

Reconstruction Amendments

Webquest Bundle



Included Are The Following:

- **13th Amendment Webquest**
- **14th Amendment Webquest**
- **15th Amendment Webquest**

13th Amendment Webquest



How Slavery Was Abolished

Directions: Go to the website listed below, read the directions, and answer each question with a complete sentence.

<https://www.history.com/topics/black-history/thirteenth-amendment>

1. When was the 13th amendment ratified and what did it do?
2. What were the exact words this amendment used?
3. What was the first mention of slavery in the U.S. Constitution?

4. Why is it odd that many of the founding fathers owned slaves?
5. What did Thomas Jefferson do in 1807?
6. When the Civil War started, how many slaves were in America?
7. What were Abraham Lincoln's feelings about slavery?
8. What document did Lincoln produce in 1862 and what was the effect of this document?
9. What was the problem with this document?
10. What happened in April of 1864?
11. What did Lincoln do to help get support behind this proposed amendment?

12. What happened on January 31, 1865?

13. What was the Hampton Roads drama?

14. What did Section 1 of the 13th amendment do?

15. What did Section 2 of the 13th amendment do?

16. What did the Civil Rights Act of 1866 accomplish?

17. What did Congress require of the former Confederate states?

18. What did the 13th amendment attempt to do (what impact did it have)?

19. What is one interesting thing you learned from this webquest?

20. What is one question you still have about this topic?

Answer Key

When was the 13th amendment ratified and what did it do?

It was ratified in 1865 and abolished slavery in the U.S.

What were the exact words this amendment used?

“Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for crime whereof the party shall have been duly convicted, shall exist within the United States, or any place subject to their jurisdiction.”

What was the first mention of slavery in the U.S. Constitution?

This amendment was the first mention of slavery in the Constitution.

Why is it odd that many of the founding fathers owned slaves?

Many of the founders themselves owned slaves, and though they acknowledged that slavery was morally wrong, they effectively pushed the question of how to eradicate it to future generations of Americans.

What did Thomas Jefferson do in 1807?

Thomas Jefferson signed a law banning the importation of slaves from Africa in 1807.

When the Civil War started, how many slaves were in America?

There were about 4 million slaves at this point.

What were Abraham Lincoln’s feelings about slavery?

Abraham Lincoln abhorred slavery as a moral evil, but he also wavered over the course of his career (and as president) on how to deal with the peculiar institution.

What document did Lincoln produce in 1862 and what was the effect of this document?

He produced the Emancipation Proclamation, which took effect in 1863, announced that all slaves held in the states “then in rebellion against the United States, shall be then, thenceforward, and forever free.”

What was the problem with this document?

The Emancipation Proclamation itself did not end slavery in the United States, as it only applied to the 11 Confederate states then at war against the Union, and only to the portion of those states not already under Union control.

What happened in April of 1864?

In April 1864, the U.S. Senate passed a proposed amendment banning slavery with the necessary two-thirds majority. But the amendment faltered in the House of Representatives, as more and more Democrats refused to support it.

What did Lincoln do to help get support behind this proposed amendment?

Lincoln threw himself in the legislative process, inviting individual representatives to his office to discuss the amendment and putting pressure on border-state Unionists (who had previously opposed it) to change their position.

What happened on January 31, 1865?

On January 31, 1865, the House of Representatives passed the proposed amendment with a vote of 119-56, just over the required two-thirds majority.

What was the Hampton Roads drama?

Rumors started flying that Confederate peace commissioners were en route to Washington (or already there), putting the future of the amendment in serious doubt. They did show up, but Lincoln refused to grant them any concessions and they eventually left.

What did Section 1 of the 13th amendment do?

Section 1 of the 13th Amendment outlawed chattel slavery and involuntary servitude (except as punishment for a crime).

What did Section 2 of the 13th amendment do?

Section 2 gave the U.S. Congress the power “to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.”

What did the Civil Rights Act of 1866 accomplish?

The law invalidated the so-called black codes, those laws put into place in the former Confederate states that governed the behavior of blacks, effectively keeping them dependent on their former owners.

What did Congress require of the former Confederate states?

Congress also required the former Confederate states to ratify the 13th Amendment in order to regain representation in the federal government.

What did the 13th amendment attempt to do (what impact did it have)?

The 13th Amendment sought to establish equality for black Americans.

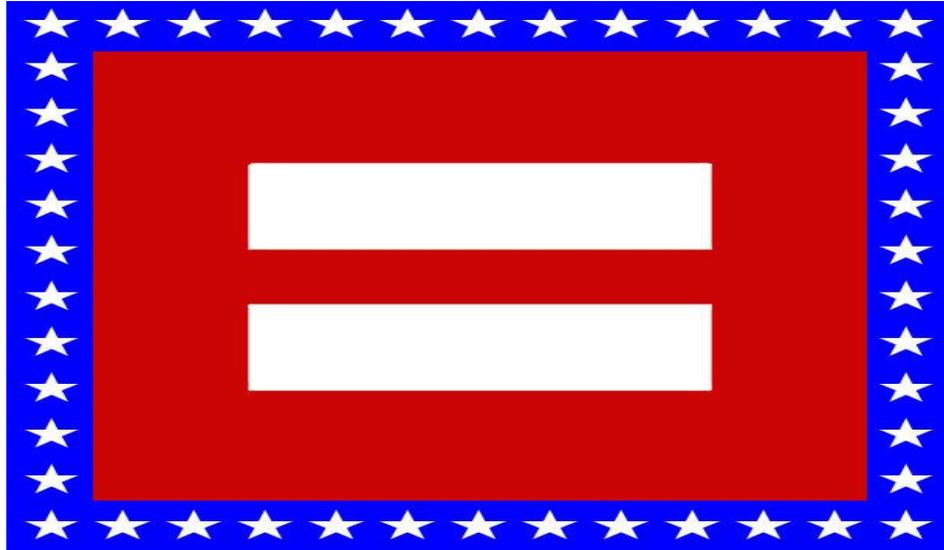
What is one interesting thing you learned from this webquest?

Answers will vary.

What is one question you still have about this topic?

Answers will vary.

14th Amendment Webquest



Equal Protection for All Under the Law

Directions: Go to the website listed below, read the article, and answer each question with a complete sentence.

<https://www.history.com/topics/black-history/fourteenth-amendment>

1. When was the 14th amendment ratified and what did it do?
2. What three things did the 14th amendment accomplish?
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3. What happened in April 1865?

4. What were President Johnson's views on how Reconstruction should take place?

5. What were black codes?

6. What did the Civil Rights Act of 1866 accomplish?

7. What were President Johnson's feelings about the Civil Rights Act of 1866?

8. Who was Thaddeus Stevens and what did he suggest?

9. Although southern states did not agree with the 14th amendment, what did Congress do to be sure the amendment would pass?

10. What does the opening sentence of Section 1 of the 14th amendment state?

11. What Supreme Court case did Section 1 clearly repudiate?

12. What is this phrase (found in the 14th amendment) “nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws” known as?

13. What was the purpose of this phrase?

14. What did the 14th amendment authorize the federal government to do?

15. About a century after the 14th amendment was passed what did Congress use the authority it was given to do?

16. What was the impact of the 14th amendment on Plessy v. Ferguson?

17. What was the impact of the 14th amendment on Brown v. Board of Education?

18. List four other landmark cases that the 14th amendment had an impact on.

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19. What is one interesting thing you learned from this webquest?

20. What is a question you still have about this topic?

Answer Key

When was the 14th amendment ratified and what did it do?

It was ratified in 1868 and granted citizenship to all persons born or naturalized in the United States.

What three things did the 14th amendment accomplish?

It abolished slavery, established civil and legal rights for black Americans, and it would become the basis for many landmark Supreme Court decisions over the years.

What happened in April 1865?

Abraham Lincoln's assassination in April 1865 left his successor, President Andrew Johnson, to preside over the complex process of incorporating former Confederate states back into the Union after the Civil War and establishing former slaves as free and equal citizens.

What were President Johnson's views on how Reconstruction should take place?

Johnson showed relative leniency toward the former Confederate states as they were reintroduced into the Union.

What were black codes?

They were repressive laws that strictly regulated the behavior of black citizens and effectively kept them dependent on white planters.

What did the Civil Rights Act of 1866 accomplish?

Congress was using the authority given it to enforce the newly ratified 13th Amendment, which abolished slavery, and protect the rights of black Americans.

What were President Johnson's feelings about the Civil Rights Act of 1866?

Johnson vetoed the bill, and though Congress successfully overrode his veto and made it into law in April 1866.

Who was Thaddeus Stevens and what did he suggest?

Representative Thaddeus Stevens introduced a plan that combined several different legislative proposals (civil rights for blacks, how to apportion representatives in Congress, punitive measures against the former Confederate States of America and repudiation of Confederate war debt), into a single constitutional amendment.

Although southern states did not agree with the 14th amendment, what did Congress do to be sure the amendment would pass?

Congress required these states to ratify the 13th and 14th Amendments as a condition of regaining representation in Congress, and the ongoing presence of the Union Army in the former Confederate states ensured their compliance.

What did the opening sentence of Section 1 of the 14th amendment state?

“All persons born or naturalized in the United States and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United States and of the State wherein they reside.”

What Supreme Court case did Section 1 clearly repudiate?

The Dred Scott case.

What is this phrase (found in the 14th amendment) “nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws” known as?

It is known as the “equal protection clause.”

What was the purpose of this phrase?

It was clearly intended to stop state governments from discriminating against black Americans.

What did the 14th amendment authorize the federal government to do?

The 14th Amendment authorized the federal government to punish states that violated or abridged their citizens’ right to vote by proportionally reducing the states’ representation in Congress.

About a century after the 14th amendment was passed what did Congress use the authority it was given to do?

Congress would use this authority to pass landmark civil rights legislation, including the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

What was the impact of the 14th amendment on Plessy v. Ferguson?

It had very little impact. The court ruled that racially segregated public facilities did not violate the 14th amendment.

What was the impact of the 14th amendment on Brown v. Board of Education?

The Supreme Court overturned the “separate but equal” doctrine established in *Plessy v. Ferguson*, ruling that segregated public schools did in fact violate the equal protection clause of the 14th Amendment.

List four other landmark cases that the 14th amendment had an impact on.

Answers could be any of the following: *Griswold v. Connecticut*, *Loving v. Virginia*, *Roe v. Wade*, *Bush v. Gore*, *McDonald v. Chicago*, or *Obergefell v. Hodges*.

What is one interesting thing you learned from this webquest?

Answers will vary.

What is a question you still have about this topic?

Answers will vary.

15th Amendment Webquest



Expanding Voting Rights

Directions: Go to the website listed below, read the article, and answer each question with a complete sentence.

<https://www.history.com/topics/black-history/fifteenth-amendment>

1. When was the 15th amendment ratified and what did it do?
2. What is the wording of the 15th amendment?
3. What did the First Reconstruction Act do?

4. After the 15th amendment was passed, what did the African American community do?

5. What had happened by late 1870?

6. Who was Hiram Rhodes Revels?

7. Who was Thomas Mundy Peterson?

8. What happened in the late 1870s when the Southern Republican Party vanished?

9. What were some of the measures used to keep African Americans from voting?

10. What did the Voting Rights Act of 1965 accomplish?

11. When was the 24th amendment passed and what did this amendment stipulate?

12. Was the Voting Rights Act successful or not?

13. What is one interesting thing you learned from this webquest?

14. What is a question you still have about this topic?

Answer Key

When was the 15th amendment ratified and what did it do?

The 15th Amendment, granting African-American men the right to vote, was adopted into the U.S. Constitution in 1870.

What is the wording of the 15th amendment?

“The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of race, color, or previous condition of servitude. The Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.”

What did the First Reconstruction Act do?

The act divided the South into five military districts and outlined how new governments based on universal manhood suffrage were to be established.

After the 15th amendment was passed, what did the African American community do?

With the adoption of the 15th Amendment in 1870, a politically mobilized African-American community joined with white allies in the Southern states to elect the Republican Party to power.

What had happened by late 1870?

By late 1870, all the former Confederate states had been readmitted to the Union, and most were controlled by the Republican Party, thanks to the support of black voters.

Who was Hiram Rhodes Revels?

He was the first African American to be in Congress.

Who was Thomas Mundy Peterson?

He was the first African American to vote in the U.S.

What happened in the late 1870s when the Southern Republican Party vanished?

Southern state governments effectively nullified both the 14th Amendment and the 15th amendment, stripping blacks in the South of the right to vote.

What were some of the measures used to keep African Americans from voting?

Poll taxes, literacy tests, and intimidation and outright violence were used to prevent African Americans from exercising their right to vote.

What did the Voting Rights Act of 1965 accomplish?

The act banned the use of literacy tests, provided for federal oversight of voter registration in areas where less than 50 percent of the non-white population had not registered to vote, and authorized the U.S. attorney general to investigate the use of poll taxes in state and local elections.

When was the 24th amendment passed and what did this amendment stipulate?

The 24th Amendment made poll taxes illegal in federal elections.

Was the Voting Rights Act successful or not?

It was often ignored, but the Voting Rights Act of 1965 gave African-American voters the legal means to challenge voting restrictions and vastly improved voter turnout.

What is one interesting thing you learned from this webquest?

Answers will vary.

What is a question you still have about this topic?

Answers will vary.