Freedom and Its Limits

Trace how emancipation was celebrated and challenged.

USH.C.1.2 "Analyze the post-Reconstruction civil rights struggles of African Americans. Identify the significance of Juneteenth in relation to emancipation and modern-day commemorations..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the event Juneteenth remembers, circle two limits on economic freedom, and number three ways people restricted Black political or social rights. Use your marks to trace the gap between freedom and equal rights.

After Emancipation

1 On June 19, 1865, Union troops announced freedom to enslaved people in Galveston, Texas. The Emancipation Proclamation had declared freedom in Confederate-held areas in 1863, but the Union had not yet enforced it across Texas. The Thirteenth Amendment, ratified later in 1865, abolished slavery nationwide. Juneteenth remembers the Texas announcement and the long struggle to make freedom real. Today, communities mark the day with gatherings, readings, and public history events, while asking what freedom requires in practice.

2 After the Civil War, white lawmakers in several Southern states passed Black Codes to preserve control over Black workers and keep farms supplied with cheap labor. Some codes required yearly labor contracts and punished people labeled "vagrants" if they lacked approved work. In Mississippi, Black people could not lease farmland outside towns under an 1865 law. Such rules narrowed job choices and blocked access to land, making it harder to earn wages, farm independently, or save to buy property.

3 During Reconstruction, some white Southerners used terror to resist Black voting and political power. The Ku Klux Klan threatened voters and attacked Black leaders and their allies. Its violence included lynching, the killing of a person by a mob without a lawful trial. As federal protection weakened after Reconstruction, Southern lawmakers used poll taxes and literacy tests to keep many Black citizens from voting. They also passed segregation laws separating people by race in public spaces. Violence and law worked together to restrict freedom.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Why does Juneteenth remember an event in 1865 when the Emancipation Proclamation was issued in 1863?

2. How did the Black Codes serve lawmakers' goals while limiting Black families' chances to own property?

3. How could Klan threats and attacks affect voting, even without changing a voting law?

4. How did segregation laws and voting restrictions extend the struggle beyond Reconstruction?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a four-sentence museum caption titled "Freedom and Its Limits." Link Juneteenth to two later barriers in the passage, explain one effect of those barriers, and end with a question for visitors.

Freedom and Its Limits

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline the event Juneteenth remembers, circle two limits on economic freedom, and number three ways people restricted Black political or social rights. Use your marks to trace the gap between freedom and equal rights. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Why does Juneteenth remember an event in 1865 when the Emancipation Proclamation was issued in 1863?	**The proclamation had not yet been enforced across Texas. Juneteenth remembers the 1865 announcement of freedom in Galveston.**
2	How did the Black Codes serve lawmakers' goals while limiting Black families' chances to own property?	**The codes helped keep farms supplied with cheap labor. Work requirements and limits on leasing farmland reduced families' chances to farm independently and save to buy property.**
3	How could Klan threats and attacks affect voting, even without changing a voting law?	**Threats and attacks could frighten Black citizens away from voting or taking part in politics.**
4	How did segregation laws and voting restrictions extend the struggle beyond Reconstruction?	**After Reconstruction, lawmakers separated people by race in public spaces and used poll taxes and literacy tests to prevent many Black citizens from voting.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Freedom and Its Limits

Juneteenth marks the 1865 announcement of freedom in Texas, but that announcement did not guarantee equal rights. Mississippi's limit on leasing farmland made it harder for Black families to farm independently. Klan attacks and later voting restrictions reduced Black political power, making it harder to challenge unfair laws. How should a celebration of freedom also remember the struggle to protect it?

Accept other accurate links between Juneteenth and two later barriers named in the passage. The caption should explain an effect and end with a question.