

Reconstruction Changes

Read for the changes and challenges that shaped life after the Civil War.

SS4H6 "Analyze the effects of Reconstruction on American life."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two details that show how Reconstruction expanded people's rights or opportunities. Circle two details that show problems that limited those changes.

Life During Reconstruction

- ① After the Civil War ended in 1865, the United States began Reconstruction. This was a time to rebuild the South and bring former Confederate states back into the Union. The Thirteenth Amendment ended slavery. For millions of formerly enslaved people, freedom changed daily life. Families could live together, choose jobs, and search for relatives who had been separated by slavery.
- ② During Reconstruction, the Fourteenth Amendment made people born or naturalized in the United States citizens, including formerly enslaved people. The Fifteenth Amendment said that states could not deny a man the right to vote because of race. Black men voted and some held public offices. New public schools opened in many Southern communities, giving more children a chance to learn.
- ③ Reconstruction also brought conflict and hardship. Many formerly enslaved families rented land through sharecropping. They often owed money for supplies and stayed poor. Some white groups used violence and unfair laws to limit Black citizens' voting and freedom. Federal troops sometimes protected citizens' rights, but troops left the South in 1877. Afterward, Southern states passed more laws that separated races and reduced Black voting.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 How did the Fourteenth Amendment change life for formerly enslaved people?

2 Name two ways freedom changed daily life for formerly enslaved families.

3 What was one effect of the Fifteenth Amendment during Reconstruction?

4 What happened after federal troops left the South in 1877?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write three sentences that explain one Reconstruction change that expanded rights or opportunities and one challenge that limited that change. Use details from the passage to show the effects on people's lives.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline two details that show how Reconstruction expanded people's rights or opportunities. Circle two details that show problems that limited those changes. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did the Fourteenth Amendment change life for formerly enslaved people?	It made formerly enslaved people citizens of the United States.
2	Name two ways freedom changed daily life for formerly enslaved families.	Families could live together, choose jobs, and search for relatives separated by slavery. Accept any two.
3	What was one effect of the Fifteenth Amendment during Reconstruction?	Black men voted, and some held public offices.
4	What happened after federal troops left the South in 1877?	Southern states passed more laws that separated races and reduced Black voting.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The Fifteenth Amendment gave Black men a stronger voice because they could vote. Some Black men also held public office. Violence and unfair laws limited this change by making voting and freedom less safe.

Accept responses that accurately explain both an expanded right or opportunity and a limiting challenge from the passage. The student should state an effect on people's lives, not only list events.