Freedom and Its Limits

Trace causes, decisions, and lasting effects from the Civil War through Reconstruction.

8.H.25 "Describe causes and lasting effects of the Civil War and Reconstruction as well as the political controversies surrounding this time, such as Andrew Johnson's impeachment, the Black Codes, and the Compromise of 1877."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two causes of the Civil War. Then circle two Reconstruction actions and number each action and a lasting effect it helped produce with matching numbers.

A War Ends, a Struggle Continues

1 In 1860, a debate over slavery's expansion into western territories split the nation. Southern states depended on enslaved labor and feared losing political power if new states banned slavery. After Abraham Lincoln won the presidency, eleven Southern states seceded and formed the Confederacy. Fighting began in 1861 when Confederate forces fired on Fort Sumter in South Carolina. The war grew from a struggle over secession into a fight that also ended slavery. Union victory in 1865 preserved the United States, but freedom did not bring equal treatment overnight.

2 During Reconstruction, Congress tried to rebuild the South and protect formerly enslaved people. The Thirteenth Amendment ended slavery, the Fourteenth promised equal protection, and the Fifteenth barred denying voting rights because of race. Yet Southern governments passed Black Codes that limited Black people's movement and work. President Andrew Johnson opposed many congressional plans for stronger protections. After Johnson removed Secretary of War Edwin Stanton in defiance of a law restricting such removals, the House impeached him. The Senate fell one vote short of removing him, revealing a struggle over who would direct Reconstruction.

3 Federal troops enforced some Reconstruction laws in the South, but white supremacist groups used threats and violence to block Black voting. In 1876, a disputed presidential election led to the Compromise of 1877: Democrats accepted Republican Rutherford B. Hayes as president, and federal troops left the remaining Southern state capitals. Without that protection, Southern leaders expanded barriers to Black voting and segregation. The amendments remained in the Constitution, yet many Black Americans were denied those rights for generations. These outcomes show that ending a war and securing equal citizenship were different challenges.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did the debate over slavery's expansion help lead to the Civil War?

2. How did the Black Codes conflict with Congress's goals for Reconstruction?

3. What conflict led to Andrew Johnson's impeachment, and what was the result?

4. How did the Compromise of 1877 affect the gap between constitutional rights and daily life for Black Americans?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a four- or five-sentence museum label explaining how one cause of the Civil War connects to a wartime outcome. Then connect two Reconstruction actions to different lasting effects, contrasting a legal promise with what many Black Americans experienced.

ANSWER KEY

Freedom and Its Limits

GRADE 8 · 8.H.25

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline two causes of the Civil War. Then circle two Reconstruction actions and number each action and a lasting effect it helped produce with matching numbers. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did the debate over slavery's expansion help lead to the Civil War?	**Southern states feared losing political power if new states banned slavery. After Lincoln's election, eleven states seceded, and fighting followed.**
2	How did the Black Codes conflict with Congress's goals for Reconstruction?	**Congress sought to protect formerly enslaved people, but the Black Codes limited Black people's movement and work.**
3	What conflict led to Andrew Johnson's impeachment, and what was the result?	**Johnson removed Stanton in defiance of a law restricting removals, amid a struggle with Congress over Reconstruction. The House impeached him, but the Senate fell one vote short of removing him.**
4	How did the Compromise of 1877 affect the gap between constitutional rights and daily life for Black Americans?	**Federal troops left the remaining Southern state capitals. Southern leaders then expanded voting barriers and segregation, so many Black Americans could not exercise rights protected by the amendments.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Conflict over slavery's expansion helped drive Southern secession and a war that ended slavery. During Reconstruction, the Thirteenth Amendment made freedom a constitutional rule. The Fourteenth and Fifteenth Amendments added protections for equal treatment and voting regardless of race. After the Compromise of 1877, federal troops left the remaining Southern state capitals, and Southern leaders expanded barriers to Black voting. These constitutional promises lasted, but many Black Americans were denied their rights for generations.

Accept other accurate cause-and-effect links supported by the passage. The museum label should connect a war cause to an outcome, trace two Reconstruction actions to distinct lasting effects, and contrast constitutional protections with lived experience.