

Three Rights Changes

Read how three amendments expanded rights after the Civil War.

SS4H6.a "Describe the purpose of the 13th, 14th, and 15th Amendments."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the name of each amendment, and circle the words that tell its purpose, so you can compare the three protections.

Amendments After the Civil War

- ① After the Civil War, the United States added new amendments, or changes, to the Constitution. The Thirteenth Amendment was ratified in 1865. Its purpose was to end slavery in the United States. It said slavery and forced labor were not allowed, except as punishment for a crime after a person had been convicted in court.
- ② The Fourteenth Amendment, ratified in 1868, had two important purposes. It made people born or naturalized in the United States citizens. It also required states to give people equal protection of the laws. This meant states could not treat people unfairly under the law simply because of who they were or where they came from.
- ③ The Fifteenth Amendment was ratified in 1870. Its purpose was to protect voting rights. It said that the right to vote could not be denied because of a person's race, color, or previous condition of slavery. Together, these amendments ended slavery, defined citizenship and equal protection, and protected voting from race-based denial. The promises were not always enforced fairly at first.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 What was the purpose of the Thirteenth Amendment?

2 What two important purposes did the Fourteenth Amendment have?

3 What did the Fifteenth Amendment protect, and what reasons could not be used to deny that right?

4 How were the purposes of the Thirteenth and Fifteenth Amendments different?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

A student says, "All three amendments did the same thing." Write exactly three sentences to correct the student. Name one amendment in each sentence and explain its different purpose in your own words.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline the name of each amendment, and circle the words that tell its purpose, so you can compare the three protections. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What was the purpose of the Thirteenth Amendment?	It ended slavery in the United States, except as punishment for a crime after conviction.
2	What two important purposes did the Fourteenth Amendment have?	It made people born or naturalized in the United States citizens, and it required states to give people equal protection of the laws.
3	What did the Fifteenth Amendment protect, and what reasons could not be used to deny that right?	It protected voting rights. A person could not be denied the right to vote because of race, color, or previous condition of slavery.
4	How were the purposes of the Thirteenth and Fifteenth Amendments different?	The Thirteenth Amendment ended slavery. The Fifteenth Amendment protected the right to vote from denial based on race, color, or previous condition of slavery.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The Thirteenth Amendment ended slavery, except when a court punishes a person convicted of a crime. The Fourteenth Amendment made people born or naturalized here citizens and required equal protection under laws. The Fifteenth Amendment protected people from being denied a vote because of race, color, or a past condition of slavery.

Accept accurate paraphrases of each amendment's purpose. For the open response, accept three sentences that name all three amendments and clearly distinguish ending slavery, citizenship and equal protection, and voting-rights protection.