

Fracture and Freedom

Trace how conflict, war, and Reconstruction changed the nation.

SS.8.A.5 "Examine the causes, course, and consequences of the Civil War and Reconstruction including its effects on American peoples."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Circle details that explain causes of the war, number major wartime events in order, and underline consequences for American people during Reconstruction.

A Nation Changed by War

- ① In 1860, the United States faced a crisis over slavery and the power of the federal government. Many white Southern leaders feared that Abraham Lincoln's election would limit slavery's expansion into western territories. South Carolina seceded, and other Southern states followed, forming the Confederate States of America. Most Northerners opposed secession because they wanted to preserve the Union. Enslaved people had long resisted slavery, and abolitionists had pressed the nation to confront its injustice. These conflicts made compromise increasingly difficult.
- ② Fighting began in April 1861 when Confederate forces fired on Fort Sumter in South Carolina. The war reached far beyond famous battlefields. Union and Confederate armies drew millions of men into service, while civilians faced shortages, destruction, and grief. In 1863, the Emancipation Proclamation declared freedom for enslaved people in designated states and parts of states in rebellion and allowed Black men to enlist in the Union army. It exempted loyal slave states and some Confederate areas; enforcement depended on Union advances. Union victories at Gettysburg and Vicksburg strengthened the North's position. Confederate General Robert E. Lee surrendered in April 1865.
- ③ After the Union victory, the Thirteenth Amendment abolished slavery in 1865. Reconstruction, the effort to rebuild the South and define freedom, brought major changes. The Fourteenth Amendment made citizenship a national right for people born or naturalized in the United States, and the Fifteenth Amendment barred denying voting rights because of race. Black Americans built schools, reunited families, voted, and held office. However, violent groups and discriminatory laws attacked these gains. After federal troops stopped protecting the remaining Reconstruction governments in 1877, many Southern states restricted Black citizens' rights for decades.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 What issue connected to slavery worried many white Southern leaders, and what did most Northerners want to preserve?

2 How did the Emancipation Proclamation change the course of the war according to the passage?

3 List these events in order from earliest to latest: Lee's surrender, the firing on Fort Sumter, and the Emancipation Proclamation.

4 Describe one gain for Black Americans during Reconstruction and one way that gain was limited.

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write a four-sentence cause-course-consequence explanation of the Civil War and Reconstruction. Name one prewar cause, one wartime event, and one Reconstruction consequence, and explain how the events changed life for an American people.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Circle details that explain causes of the war, number major wartime events in order, and underline consequences for American people during Reconstruction. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What issue connected to slavery worried many white Southern leaders, and what did most Northerners want to preserve?	Southern leaders feared limits on slavery's expansion into western territories. Most Northerners wanted to preserve the Union.
2	How did the Emancipation Proclamation change the course of the war according to the passage?	It declared freedom for enslaved people in designated states and parts of states in rebellion and allowed Black men to enlist in the Union army.
3	List these events in order from earliest to latest: Lee's surrender, the firing on Fort Sumter, and the Emancipation Proclamation.	The firing on Fort Sumter, the Emancipation Proclamation, Lee's surrender.
4	Describe one gain for Black Americans during Reconstruction and one way that gain was limited.	Black Americans gained opportunities to vote, hold office, build schools, and reunite families. Violent groups and discriminatory laws attacked these gains, and Southern states later restricted Black citizens' rights.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Conflict over slavery's expansion helped make compromise harder. After Southern states seceded, Confederate forces fired on Fort Sumter, beginning the war. In 1863, the Emancipation Proclamation allowed Black men to enlist in the Union army. After the war, the Fifteenth Amendment barred denying voting rights because of race, although violence and discriminatory laws attacked this gain.

Accept equivalent cause-and-effect explanations that accurately connect slavery, secession, war, and Reconstruction. For the open response, look for all three time periods and a specific effect on an American people, especially Black Americans, civilians, soldiers, or Southern residents.