# Fort Sumter / Learning Activities

## #1. A Spy's Report

*[Note to teachers: The "Spy Report" task is best suited to a small group (two to three) of students working together. Each section involves reading several historical texts, which students could do collaboratively for additional support or could divide amongst themselves].*

At the request of Secretary of War Edward Stanton, you have agreed to enter Charleston and its environs as an **undercover agent of the US government**. Your assumed identity will be that of an enslaved person, whose owner hires out his labor to different households and businesses around the city. In this way, you will have access to many different stories about the experiences of African Americans in and around Charleston. Your mission is to seek out as much information as possible to help the War Department determine whether and how the people enslaved in Charleston are helping the US effort in the Civil War, and how they might be encouraged to do even more to help.

Secretary Stanton has specifically requested answers to these questions:

1. What is it like to be enslaved in and around Charleston at this time?
2. How are South Carolina whites trying to keep control over enslaved people? How are the enslaved resisting?
3. Who, among the black population in the Charleston area, would you predict is most likely to try to rebel or resist, and in what ways?

Stanton's important decision will rest on the results of your investigation, so you need to make sure that you have specific, detailed evidence to support the answers and recommendations you give.