Rights and Reality

Trace the gains and limits of Reconstruction.

6-12.US1.42 "Analyze the outcomes of the American Civil War and the legal, political, and social implications of Reconstruction. • Reconstruction Amendments (13th, 14th, and 15th) • State, local..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two new rights or opportunities, circle two forces that limited them, and give a matching right and limit the same number to show how they connect.

Freedom After the War

1. In 1862, Union officers organized the 1st and 2nd Indian Home Guard from Native American men in Indian Territory who supported the Union. These warriors fought in a war that ended slavery. After the war, the 13th Amendment abolished slavery, the 14th defined national citizenship and promised equal protection, and the 15th barred governments from denying men the vote because of race. Emancipation changed the law, but freedom also depended on what happened in communities.

2. During Reconstruction, federal soldiers remained in the South to enforce new laws and protect elections. The Freedmen's Bureau helped formerly enslaved people find schools, work, and legal support. Black men voted in local, state, and federal elections, and some won office. Their votes helped shape new state governments and sent Black representatives to Congress. These gains depended partly on federal protection because many former Confederates opposed the new place of Black citizens in politics.

3. Opposition took legal and violent forms. Starting in 1865, Southern states passed Black Codes to restrict the freedom and work choices of Black people. Many freed families became sharecroppers, farming land for a share of the crop, often while owing money to landowners. The Ku Klux Klan used threats and attacks to keep Black citizens from voting or holding office. As federal troops withdrew, such pressure became harder to stop. New rights survived in law, but their promise was often denied in daily life.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did the 1st and 2nd Indian Home Guard connect to a legal change after the war?

2. How did federal soldiers help make new political representation possible?

3. How did the Freedmen's Bureau and sharecropping affect freed families in different ways?

4. How did Black Codes and the Klan challenge different Reconstruction gains?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a four-sentence museum label explaining why a new legal right did not always lead to change in daily life. Connect one right, an opportunity it created, and a force that limited that opportunity.

ANSWER KEY

Rights and Reality

GRADES 6-12 · 6-12.US1.42

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline two new rights or opportunities, circle two forces that limited them, and give a matching right and limit the same number to show how they connect. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did the 1st and 2nd Indian Home Guard connect to a legal change after the war?	**The Home Guards fought for the Union in the war that ended slavery. After the war, the 13th Amendment abolished slavery.**
2	How did federal soldiers help make new political representation possible?	**Soldiers protected elections, helping Black men vote and win office in state governments and Congress.**
3	How did the Freedmen's Bureau and sharecropping affect freed families in different ways?	**The bureau helped people find schools, work, and legal support. Sharecropping offered a way to farm but often left families owing money.**
4	How did Black Codes and the Klan challenge different Reconstruction gains?	**Black Codes restricted freedom and work choices. Klan threats and attacks kept Black citizens from voting or holding office.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The 15th Amendment barred governments from denying men the vote because of race. Black men could vote in elections and help choose state leaders. Klan threats and attacks kept some people from using that right. A right written in law could change politics, but voters also needed safety to use it.

Accept other accurate links between a Reconstruction gain and a limit described in the passage. The museum label should explain how the limit affected the opportunity, not just list both.