



Historical Society
of Pennsylvania

Background Information Worksheet for:

“Full-length portrait of an African American family”

Year: Circa 1861

Creator: Not Specified

Image Type: Tintype

Additional Information: The first photograph, the daguerreotype, was unveiled by Louis-Jacque-Mandé Daguerre in 1839. Quickly becoming popular in the United States, the daguerreotype allowed ordinary people, who had been unable to have their portraits painted, to have a likeness of themselves. Further innovation in photography made the daguerreotype obsolete by the late 1850s. With the start of the Civil War, Matthew B. Brady and Alexander Gardner were able to capture images of the War by sending their own photographers into the field. Because of the delicate and technical process of photography, these images were limited to those of camp life and the aftermath. Portraiture in photography continued to be popular as seen by the number of pictures of soldiers and families from during the War.

The tintype is a full-length portrait of an African American family, with a man standing next to his seated wife and daughter.

Vocabulary:

Photograph: A picture made by light being projected into a lens onto light sensitive material.

Daguerreotype: A photograph on a piece of silver made by exposing it to mercury vapor. This process took about a minute around the time of the Civil War.

Negative: A piece of film or metal that has been developed and shows an image.

Tintype: A photograph made on a piece of metal.



Historical Society
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Background Information Worksheet for:
"The Black Conscription"

Year: 1862

Creator: Not Specified

Image Type: Print

Additional Information: The text reads, "When Black Meets Black, Then Comes the End of War and Slavery." Images printed in weekly magazines were a popular and effective source for distributing images of the fighting, both on the battleground and in politics, during the Civil War. Sir John Tenniel's cartoons printed in London's conservative magazine *Punch* first popularized the use of prints in 1841. American magazines adopted the printing of drawings as a way to record action, which the photography of the time could not do because of long exposure times. The print production process also made images of battle available to the public in about a week, a fraction of the time paintings took to complete. African Americans were depicted as gorillas and buffoons to underline the popular sentiment that enslaved persons were incapable and therefore needed paternalistic slavery. African American slaves and soldiers were shown as lazy and passive, leaving the fighting and dying to white soldiers.

Vocabulary:

Print: A copy of an image, often made by applying ink to a design and pressing paper against it.



Historical Society of Pennsylvania

Background Information Worksheet for: "Emancipation Proclamation Lithograph"

Year: January 1863

Creator: Thomas Nast

Image Type: Lithograph

Lithographer: King & Baird Printers, 607 Sansom Street, Philadelphia.

Additional Information: Images printed in weekly magazines were a popular and effective source for distributing images of the fighting, both on the battleground and in politics, during the Civil War. Sir John Tenniel's cartoons printed in London's conservative magazine *Punch* first popularized the use of prints in 1841. American magazines adopted the printing of drawings as a way to record action, which the photography of the time could not do because of long exposure times. The print production process also made images of battle available to the public in about a week, a fraction of the time paintings took to complete.

This is a lithograph of an illustration by Thomas Nast commemorating the Emancipation Proclamation in January 1863. Thomas Nast was one of the most productive and famous cartoonists of the time period who worked for *Harper's Weekly*, a weekly illustrated magazine first published in New York in 1857.

This image appeared as an illustration in the January 24, 1863 issue of *Harper's Weekly* as a celebration of President Abraham Lincoln's decree emancipating slaves during the Civil War. At the top of the illustration, the female figure Columbia, an early symbol of the United States, cheers emancipation. A portrait of President Lincoln is inset below.

Vocabulary:

Print: A copy of an image, often made by applying ink to a design and pressing paper against it.

Lithograph: A print made by putting ink on a flat surface with a raised design, to which ink sticks to create a design. Limestone and ink stuck to wax crayon were commonly used to make lithographs during the Civil War.

Columbia: The female personification of the United States.



Historical Society
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Background Information Worksheet for:

"Come and Join Us Brothers"

Year: Circa 1864

Creator: The Supervisory Committee for Recruiting Colored Regiments

Image Type: Lithograph

Lithographer: P.S. Duval & Son, Philadelphia, PA

Additional Information: The inscription reads, "Published by the Supervisory Committee for recruiting colored regiments. 1210 Chestnut St. Philadelphia." The men are depicted at Camp William Penn, a Union camp in Cheltenham, Pennsylvania. With the draft beginning in March 1863 and the creation of a Bureau of Colored Troops to recruit African Americans, a previously untapped source of man power became available. Opening enlistment allowed the Union to help African Americans gain respect, rights, and the opportunity to fight for the freedom of enslaved persons.

Vocabulary:

Print: A copy of an image, often made by applying ink to a design and pressing paper against it.

Lithograph: A print made by putting ink on a flat surface with a raised design, to which ink sticks to create a design. Limestone and ink stuck to wax crayon were commonly used to make lithographs during the Civil War.



Historical Society
of Pennsylvania

Background Information Worksheet for:

"African American Boy"

Year: Circa 1861 – 1865

Creator: Not Specified

Image Type: Tintype

Additional Information: The first photograph, the daguerreotype, was unveiled by Louis-Jacque-Mandé Daguerre in 1839. Quickly becoming popular in the United States, the daguerreotype allowed ordinary people, who had been unable to have their portraits painted, to have a likeness of themselves. Further innovation in photography made the daguerreotype obsolete by the late 1850s. With the start of the Civil War, Matthew B. Brady and Alexander Gardner were able to capture images of the War by sending their own photographers into the field. Because of the delicate and technical process of photography, these images were limited to those of camp life and the aftermath. Portraiture in photography continued to be popular as seen by the number of pictures of soldiers and families from during the War.

Label applied to back of case reads: Boy rescued when / lost in Washington / by Daniel A. Yeager / who clothed him / in white and used / him as caretaker to / his little daughter Nina

Vocabulary:

Photograph: A picture made by light being projected into a lens onto light sensitive material.

Daguerreotype: A photograph on a piece of silver made by exposing it to mercury vapor. This process took about a minute around the time of the Civil War.

Negative: A piece of film or metal that has been developed and shows an image.

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