

Help After Freedom

Read how the Freedmen's Bureau supported people after slavery.

SS4H6.b "Explain the work of the Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands (Freedmen's Bureau)."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline four different actions the Freedmen's Bureau took. Number your underlined actions 1 through 4 in the order they appear.

A New Agency, Many Needs

- ① In March 1865, during the final months of the Civil War, Congress created the Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands. People often called it the Freedmen's Bureau. The agency helped formerly enslaved people, called freedpeople, and other refugees in the South. Many families had little food, no safe place to live, and few ways to earn money after the war.
- ② Bureau agents gave out food and clothing, helped set up hospitals, and provided some shelter. They helped families find relatives who had been separated by slavery and war. The Bureau also supported schools for freedpeople. Teachers, including many from Northern aid groups, taught children and adults to read, write, and do math. Education gave people useful skills and more choices.
- ③ Finding fair work was another important job. Bureau agents sometimes helped freedpeople and landowners make labor contracts. Agents could examine contracts and try to stop unfair treatment. The Bureau also managed some abandoned or confiscated land. However, most of this land was later returned to former owners. The Bureau did not solve every problem, but its aid helped many people begin new lives.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE Use the passage

1 What are two kinds of basic aid that Bureau agents gave to people?

2 How did the Freedmen's Bureau support education for freedpeople?

3 What could Bureau agents do to help make work contracts fairer?

4 What happened to most of the abandoned or confiscated land managed by the Bureau?

3 YOUR TURN Your own words

Imagine that your family has just become free after the Civil War. Write three sentences explaining how the Freedmen's Bureau could help your family. Name two kinds of help from the passage and explain how they could support your new life.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline four different actions the Freedmen's Bureau took. Number your underlined actions 1 through 4 in the order they appear. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What are two kinds of basic aid that Bureau agents gave to people?	Answers include food, clothing, shelter, and help with hospitals.
2	How did the Freedmen's Bureau support education for freedpeople?	It supported schools where teachers taught children and adults to read, write, and do math.
3	What could Bureau agents do to help make work contracts fairer?	They could help freedpeople and landowners make labor contracts, examine contracts, and try to stop unfair treatment.
4	What happened to most of the abandoned or confiscated land managed by the Bureau?	Most of the land was later returned to former owners.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The Freedmen's Bureau could give my family food while we look for work. A Bureau-supported school could help me learn to read and write. These services would help us meet our needs and prepare for a job.

Accept any two accurate Bureau services from the passage and a reasonable explanation of how each service could help a family. The response should contain three sentences.