

Rebuilding Georgia

Trace the gains and limits of Reconstruction in Georgia.

SS8H6 "Analyze the impact of Reconstruction on Georgia."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline three details that show Reconstruction expanded opportunities in Georgia, circle three details that show limits or resistance, and draw a short arrow to a nearby result when the passage gives one.

Reconstruction Changes Georgia

- ① When the Civil War ended in 1865, Georgia had damaged railroads, ruined farms, and a labor system transformed by emancipation. About 460,000 formerly enslaved people became free, but freedom did not provide land, money, or safety automatically. The Freedmen's Bureau helped some families negotiate labor contracts, find relatives, and open schools. Reconstruction required Georgia to rebuild its government while former Confederates, freedpeople, federal officials, and white Union supporters argued over who would hold power and how work would be organized.
- ② Georgia's 1868 constitution created the state's first public school system and gave Black men the right to vote. Black Georgians served in the state legislature and participated in political meetings, showing a major shift from slavery. Yet white legislators expelled Black members from the legislature in 1868. Congress required Georgia to restore those legislators and ratify the Fifteenth Amendment before readmission to the Union in 1870. These events show that new laws could broaden rights, while resistance could weaken them.
- ③ Most freed families did not receive land. Many entered sharecropping, renting land and paying the owner with part of a crop. High prices at plantation stores and poor harvests often trapped workers in debt, limiting their choices. White supremacist groups, including the Ku Klux Klan, used threats and violence to intimidate Black voters and Republican leaders. By 1871, Democrats had regained control of Georgia's government. Reconstruction left lasting gains in education and citizenship, but unequal power and violence restricted many of those gains.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 How did the Freedmen's Bureau affect some formerly enslaved families in Georgia?

2 What were two ways Georgia's 1868 constitution expanded opportunities for Black Georgians?

3 How did the expulsion of Black legislators show a limit on Reconstruction's political changes?

4 Explain how sharecropping and violence limited the impact of freedom and citizenship in Georgia.

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write a four-sentence claim explaining whether Reconstruction changed Georgia in lasting ways. Use one passage detail that shows a gain and one detail that shows a limit, then explain how each detail supports your claim.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline three details that show Reconstruction expanded opportunities in Georgia, circle three details that show limits or resistance, and draw a short arrow to a nearby result when the passage gives one. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did the Freedmen's Bureau affect some formerly enslaved families in Georgia?	It helped some families negotiate labor contracts, find relatives, and open schools.
2	What were two ways Georgia's 1868 constitution expanded opportunities for Black Georgians?	It created Georgia's first public school system and gave Black men the right to vote.
3	How did the expulsion of Black legislators show a limit on Reconstruction's political changes?	White legislators removed Black members from the legislature, showing that white resistance could block Black political participation even after new rights were established.
4	Explain how sharecropping and violence limited the impact of freedom and citizenship in Georgia.	Sharecropping often trapped workers in debt and limited their choices. White supremacist violence intimidated Black voters and Republican leaders, making it harder for Black citizens to use their rights.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Reconstruction changed Georgia by expanding citizenship and public education. The 1868 constitution established the first public school system, giving more children a chance to attend school. However, many freed families entered sharecropping and became trapped in debt. Violence and political resistance also limited Black citizens' ability to use their new rights.

Accept claims that identify Reconstruction as producing both important gains and serious limits, as long as students support the claim with accurate passage evidence. Equivalent explanations of debt, intimidation, voting, schools, or political resistance are acceptable.