

# Citizenship Changes

Analyze how Reconstruction expanded rights and faced resistance.

**USII.2.b** “analyzing the goals and effects of the Reconstruction Amendments, the Freedmen’s Bureau, and civil rights policies that changed the meaning of citizenship in the United States;”

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

## 1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

**YOUR JOB** Underline statements that tell a goal, circle statements that tell an effect, and write A, B, or P in the margin for an amendment, the Freedmen’s Bureau, or a civil rights policy.

### Reconstruction Redefines Citizenship

- ① After the Civil War, the United States faced a major question: Who belonged fully to the nation? The Thirteenth Amendment, ratified in 1865, ended slavery except as punishment for a crime. Its goal was to destroy the legal system of slavery. The Fourteenth Amendment, ratified in 1868, said that people born or naturalized in the United States were citizens. It also required states to provide equal protection of the laws. Citizenship now included formerly enslaved people.
- ② The Freedmen’s Bureau was created in 1865 to help people leaving slavery build new lives. It provided food, medical care, help with labor contracts, and support for schools. Bureau agents also helped some freedpeople use courts and seek fair treatment. The Civil Rights Act of 1866 declared that people born in the United States had the same basic civil rights as white citizens. These policies aimed to make freedom more than the end of slavery by protecting daily rights.
- ③ The Fifteenth Amendment, ratified in 1870, said that the right to vote could not be denied because of race, color, or previous condition of servitude. Black men gained a stronger claim to political participation, and many voted and held office during Reconstruction. Yet these changes did not end discrimination. After Reconstruction, some states used violence, unfair laws, and voting barriers to limit Black citizens’ rights. The amendments and policies changed the meaning of citizenship, but protecting those rights remained a struggle.

## 2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE Use the passage

1 How did the goals of the Thirteenth and Fourteenth Amendments differ?

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2 Name two ways the Freedmen's Bureau helped formerly enslaved people. How could this support their rights as citizens?

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3 How did the Civil Rights Act of 1866 try to make freedom more than simply the end of slavery?

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4 What was one effect of the Fifteenth Amendment, and what was one later challenge to that effect?

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## 3 YOUR TURN Your own words

Write four sentences explaining how at least two Reconstruction actions changed the meaning of citizenship. State a goal or protection, explain an effect, and include one later challenge.

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**PART 1 • READ AND MARK**

Underline statements that tell a goal, circle statements that tell an effect, and write A, B, or P in the margin for an amendment, the Freedmen's Bureau, or a civil rights policy. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

**PART 2 • ANSWERS**

| # | QUESTION                                                                                                              | ANSWER                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
|---|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 | How did the goals of the Thirteenth and Fourteenth Amendments differ?                                                 | <b>The Thirteenth Amendment aimed to end the legal system of slavery. The Fourteenth Amendment aimed to define citizenship and require equal protection of the laws.</b>                                      |
| 2 | Name two ways the Freedmen's Bureau helped formerly enslaved people. How could this support their rights as citizens? | <b>It provided services such as food, medical care, help with labor contracts, support for schools, and help using courts. These services could help freedpeople build new lives and seek fair treatment.</b> |
| 3 | How did the Civil Rights Act of 1866 try to make freedom more than simply the end of slavery?                         | <b>It declared that people born in the United States had the same basic civil rights as white citizens, helping protect rights in daily life.</b>                                                             |
| 4 | What was one effect of the Fifteenth Amendment, and what was one later challenge to that effect?                      | <b>Black men had a stronger claim to vote, and many voted and held office during Reconstruction. Later, violence, unfair laws, and voting barriers limited Black citizens' rights.</b>                        |

**PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)**

The Fourteenth Amendment changed citizenship by saying that people born in the United States were citizens and deserved equal protection. The Freedmen's Bureau helped formerly enslaved people seek fair treatment and build new lives. Together, these actions connected citizenship with rights in daily life. However, violence and voting barriers later limited many Black citizens' ability to use those rights.

Accept accurate paraphrases supported by the passage. For the open response, look for two Reconstruction actions, a stated goal or protection, an effect on citizenship, and a later challenge.