After the Fighting

Trace causes, consequences, and political disputes

IS.1.6 "Describe causes and lasting effects of the Civil War and Reconstruction as well as the political controversies surrounding this time."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two causes of the Civil War or Reconstruction policies, and circle two effects that lasted beyond 1877. Use your marks to trace how political conflicts shaped later events.

A War That Changed the Rules

1. In 1860, a voter in South Carolina faced a national argument that had grown for decades. Enslaved people produced wealth for Southern plantation owners, while abolitionists challenged slavery and many Northerners opposed its expansion westward. After Abraham Lincoln won the presidency without carrying a Southern state, South Carolina and other states seceded to protect slavery. Lincoln rejected secession, arguing that states could not leave the Union. Fighting began at Fort Sumter in April 1861.

2. The war ended in 1865, but freedom raised new political questions. The Thirteenth Amendment abolished slavery, while formerly enslaved people sought land, schooling, and a voice in government. Southern lawmakers passed Black Codes to restrict their freedom. Congress responded with the Fourteenth Amendment, which guaranteed citizenship and equal protection, and the Fifteenth, which barred denying the vote because of race. Federal troops helped enforce Reconstruction policies, while opponents argued that Washington had too much power over Southern states.

3. After the disputed presidential election of 1876, President Rutherford B. Hayes withdrew federal troops protecting the last Reconstruction governments in the South in 1877. Without that protection, Southern governments expanded segregation and used voting barriers to exclude many Black citizens from politics, despite constitutional amendments. Black communities continued building schools, churches, and civic groups. The amendments remained in the Constitution and later supported civil rights victories. Arguments about voting rights and federal authority outlasted the war.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did the conflict over slavery lead to secession and war?

2. How did Black Codes affect Congress's Reconstruction policies?

3. Why did the 1877 troop withdrawal matter for Black citizens' political rights?

4. Describe one lasting gain and one lasting setback from Reconstruction. What led to each?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a four-sentence museum label arguing whether Reconstruction's legal gains or its unfinished promises had the stronger lasting impact. Use two details from the passage, and explain how a political dispute shaped one outcome.

After the Fighting

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline two causes of the Civil War or Reconstruction policies, and circle two effects that lasted beyond 1877. Use your marks to trace how political conflicts shaped later events. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did the conflict over slavery lead to secession and war?	**Southern states seceded to protect slavery after Lincoln's election. Lincoln rejected secession, and fighting began at Fort Sumter.**
2	How did Black Codes affect Congress's Reconstruction policies?	**Black Codes restricted freedom, and Congress responded with amendments protecting citizenship, equal protection, and voting rights.**
3	Why did the 1877 troop withdrawal matter for Black citizens' political rights?	**Without troops protecting Reconstruction governments, Southern governments used voting barriers to exclude many Black citizens despite the amendments.**
4	Describe one lasting gain and one lasting setback from Reconstruction. What led to each?	**Congress's response to restrictions on freedom produced constitutional protections that later supported civil rights victories. After federal troops withdrew, Southern governments imposed voting barriers that excluded many Black citizens.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

For generations, Reconstruction's unfinished promises shaped Southern political life more visibly than its legal gains. Although the Fourteenth and Fifteenth Amendments established enduring rights, Southern governments later used voting barriers to keep many Black citizens from the polls. Opponents disputed federal power over Southern states, and the 1877 troop withdrawal left those barriers harder to challenge. Yet the amendments survived and later supported civil rights victories.

Accept either position in the museum label if four sentences support it with two accurate passage details and connect a political dispute to an outcome. For the marking job, accept any two supported causes and two effects that continued after 1877.