Alabama After War

Read how the Civil War changed daily life.

SS24.4.14c "Describe how the Civil War affected the people of Alabama, including the end of slavery, destruction of transportation systems, collapse of the economy, and the role of women on the home front."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline one detail about each effect on Alabamians, then label the details F for freedom, T for travel, E for the economy, and W for women's work.

A State Facing Change

1. During the Civil War, Alabama's railroads carried soldiers and supplies. Fighting and raids damaged tracks and bridges. After the war, a farmer could not always send a crop to market or get tools from another town. River travel also became difficult when boats and docks were damaged. These broken routes hurt trade. Stores had fewer goods to sell, and many families had trouble getting what they needed.

2. Before the war, enslaved Black Alabamians were forced to work without pay and were denied freedom. In 1865, slavery ended in Alabama. Freed people could make choices about their work and families, but freedom did not bring land or money to everyone. Many searched for relatives separated by slavery. At the same time, Alabama's economy collapsed as farms and businesses struggled, Confederate money became worthless, and jobs were hard to find.

3. Women kept households running during the war. Many white women managed farms, grew food, and cared for sick neighbors while men were away. Enslaved Black women also cooked, farmed, and cared for children, but they did this work under force until slavery ended. With supplies scarce and travel difficult, daily tasks took more time. After the war, Alabama families faced the hard work of rebuilding their lives.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did the end of slavery change life for formerly enslaved people? What challenge remained?

2. How did damaged tracks and bridges affect a farmer?

3. How did Alabama's collapsed economy affect families?

4. What work did white women and enslaved Black women do on the home front? How were their conditions different?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Imagine a family living in Alabama just after the war. In four sentences, describe how two different changes from the passage affect the family, and explain one decision the family makes because of those changes.

ANSWER KEY

Alabama After War

GRADE 4 · SS24.4.14c

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline one detail about each effect on Alabamians, then label the details F for freedom, T for travel, E for the economy, and W for women's work. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did the end of slavery change life for formerly enslaved people? What challenge remained?	**They could make choices about work and family, but not everyone had land or money.**
2	How did damaged tracks and bridges affect a farmer?	**A farmer could not always send crops to market or get tools from another town.**
3	How did Alabama's collapsed economy affect families?	**Jobs were hard to find, Confederate money was worthless, and stores had fewer goods.**
4	What work did white women and enslaved Black women do on the home front? How were their conditions different?	**Many white women managed farms, grew food, and cared for sick neighbors. Enslaved Black women cooked, farmed, and cared for children under force.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Our family is free now that slavery has ended in Alabama. We hope to visit relatives in another town, but damaged railroad tracks make travel hard. Because we have little money and cannot easily travel, we decide to look for work near home first. We will save what we earn for the trip to see our relatives.

Accept other passage-supported effects and reasonable decisions that follow from them. The Part 3 response should have four sentences and describe two different changes.