Freedom and Friction

How war changed daily life and political rights

6-12.US1.45 "Explain the social and political impacts of the Civil War on Americans during the war and in the immediate aftermath of the war."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Circle two government actions in the passage. Underline one effect on people's lives for each action, then draw an arrow connecting each action to its effect.

A War That Changed More Than Borders

1 In 1863, President Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation. It declared enslaved people free in areas rebelling against the United States, though it did not immediately free everyone. As Union troops advanced, many enslaved people escaped to Union lines. Some searched for relatives from whom they had been separated. Nearly 180,000 Black men served in the Union Army, fighting for a victory that could help secure freedom. On the home front, many women ran farms, worked in factories, or cared for wounded soldiers. War changed who could seek freedom, serve in uniform, and keep a household running.

2 The war also tested who held power and who paid its costs. Congress passed a federal draft law in 1863 to fill Union ranks. Men with money could hire substitutes or pay a fee, while poorer men had fewer choices. In New York City, anger over the draft helped fuel riots in which white mobs attacked Black residents. Federal troops stopped the violence. President Lincoln also suspended habeas corpus in some places, allowing detention without a prompt court hearing. Critics argued that this threatened civil liberties. Wartime policies meant to protect the Union could also divide civilians.

3 After the Union victory in 1865, the Thirteenth Amendment ended slavery throughout the United States. Formerly enslaved people built schools and sought paid work and family members from whom they had been separated. The federal Freedmen's Bureau helped establish schools and negotiate labor agreements. Yet Southern states passed Black Codes that restricted Black people's freedom and job choices. Congress responded with the Fourteenth Amendment, ratified in 1868, which established birthright citizenship and equal protection under the law. The Fifteenth Amendment, ratified in 1870, barred denying voting rights on account of race. These laws expanded political rights, but intimidation and violence often kept Black Americans from exercising them.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did the Emancipation Proclamation and the advance of Union troops affect enslaved people during the war?

2. How did the federal draft law affect men with different amounts of money, and what conflict followed in New York City?

3. How did the Freedmen's Bureau and Southern Black Codes affect formerly enslaved people in different ways?

4. How did the Fifteenth Amendment change political rights, and what limited its effect?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Imagine you advise a town council in 1870. Write five sentences proposing one local action to help people use a right gained after the war; explain a wartime change, the new law, an obstacle, and why your action would help.

ANSWER KEY

Freedom and Friction

GRADES 6-12 · 6-12.US1.45

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Circle two government actions in the passage. Underline one effect on people's lives for each action, then draw an arrow connecting each action to its effect. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did the Emancipation Proclamation and the advance of Union troops affect enslaved people during the war?	**The proclamation declared enslaved people free in rebelling areas. As Union troops advanced, many escaped to Union lines, and some searched for separated relatives.**
2	How did the federal draft law affect men with different amounts of money, and what conflict followed in New York City?	**Men with money could hire substitutes or pay a fee, while poorer men had fewer choices. Anger over the draft helped fuel riots in which white mobs attacked Black residents.**
3	How did the Freedmen's Bureau and Southern Black Codes affect formerly enslaved people in different ways?	**The bureau helped establish schools and negotiate labor agreements. Black Codes restricted Black people's freedom and job choices.**
4	How did the Fifteenth Amendment change political rights, and what limited its effect?	**It barred denying voting rights on account of race, but intimidation and violence often kept Black Americans from voting.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Our town should station trusted officials at polling places to protect Black voters. During the war, Black soldiers fought for a Union victory that could help secure freedom. After the war, the Fifteenth Amendment barred denying voting rights because of race. Yet intimidation and violence still kept some Black Americans from voting. Protecting voters at the polls would help people use the right the law promised.

Accept other accurate action-and-effect links supported by the passage. For the open task, accept a different practical local proposal if the five sentences connect a wartime change, a postwar right, and an obstacle.