



### **ANSWERS WILL VARY**

Lincoln was personally against slavery, but as it was legal, he wasn't sure how to deal with it within the existing political system. The Civil War ultimately gave him an opportunity to begin tackling the slavery issue. He worried that if he did not follow popular anti-slavery opinion, he would lose the support of his allies. He knew that freeing the slaves would cause the South an economic hardship, reduce the military strength of the South, and increase the numbers of Union soldiers. Essentially, he felt that freeing the slaves was necessary in order to win the war by defeating the South.