**Interpretations of Abraham Lincoln**

**Directions:** Use the two excerpts from newspaper articles about President Lincoln’s Inaugural Address and answer the questions. (Make sure to think about where the newspaper article is from)

***The Richmond Enquirer* on Lincoln’s Address.** Richmond, Virginia, March 5, 1861

**The Declaration of War.**

Mr. Lincoln’s Inaugural Address is before our readers…with the purpose of pursuing the promptings of [extremism] even to the dismemberment of the Government with the horrors of civil war…Civil War must now come. Sectional war, declared by Mr. Lincoln, awaits only the signal gun from the insulted Southern Confederacy, to light its horrid fires all along the borders of Virginia.

Our ultimate destruction pales before the present emergency. To war! To arms! Is now the cry… let every reader demand of his delegate in the Convention (Virginia Convention on Secession) the prompt measures of defense which it is now apparent we must make.

1. Where is this article from? Why is that important to know?
2. According to this article, what is the message of Lincoln’s Inaugural Address?
3. What is the article asking the reader to do? What would this mean for the country?

***The Liberator* on Lincoln’s Address.** Boston, Massachusetts. March 8, 1861

**Mr. Lincoln’s Inaugural Address**

Commenting on the address, which appears in preceding columns, the article makes several points. “His argument against Southern secessionists is compact and conclusive.”

“The position of the Republican Party,… is truthfully and most explicitly defined by Mr. Lincoln” (The *Liberator* takes issue with it.)

He supports the right of slaveholders to reclaim their slaves, and anyone or any party supporting said claim is “an accomplice in man-stealing”.

The President asserts that there need no bloodshed or violence, unless forced upon the [national government]. The editor comments: “Either blood must flow like water, or Mr. Lincoln and the North must back down, and confess that the American Union is dissolved beyond the power of restoration.”

1. Where is this article from? Why is that important to know?
2. According to this article, what is the message of Lincoln’s Inaugural Address?
3. At the end of the article, what are the two outcomes the editor predicts? What would this mean for the country?
4. Which interpretation do you believe is right? Why?