

Rights After Freedom

Read how new laws and community action shaped life after slavery.

SS.5.AA.1.4 "Identify freedoms and rights secured for and by former slaves."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each freedom or right named in the passage. Circle each action formerly enslaved people took to gain, protect, or use a right.

New Rights, Continued Work

- ① In 1865, the Thirteenth Amendment ended slavery in the United States, except as punishment for a crime. Freedom meant that formerly enslaved people could no longer be legally owned or sold. Families worked to reunite, chose where to live, and made choices about work. These freedoms did not end unfair treatment, but they changed the law.
- ② The Fourteenth Amendment, approved in 1868, said that people born or naturalized in the United States were citizens. It required states to give citizens equal protection of the laws and due process. The Fifteenth Amendment, approved in 1870, said that states could not deny a citizen's right to vote because of race, color, or past slavery.
- ③ Formerly enslaved people did more than receive new laws. They held meetings, formed political groups, petitioned lawmakers, and demanded protection for their rights. Many formerly enslaved men registered and voted when the law allowed, and some served in public office. Their actions helped secure a voice in government. Violence, unfair rules, and weak enforcement still kept many Black citizens from using these rights safely.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 What did the Thirteenth Amendment end?

2 Name two freedoms that families could use after slavery ended.

3 What two protections did the Fourteenth Amendment require states to give citizens?

4 How did formerly enslaved people work to secure a voice in government? Name two actions from the passage.

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write three sentences about one right from the passage. Name the amendment that protected it, then explain how formerly enslaved people could use or protect that right through an action from the passage.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline each freedom or right named in the passage. Circle each action formerly enslaved people took to gain, protect, or use a right. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What did the Thirteenth Amendment end?	It ended slavery in the United States, except as punishment for a crime.
2	Name two freedoms that families could use after slavery ended.	Answers include reuniting families, choosing where to live, and making choices about work.
3	What two protections did the Fourteenth Amendment require states to give citizens?	Equal protection of the laws and due process.
4	How did formerly enslaved people work to secure a voice in government? Name two actions from the passage.	Answers include holding meetings, forming political groups, petitioning lawmakers, demanding protection for rights, registering and voting, and serving in public office.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The Fifteenth Amendment protected a citizen's right to vote regardless of race, color, or past slavery. A formerly enslaved man could register and vote when the law allowed. He could also join a political group or petition lawmakers to demand protection for voting rights.

Accept clearly stated rights and freedoms from the passage, including citizenship, equal protection, due process, and voting rights. For the open response, accept another accurate amendment, right, and related action supported by the passage.