

Reconstruction's Opposite Paths

Compare how two groups shaped freedom and rights in Georgia.

SS8H6.c "Compare and contrast the goals and outcomes of the Freedmen's Bureau and the Ku Klux Klan."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two details that show the Freedmen's Bureau's goals or results, and circle two details that show the Ku Klux Klan's goals or results. Use your marks to compare how the groups affected Black Georgians.

Two Forces After the War

- ① After the Civil War, Congress created the Freedmen's Bureau in 1865 to help formerly enslaved people move toward freedom and citizenship. In Georgia, bureau agents distributed food and medical supplies, helped establish schools, and sometimes assisted families with labor contracts or legal problems. The bureau's goal was not simply charity. It sought to protect basic rights and give freedpeople tools to build independent lives. Its work faced limited money, too few agents, and strong resistance from many white Georgians.
- ② The Ku Klux Klan formed in 1866 and grew into a white supremacist organization that used threats, beatings, and murder to restore white control. In Georgia and across the South, its members targeted Black voters, teachers, community leaders, and white Republicans. The Klan's goal directly opposed the bureau's efforts. By spreading fear, it tried to stop freedpeople from voting, attending school, claiming fair treatment, and taking part in public life. Its attacks also warned others not to support Reconstruction.
- ③ The two groups therefore had opposite goals and outcomes. The Freedmen's Bureau opened paths toward education, health care, legal help, and economic independence, although its reach was limited and Congress ended it in 1872. The Klan aimed to destroy those gains through terror. Federal Enforcement Acts in 1870 and 1871 allowed action against Klan violence and reduced its power for a time. Still, violence and discrimination continued to limit the rights of Black Georgians after Reconstruction.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE Use the passage

1 What was one main goal of the Freedmen's Bureau, and name one way it worked toward that goal in Georgia.

2 How did the Ku Klux Klan's goal differ from the Freedmen's Bureau's goal?

3 Compare one outcome of the Freedmen's Bureau's work with one outcome of Klan violence.

4 What did the Federal Enforcement Acts do, and what limit on Black Georgians' rights remained after Reconstruction?

3 YOUR TURN Your own words

Write a four-sentence museum caption comparing these two groups. In sentence 1, state their contrasting goals. In sentences 2 and 3, explain one action and outcome for each group. In sentence 4, explain why their conflict mattered to Black Georgians.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline two details that show the Freedmen's Bureau's goals or results, and circle two details that show the Ku Klux Klan's goals or results. Use your marks to compare how the groups affected Black Georgians. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What was one main goal of the Freedmen's Bureau, and name one way it worked toward that goal in Georgia.	Its goal was to protect basic rights and help freedpeople build independent lives. In Georgia, it distributed supplies, helped establish schools, or assisted with labor contracts and legal problems.
2	How did the Ku Klux Klan's goal differ from the Freedmen's Bureau's goal?	The bureau sought to support freedpeople's rights and independence, while the Klan sought to restore white control and destroy those gains.
3	Compare one outcome of the Freedmen's Bureau's work with one outcome of Klan violence.	The bureau opened paths to education, health care, legal help, and economic independence. Klan violence spread fear and limited voting, schooling, fair treatment, and public participation.
4	What did the Federal Enforcement Acts do, and what limit on Black Georgians' rights remained after Reconstruction?	They allowed action against Klan violence and reduced the Klan's power for a time. Violence and discrimination still limited Black Georgians' rights after Reconstruction.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The Freedmen's Bureau sought to expand freedom, while the Ku Klux Klan sought to restore white control. Bureau agents supported schools and legal help, creating opportunities even though the agency had limited reach. Klan terror discouraged voting and public participation, limiting those opportunities. Their conflict mattered because Black Georgians faced both support for citizenship and violent efforts to take rights away.

Accept equivalent comparisons that accurately connect the bureau with support for freedpeople's rights and opportunities, and the Klan with white supremacist terror and opposition to those rights. For the caption, require all four sentences and evidence about both groups.