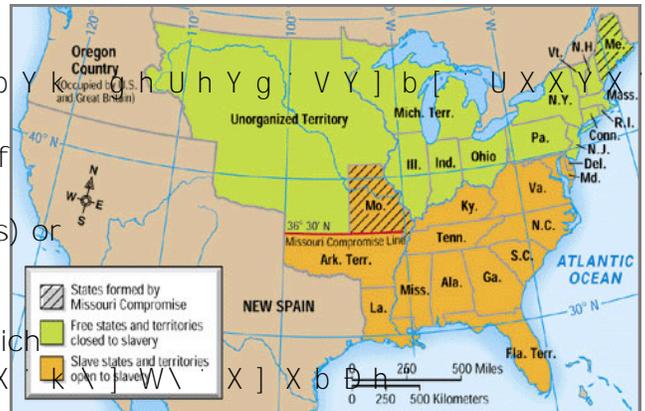




The Constitution set up the rules for our government. The first ten constitutional amendments, called the Bill of Rights, listed the rights that citizens should expect. But when these documents were written, over one third of the population of the United States was not considered citizens. These were the slaves and free blacks living in the United States. They were born in the U.S., worked in the U.S., and died in the U.S. but were not protected by the founding documents or by state laws. It took a war between the states to bring changes to the Constitution that would end slavery and set the path for greater equality.

## States Taking Sides

the United States anymore. But in the early 1800s, several new states were added to the union. One of the hot topics of the day was whether these new states would allow slavery (like the Southern states) or ban it (like most of the Northern states). Over time these two regions had developed in different ways, which led to conflict. Check out the map to see which



Soldier with battle flag

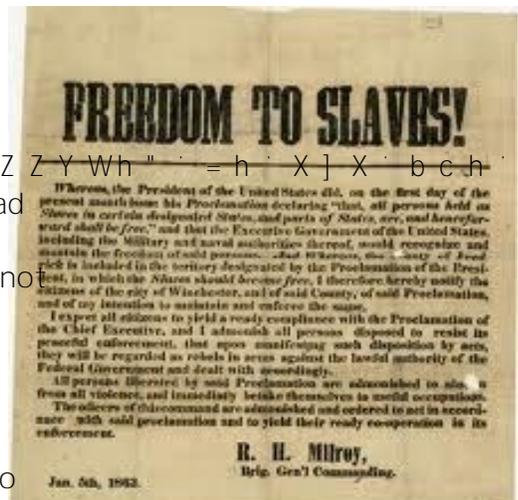
## Civil War!

The debate over slavery and rights was a main factor leading to the bloodiest war in American history. Southern states seceded from the United States as a separate nation, so they called it Secession, which means separation or breaking away. President Abraham Lincoln did not want the nation to be divided, and war began between the southern states, which called themselves the Confederate States of America, and the northern states, which now called the Civil War, deeply and bitterly divided Americans on both sides.

## Emancipation

In the middle of the war (1863), President Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation, declaring that all the slaves in the South were free. (Emancipation means freedom). Although it was a huge and important step, it did not free slaves in the South, because the Confederate States of America had its own government and did not feel bound by proclamations by the United States president. It also did not help slaves in states that had not seceded.

Even so, the Emancipation Proclamation was a big deal. Although it failed to free any actual slaves, it did send a strong message: When the war was over, slavery in the U.S. would end. The U.S. government took this as a sign to help slaves in states that had not seceded.

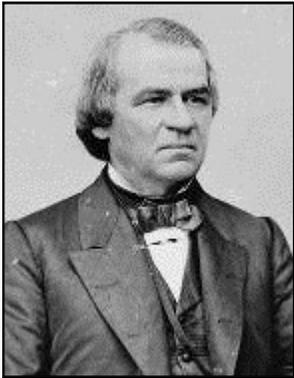


Ending the War, Ending Slavery

In January 1865 three months before the war ended Congress passed the 13th Amendment to the Constitution, outlawing slavery in the United States. The war ended when the Confederacy surrendered in April 1865. After that, all states were once again part of the United States of America. In December 1865, slavery was finally abolished in the entire United States when the last state ratified (passed) the 13th Amendment.



Soldiers buried at Arlington Cemetery



President Johnson

Reconstructing a Nation

The war left much of the South destroyed and disorganized. The Southern states needed to be made part of the United States again, but people disagreed about how that should happen. Some, like President Andrew Johnson, believed the Southern states should be let back into the U.S. and the Z c f a Y f 7 c b Z Y X Y f U h Y g g \ c i X b \ h V Y d i b ] g \ make sure the Southern politicians were punished for seceding. They also did not want Southern politicians to interfere with the new freedom of African Americans. This period of rebuilding after the Civil War is known as Reconstruction. Many in the South resisted the changes, and the federal government had to send troops to enforce the new civil rights laws.

Changing the Constitution

H \ Y % h \ 5 a Y b X a Y b h X ] X b c h Y b X h \ Y g U j Y g \ h f c i V Y g quickly passed laws to restrict what little freedom the former slaves had. Something more was needed to expand and protect the rights of the former slaves. As part of the Reconstruction effort, Congress added two more amendments to the Constitution. In 1868, the 14th Amendment guaranteed citizenship to all people born in the U.S. This amendment also gave all citizens the right to due process and equal protection under the law. In 1870, the 15th Amendment gave all men the right to vote regardless of their race or whether they had been slaves before the war.



K \ U h \ g 8 i Y D f c W Y g g 3

Due process means people have the right to be treated fairly by the government. There are two kinds of due process. One has to do with what a law actually says. Laws must be fair and reasonable. The government cannot d U g g \ U k g h \ U h i b Z U ] f m \ ] a ] h d Y c d \ Y \ g due process has to do with how laws are enforced. Government officials must follow certain rules or procedures when they enforce laws. They cannot take U k U m c f \ ] a ] h g c a Y c b Y \ g \ ] Z Y \ \ ] V Y f h m \

What About Equal Protection?

The government must treat people equally. Unreasonable discrimination the government is not allowed. If a law does treat one group of people differently, the government must prove there is a good reason for it. Courts will decide if that reason is good enough to let the law stand.

Both equal protection and due process were rights that African Americans lacked due to their race and former state of slavery. By granting these rights, as well as the right to vote the Constitution expanded citizenship to a whole new group of Americans.



**What if?** At the end of the Civil War, the Southern states had to become part of the United States again. Which of these steps would you recommend if you were in charge of creating a united country in 1865?

### Column One

\_\_\_ Punish the South, so those states don't try to secede again!

\_\_\_ Forbid former Confederate leaders from voting and running for office

\_\_\_ Make the Southern states rewrite their constitutions, pass the 14th Amendment, and give former male slaves voting rights before they can get back into the Union

\_\_\_ Send troops into the South and have them keep an eye on things

\_\_\_ Replace the old state governments with new officials who will protect the rights of African Americans and follow the new rules.

\_\_\_ Total Selected

### Column Two

\_\_\_ Let the Southern states come back into the Union without being punished

\_\_\_ Pardon (officially forgive) former Confederate soldiers if they promise to support emancipation

\_\_\_ Let the Southern states decide how they will enforce civil rights laws

\_\_\_ Allow the people that were in charge before the war regain control of the state governments

\_\_\_ Try to forgive and forget. It will be better if everyone puts this mess in the past.

\_\_\_ Total Selected

# Civil War & Reconstruction

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Vocabulary. Use the word bank to complete each sentence.

due process    secession    Emancipation Proclamation    equal protection    Reconstruction

1. In the \_\_\_\_\_, Lincoln announced that all slaves in the South were \_\_\_\_\_.
2. The period of rebuilding after the Civil War is called \_\_\_\_\_.
3. The \_\_\_\_\_ crisis occurred when eleven southern states declared their independence from the United States.
4. The 14th Amendment says that the government must treat all people the same way. This idea is called \_\_\_\_\_.
5. Fair treatment by the government, or \_\_\_\_\_, comes in two ~~subtypes~~ (what the law says) and ~~procedura~~ (how the law is enforced).

Taking Sides. Match the quote with who probably said it.

I grow cotton, but I can't afford to own slaves. If they are freed, they might try to take my job!"

I think slavery is terrible! Slavery is not needed and should be illegal! The government should do something about this."

Slaves are necessary to my cotton business. The government shouldn't tell me how to run my plantation!"

Northern Abolitionist



Southern Slave Owner



Poor Southern Farmer



Confederacy or Union? Connect the person or term with the correct side of the war.

## The North

United States of America (USA)



President Abraham Lincoln

Soldier Nickname: Billy Yank (Yankee)

President Jefferson Davis

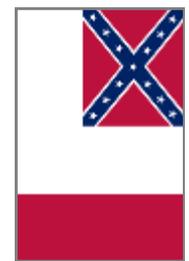
National Capital: Richmond, VA

Soldier Nickname: Johnny Reb (Rebel)

National Capital: Washington, DC

## The South

The Confederate States of America (CSA)



# Civil War & Reconstruction

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Name that Amendment! Select the correct Reconstruction amendment for each item.

Former slaves and men of all races can vote.

13th 14th 15th

If you are born in the U.S., you are a U.S. citizen.

13th 14th 15th

Slavery is illegal in the United States!

13th 14th 15th

Former slaves are protected by law and are considered citizens.

13th 14th 15th

Due process and equal protection are guaranteed to all.

13th 14th 15th

Impacting the Future. Which of the three Reconstruction amendments do you think had the greatest impact? Explain your answer.

Answers will vary.

Is That Fair? Based on the idea of due process, Equality! Read each fictional law and identify the do you think these laws are constitutional? Write a group that is being discriminated against. Use the word bank for your answers. yes or no in the space provided.

\_\_\_\_\_ 1. All citizens over the age of 18 of the U.S. have the right to vote.

\_\_\_\_\_ 2. The government can throw people without a place to live in jail.

\_\_\_\_\_ 3. Your house can be taken away by the government if you watch too much television.

\_\_\_\_\_ 4. A school that suspends a student must notify the parents and give a reason for the suspension.

\_\_\_\_\_ 5. You must be 35 years old to drive a car in the U.S.

\_\_\_\_\_ 6. Children are taken away from bad parents and given to good parents

the disabled  
senior citizens

racial minorities  
working mothers

7. You are not allowed to work if you are over the age of 65. \_\_\_\_\_

8. People of different races have to go to different schools. \_\_\_\_\_

9. Public buses and trains do not have to be accessible to people in wheelchairs. \_\_\_\_\_

10. Women can not teach school if they are pregnant. \_\_\_\_\_

# Civil War & Reconstruction

\*\*TEACHER GUIDE\*\*

Vocabulary. Use the word bank to complete each sentence.

due process    secession    Emancipation Proclamation    equal protection    Reconstruction

- In the Emancipation Proclamation, Lincoln announced that all slaves in the South were free.
- The period of rebuilding after the Civil War is called Reconstruction.
- The secession crisis occurred when eleven southern states declared their independence from the United States.
- The 14th Amendment says that the government must treat all people the same way. This idea is called equal protection.
- Fair treatment by the government, due process, comes in two types (substantive (what the law says) and procedural (how the law is enforced)).

Taking Sides. Match the quote with who probably said it.

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← National Capital: Washington, DC

**The South**  
The Confederate States of America (CSA)



# Civil War & Reconstruction

**\*\*TEACHER GUIDE\*\***

Name that Amendment! Select the correct Reconstruction amendment for each item.

Five scroll-like boxes arranged in two rows. The top row has three boxes, and the bottom row has two boxes. Each box contains a blank space with a horizontal line underneath, intended for writing the name of a Reconstruction amendment.

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