

Barriers After Reconstruction

Trace how laws, discrimination, and violence restricted rights and opportunities.

USII.5.h “describing racial segregation, housing discrimination via redlining, the rise of “Jim Crow” laws, Black Codes, and threats of violence including, but not limited to intimidation, lynchings, armed conflicts, suppressed voting rights...”

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each law, policy, or practice that limited African Americans' rights or choices. Circle the effect of each one to trace how these barriers shaped daily life and political participation.

A System of Barriers

- ① After Reconstruction ended in 1877, many Southern state and local governments built a system called Jim Crow. These laws required racial segregation, which separated Black people from white people in schools, railroad cars, parks, and other public places. Black Codes had appeared earlier, just after the Civil War, to control the freedom and work of formerly enslaved people. Although the names and details changed over time, these rules worked toward a similar result: limiting African Americans' choices, rights, and access to public life.
- ② Voting was another target. Poll taxes, literacy tests, complicated registration rules, and unfair enforcement kept many Black citizens from voting, even though the Fifteenth Amendment said states could not deny voting rights because of race. Fewer voters meant fewer African Americans could help choose leaders or serve in political office. People who challenged this system also faced intimidation and violence. White supremacist groups threatened families, destroyed property, attacked communities, and committed lynchings, murders by mobs without a legal trial.
- ③ Discrimination also shaped where people could live. In many cities, banks and government-backed housing programs used redlining. They marked neighborhoods with large Black populations as risky, then often denied or limited home loans there. This made it harder for families to buy homes, repair them, or build wealth. Segregation, voting barriers, housing discrimination, and threats of violence reinforced one another. Together, they restricted safety, opportunity, and political participation for African Americans and sometimes other racial and ethnic groups during the post-Reconstruction era.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 How did Jim Crow laws and Black Codes have a similar effect on African Americans?

2 How did voting barriers limit political participation?

3 What was redlining, and what was one effect it had on families?

4 What threats did people face when they challenged the system of discrimination?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write four sentences explaining how at least three barriers described in the passage worked together to limit African Americans' opportunities or political power after Reconstruction. Include one sentence about a law or policy, one about voting or housing, and one about violence or intimidation.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline each law, policy, or practice that limited African Americans' rights or choices. Circle the effect of each one to trace how these barriers shaped daily life and political participation. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did Jim Crow laws and Black Codes have a similar effect on African Americans?	Both limited African Americans' freedom, choices, rights, and access to public life.
2	How did voting barriers limit political participation?	They kept many Black citizens from voting, so fewer African Americans could help choose leaders or serve in political office.
3	What was redlining, and what was one effect it had on families?	Redlining marked many Black neighborhoods as risky and often denied or limited home loans there. It made it harder for families to buy or repair homes or build wealth.
4	What threats did people face when they challenged the system of discrimination?	They faced intimidation and violence, including threats to families, property destruction, attacks on communities, and lynchings.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Jim Crow laws separated Black citizens from white citizens in public places. Redlining made it harder for many Black families to get loans and build wealth. Voting restrictions reduced their power to choose leaders. Violence and intimidation made it more dangerous to resist these barriers.

Accept equivalent descriptions of restrictions and effects that are supported by the passage. For the open response, accept varied examples if the student accurately connects at least three barriers to limited opportunity, safety, or political participation.