

Florida in Conflict

Trace how Florida's people and events shaped the Civil War and Reconstruction era.

SS.8.A.5.7 "Examine key events and peoples in Florida history as each impacts this era of American history."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline key events, circle people or groups, and put a star beside each phrase that explains how Florida affected the Civil War or Reconstruction era.

Florida's Place in a National Crisis

- ① In January 1861, Florida leaders voted to leave the United States. Florida joined the Confederacy in February. Florida had few large battles, but its ports, cattle, salt, and food helped supply Confederate armies. Union forces captured several coastal places, including Fernandina and Jacksonville at different times. The 1864 Battle of Olustee, near Lake City, was Florida's largest Civil War battle. A Confederate victory there kept Union troops from moving farther into inland Florida, showing that even a lightly populated state could affect the war.
- ② Enslaved Floridians also shaped the conflict. When Union troops reached parts of the state, many enslaved people escaped to Union lines, seeking freedom and safety. Some joined the United States Colored Troops, Black regiments that fought for the Union. At Olustee, the 54th Massachusetts and 35th United States Colored Infantry included Black soldiers who faced heavy fighting. Their service challenged the Confederate system of slavery and connected Florida directly to the national struggle over emancipation and citizenship for all Americans in the nation.
- ③ After the war, Reconstruction changed Florida government. The 1868 state constitution expanded public education and gave Black men the right to vote. Josiah T. Walls, a Black veteran from Alachua County, was elected to the United States House of Representatives, a major political change. However, white supremacist violence and intimidation limited Black political power. In 1877, federal troops stopped protecting the remaining Reconstruction governments. Reconstruction ended, and Florida's leaders soon weakened many rights that Black citizens had gained during Reconstruction.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 How did Florida's resources affect the Civil War, even though few large battles took place in the state?

2 How did the service of Black soldiers at Olustee connect Florida to a national issue during the war?

3 Identify one political change during Reconstruction and one force that limited Black political power in Florida.

4 What happened after federal troops stopped protecting Reconstruction governments in 1877, and how did this affect Black citizens' rights in Florida?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write a four-sentence museum label explaining how Florida was connected to the national Civil War and Reconstruction era. Use three details from the passage, including one event or group from the war and one change or conflict from Reconstruction, and explain the impact of each detail.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline key events, circle people or groups, and put a star beside each phrase that explains how Florida affected the Civil War or Reconstruction era. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did Florida's resources affect the Civil War, even though few large battles took place in the state?	Florida's ports, cattle, salt, and food supplied Confederate armies, helping the Confederacy's war effort.
2	How did the service of Black soldiers at Olustee connect Florida to a national issue during the war?	Their service challenged slavery and connected Florida to the national struggle over emancipation and citizenship.
3	Identify one political change during Reconstruction and one force that limited Black political power in Florida.	Political changes included Black men gaining voting rights or Josiah T. Walls being elected to Congress. White supremacist violence and intimidation limited Black political power.
4	What happened after federal troops stopped protecting Reconstruction governments in 1877, and how did this affect Black citizens' rights in Florida?	Reconstruction ended, and Florida leaders weakened many rights that Black citizens had gained.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Florida's ports, cattle, salt, and food supplied Confederate armies, so the state supported the war beyond its borders. At Olustee, Black Union soldiers fought against a system built on slavery, linking Florida to the fight for emancipation. During Reconstruction, Black men gained voting rights and Josiah T. Walls reached Congress, showing a major expansion of political participation. Violence and the end of federal protection later weakened those gains, changing life for Black Floridians.

Accept equivalent cause-and-effect explanations supported by the passage. For the museum label, look for three accurate details, clear impacts, and coverage of both the war and Reconstruction.