

Rebuilding a Nation

Read how the Civil War and Reconstruction changed the United States.

5.4.E “explain the effects of the Civil War, including Reconstruction and the 13th, 14th, and 15th amendments to the U.S. Constitution; and”

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline effects of the Civil War and Reconstruction. Circle each amendment, then write 13, 14, or 15 beside the change it made so you can connect the amendment to its effect.

After the War

- ① When the Civil War ended in 1865, the United States faced huge changes. More than 600,000 soldiers had died, and many homes, farms, railroads, and businesses in the South were damaged. The war also ended the legal system of slavery. Four million formerly enslaved people were free, but freedom did not automatically provide land, safety, jobs, or equal treatment.
- ② During Reconstruction, from 1865 to 1877, the nation tried to rebuild the South and decide how freed people would live as citizens. Congress created the Freedmen’s Bureau, which helped some families find food, schools, and work contracts. Southern states passed Black Codes that limited freedom. Federal laws and troops were used at times to protect rights, but protection was uneven.
- ③ Three amendments changed the Constitution. The Thirteenth Amendment abolished slavery, except as punishment for a crime. The Fourteenth Amendment declared that people born or naturalized in the United States are citizens and promised equal protection of the laws. The Fifteenth Amendment said states could not deny a citizen the right to vote because of race, color, or previous condition of servitude.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 Name two effects of the Civil War described in the first paragraph.

2 What were two goals of Reconstruction?

3 How did the Thirteenth and Fourteenth Amendments change life in the United States?

4 What protection did the Fifteenth Amendment give citizens?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write a four-sentence museum label explaining why Reconstruction was needed after the Civil War. Include one effect of the war and explain how two amendments changed the nation.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline effects of the Civil War and Reconstruction. Circle each amendment, then write 13, 14, or 15 beside the change it made so you can connect the amendment to its effect. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Name two effects of the Civil War described in the first paragraph.	Answers include many deaths, damage to Southern homes, farms, railroads, and businesses, the end of slavery, and freedom for four million formerly enslaved people.
2	What were two goals of Reconstruction?	Reconstruction aimed to rebuild the South and decide how freed people would live as citizens.
3	How did the Thirteenth and Fourteenth Amendments change life in the United States?	The Thirteenth Amendment abolished slavery. The Fourteenth Amendment made people born or naturalized in the United States citizens and promised equal protection of the laws.
4	What protection did the Fifteenth Amendment give citizens?	It said states could not deny a citizen the right to vote because of race, color, or previous condition of servitude.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The Civil War left many Southern homes, farms, and railroads damaged. Reconstruction was needed to rebuild the South and help freed people live as citizens. The Thirteenth Amendment ended slavery, and the Fourteenth Amendment made people born in the United States citizens. These changes mattered because freedom alone did not guarantee safety or equal treatment.

Accept accurate effects and amendment explanations stated in the passage. For the museum label, accept any accurate war effect and any two amendments, as long as the student explains how they changed the nation.