BU2301. Archaeologists found 85 features and over 20,000 artifacts. This site may contain evidence of some of the last houses built in Mitchelville, possibly as late as 1864 or 1865, when military officials ordered any refugee families still living in the encampment to move to the village. All of the data and artifacts gathered during this work were analyzed and interpreted.

# HISTORICAL RESEARCH WORKSHEET ANSWERS

1. What must historians select before beginning their research?
*Historians usually have a topic they are interested in researching and a series of research questions they wish to answer.*

2. Name three sources of information historians use to find out about the past:
*Tax records, property records, census records, wills, birth and death certificates, city directories (they include addresses and occupations and more recently phone numbers), newspapers, journals or diaries, letters, photographs, oral histories, scholarly or popular histories*

3. What is the difference between a primary source and a secondary source?
*Primary sources are documents or objects written or created at the time of an event or during the period of interest. They often contain firsthand accounts or evidence of the people, places and events occurring historically such as original documents, artifacts, or artwork. Secondary sources are accounts written after an event, person or place is in the past. These may be a scholarly or popular synthesis of history such as publications, history textbooks, or a magazine article. Primary sources are firsthand accounts; secondary sources are removed from the person, event or place, generally by time and perspective.*

4. Which type of source is better for historical research?
*This answer can be either depending on the source. Evaluate based on the student's reason. Primary sources can provide accurate details about specific facts about the past, but can be inaccurate or biased by the time period. They are generally considered better because they represent "raw data". Secondary sources can provide interpreted, distanced information, but can also be biased by the time period it's written within.*

5. If Mitchelville no longer exists, how do we know about it?
*Archival documents including period military accounts, newspaper articles, journals, letters, photographs, maps, tax information, hospital records, military discharge papers.*

6. Do we have documents written by people who lived in Mitchelville? Explain.
*No, there are no known accounts of life at Mitchelville written by former residents of the town. This may be because most enslaved people were not taught to read or write. Education was an important element of life at Mitchelville and an essential component of efforts by the Freedmen's Bureau to help former slaves begin a new life as independent citizens.*

7. What kinds of documents could historians use to learn about you?
*Birth certificate; photographs; letters; Facebook; report card; medical records; passport.*

# DOCUMENTS FOR CLASSROOM ANALYSIS ANSWERS
# FACTS

### DOCUMENT ONE: WEBSITE INTRODUCTION
- Hundreds of former slaved came to the Union camp at Mitchelville.
- Mitchelville is established by General Ormsby Mitchel in October 1862.
- Mitchelville will be a real town not a refugee camp.
- Residents will build their own homes.
- The Union Army will provide the supplies
- Mitchelville's residents must govern the town.
- Children must attend school.
- 3,500 people may have lived there in 1865.
- People worked for the US Army.
- The Union Army left Hilton head in 1868.
- Mitchelville did not exist after 1880.

### DOCUMENT TWO: HARPER'S WEEKLY ILLUSTRATION: CONTRABAND CAMP
- People worked at the camp- washing, chopping wood, driving horses
- White soldiers and black former slaves interacted
- The people who came to Mitchelville were initially housed in long cabins, probably with little privacy and personal space- You can see people interacting in front of the rows of houses and soldiers patrolling
- Note how different individuals dress
- Note the different tools people use- axes, washing boards, guns, wash basins, clothing line, wheeled carts- These tell us that there was no electricity, and that people did their jobs with simple tools.

### DOCUMENT THREE: NEWSPAPER ARTICLE -NEW SOUTH, OCTOBER 1862
- This quote describes the need for the creation of Mitchelville and the aspirations for the town. From it we learn that the location of the contraband camp would soon be moved further from the military camp (stockade).
- The freedmen will be expected to build their own homes, so they must have some previous carpentry skills.
- They will be self-policing, a stark contrast to their lives under slavery. ----The appointment of a teacher is also unique, as slaves it was illegal to learn to read or write.

# CLASS CONNECTIONS
## IDEAS FOR DISCUSSION:

Enslaved people might have been afraid because they didn't know what was going to happen to them when they went to the Union Camp.
- Leaving home because of an emergency, such as a hurricane or a fire
- Moving to another town
- Getting your own room or sharing a room with a sibling
- Going to school on the first day

Former slaves were probably excited to be able to make their own choices for the first time.
- Going shopping for school supplies
- Making good behavior choices

Mitchelville's residents were able to attend school for the first time.
- Image if you could not read – what problems would you have?
- What would it be like if you spoke another language?

Mitchelville's residents had to be self-reliant; create a new community.
- Being a good neighbor
- Being a good citizen
- Respecting people who are not like you

# DOCUMENT ANALYSIS WORKSHEET ANSWERS

1. What type of source is 1, 2, 3?
*Mitchelville website is a secondary source, the image is a primary source and the newspaper is a primary source*

2. Why was Mitchelville created?
*Mitchelville was created to house slaves that escaped from nearby plantations when the Union Army conquered Hilton Head after the Battle of Port Royale*

3. Who created Mitchelville?
*The Union Army*

4. Who lived in Mitchelville?
*Escaped slaves also called: freedmen or contraband*

5. Why did most people leave Mitchelville after the Union Army decamped?
*When the Union Army left, the major source of employment also left and the people of Mitchelville had a hard time finding new jobs*

6. Name four actives people are engaged in from the image:
*Chopping wood, carrying wood, washing clothes in a laundry bucket, carrying laundry on their heads, hanging laundry to dry,  talking, soldiers patrolling, driving a horse cart filled with hay, riding a horse*

7. Who are the people with guns?
*Union soldiers*

8. What doesn't the image tell us about how people lived at the contraband camp?
*We can't understand the internal lives of the free people of Mitchelville or the soldiers*

9. What is a plantation?
*A plantation is a large farm, many plantations near Hilton Head grew rice*

10. Why was it important that a teacher was hired for the children of Mitchelville?
*It is important because during slavery, the people who came to Mitchelville would not have been allowed to read or write.*

# CHRONOLOGY WORKSHEET ANSWERS
## ORDER OF DOCUMENTS:
1. "A house divided against itself cannot stand." (June 16, 1858)
2. Battle of Port Royal (November 7, 1861)
3. Emancipation Day at Smith Plantation (January 1, 1863)
4. "These people were first called contrabands "(September 1863)
5. Samuel Cooley photographs homes at Mitchelville (October 17, 1864)


# ACTIVITY FOUR TIMELINE EVENTS ANSWERS
## ORDER OF DOCUMENTS:
1. South Carolina secedes from the Union
2. General Ormsby M. Mitchel's speaks at the dedication of the First African Baptist Church on Hilton Head Island and calls for the creation of Mitchelville
3. 32nd USCT begins construction on Fort Howell August 19, 1864
4. Congress passes the 13th Amendment to the US Constitution
5. Union Army leaves Mitchelville

# TIMELINE WORKSHEET ANSWERS

1858

1. "A house divided against itself cannot stand." (June 16, 1858)

2. South Carolina secedes from the Union (December 20, 1860)

3. Battle of Port Royal (November 7, 1861)

4. General Ormsby M. Mitchel's speaks at the dedication of the First African Baptist Church on Hilton Head Island and calls for the creation of Mitchelville (October 12, 1862)

5. Emancipation Day at Smith Plantation (January 1, 1863)

6. "These people were first called contrabands "(September 1863)

7. 32nd USCT begins construction on Fort Howell August 19, 1864

8. Samuel Cooley photographs homes at Mitchelville (October 17, 1864)

9. Congress passes the 13th Amendment to the US Constitution (December 6, 1865)

10. The Union Army leaves Mitchelville (Jan 14, 1868)

1868