

Reconstruction Crossroads

Trace how choices after the war reshaped citizenship and power.

USII.2 "The student will apply history and social science skills to understand the ongoing effects of Reconstruction on American life after the mid-19th century by describing the impact of the assassination of Abraham Lincoln and the political..."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each federal action or political event in the passage. Circle the words that tell its effect on rights, citizenship, or Reconstruction.

Choices After the Civil War

- ① After the Civil War, Americans argued over how Southern states should return to the Union. President Abraham Lincoln's Ten Percent Plan would allow a state to form a new government after 10 percent of its 1860 voters took a loyalty oath and accepted the end of slavery. Lincoln's assassination in 1865 brought Andrew Johnson to the presidency. Johnson favored a quicker return for Southern states. Many members of Congress wanted stronger protections for freedpeople. Congress later passed Reconstruction Acts over Johnson's vetoes, placing Southern states under military districts and requiring governments to protect rights.
- ② Reconstruction amendments changed the Constitution and the meaning of citizenship. The Thirteenth Amendment ended slavery. The Fourteenth Amendment made people born or naturalized in the United States citizens and required equal protection of the laws. The Fifteenth Amendment said states could not deny a citizen's vote because of race. The Freedmen's Bureau provided food, schools, medical help, and help with labor contracts. Civil rights laws supported these changes, but Supreme Court decisions, including the 1883 Civil Rights Cases, weakened federal protection against private discrimination.
- ③ During Reconstruction, people worked to shape the nation's future. Ulysses S. Grant, a Union general and later president, supported federal enforcement of civil rights. Robert E. Lee became a symbol of Confederate military leadership and later urged former Confederates to accept peace. Formerly enslaved people sought political influence and protection for their communities. Hiram Revels became the first African American U.S. senator. Frederick Douglass spoke for equal rights. To resolve the disputed 1876 election, the Compromise of 1877 gave Rutherford B. Hayes the presidency. In exchange, Hayes withdrew federal troops from the South, ending Reconstruction.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 What disagreement followed Lincoln’s assassination, and what did Congress do in response?

2 How did the Fourteenth Amendment, Fifteenth Amendment, and Freedmen’s Bureau expand life for freedpeople? What Supreme Court decision later limited protection?

3 What legacies of Grant and Lee does the passage describe, and how did Revels and Douglass support a different vision for the nation?

4 How did the resolution of the disputed 1876 election lead to the end of Reconstruction?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write exactly four sentences explaining how Reconstruction expanded citizenship but did not fully protect equal rights. Name one amendment or federal agency, one later limit on protection, and one person from the passage.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline each federal action or political event in the passage. Circle the words that tell its effect on rights, citizenship, or Reconstruction. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What disagreement followed Lincoln's assassination, and what did Congress do in response?	Andrew Johnson favored a quicker return for Southern states, while many in Congress wanted stronger protections for freedpeople. Congress passed Reconstruction Acts over Johnson's vetoes, used military districts, and required governments to protect rights.
2	How did the Fourteenth Amendment, Fifteenth Amendment, and Freedmen's Bureau expand life for freedpeople? What Supreme Court decision later limited protection?	The Fourteenth Amendment made people born or naturalized in the United States citizens and required equal protection. The Fifteenth Amendment protected voting rights from race-based denial, and the Freedmen's Bureau gave food, schools, medical help, and contract help. The 1883 Civil Rights Cases weakened federal protection against private discrimination.
3	What legacies of Grant and Lee does the passage describe, and how did Revels and Douglass support a different vision for the nation?	Grant supported federal enforcement of civil rights. Lee was a symbol of Confederate military leadership and later urged peace. Revels gained political influence as the first African American U.S. senator, and Douglass spoke for equal rights.
4	How did the resolution of the disputed 1876 election lead to the end of Reconstruction?	The Compromise of 1877 gave Rutherford B. Hayes the presidency. In exchange, Hayes withdrew federal troops from the South, ending Reconstruction.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The Fourteenth Amendment made people born in the United States citizens and promised equal protection. The Freedmen's Bureau helped freedpeople use new opportunities by providing schools and contract help. Frederick Douglass urged the country to protect equal rights. Later, the Supreme Court's Civil Rights Cases weakened federal protection against private discrimination.

Accept equivalent explanations that accurately connect a policy or amendment to expanded rights and identify a later limit on protection. For the open response, check for exactly four sentences and all three required elements.