Building New Futures

Trace changes and challenges in Reconstruction Alabama.

SS24.4.15 "Identify major events of Reconstruction and evaluate the outcomes of Reconstruction policies. 15a Explain political changes in Alabama during Reconstruction, including new state constitutions, Black Codes, changes in political parties..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two changes in laws or rights, circle two ways people built communities, and number two challenges that limited progress.

Alabama After the Civil War

1 After the Civil War, Alabama lawmakers passed Black Codes in 1865. These laws limited the freedom of Black people, even though slavery had ended. During Reconstruction, a new state constitution in 1868 expanded voting to Black men and set up public schools. The Fourteenth Amendment made Black Americans citizens, and the Fifteenth Amendment protected Black men's right to vote. Many Black voters joined the Republican Party, changing who could help choose leaders.

2 Schools became places of change. Alabama's 1868 constitution called for a public school system, but many schools for Black children had too few books and little money. Black families and churches helped build schools and places to gather. Benjamin S. Turner, a formerly enslaved man from Selma, became Alabama's first Black member of Congress in 1871. His election showed a new chance to lead, though many white Alabamians fought these changes.

3 Near Mobile, survivors of the Clotilda, a ship that brought captive Africans to Alabama in 1860, faced another challenge after slavery ended. They wanted to return to Africa but could not afford the trip. Cudjo Lewis and other survivors bought land and founded Africatown. They built homes, a church, and a school, while keeping some African traditions alive. Their town grew from people working together despite hardship and unfair treatment.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did the Black Codes and the 1868 state constitution affect Black Alabamians in different ways?

2. How did voting rights change Alabama politics? Use Benjamin S. Turner as part of your answer.

3. How did Black families and churches help education, and what problem remained?

4. Why did the founders of Africatown buy land? Include a challenge they faced.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write three sentences for a museum sign. Explain how one change in Alabama's laws and one action by Alabamians helped people build a new future after slavery, then tell how a challenge limited one of those efforts.

ANSWER KEY

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GRADE 4 · SS24.4.15

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline two changes in laws or rights, circle two ways people built communities, and number two challenges that limited progress. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did the Black Codes and the 1868 state constitution affect Black Alabamians in different ways?	**The Black Codes limited Black people's freedom. The 1868 constitution expanded voting to Black men and set up public schools.**
2	How did voting rights change Alabama politics? Use Benjamin S. Turner as part of your answer.	**Black men could vote, and many joined the Republican Party. Turner became Alabama's first Black member of Congress.**
3	How did Black families and churches help education, and what problem remained?	**They helped build schools, but many schools for Black children still had too few books and little money.**
4	Why did the founders of Africatown buy land? Include a challenge they faced.	**They could not afford to return to Africa, so they bought land near Mobile to build a community.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The 1868 state constitution called for public schools in Alabama. Africatown's founders built a school after buying land near Mobile. Yet many schools for Black children had too few books and little money.

Accept other accurate law changes, community actions, and challenges from the passage. For the museum sign, look for a connection between a law change and an action by Alabamians, plus a challenge that limited progress.