

Understanding the Civil War Amendments



Standards

USH. 1.4 Describe causes and lasting effects of the Civil War and Reconstruction as well as the political controversies surrounding this time such as Andrew Johnson's impeachment, the Black Codes, and the Compromise of 1877. (Government, Economics)

Background Information

[Slavery Facts](#)

Research the history of slavery using the above link and other resources of your choice. What aspect of American society today is still influenced by the history of slavery? Examples: education, incarceration, race relations, etc. Explain how our current culture is still impacted by slavery despite the fact that it ended in 1865.

[Civil War Facts](#)

Read through the information concerning the Civil War found in the above link. What value does understanding the Civil War have for Americans today?

[Abraham Lincoln's Views on Slavery](#)

Read the quotes found in the above link. Did Lincoln's views on slavery change from the beginning of his political career until the end? Explain your answer.

Timeline

November 6, 1860 - Lincoln is elected as the 16th president
December 20, 1860 - South Carolina becomes the first state to secede (6 more join SC before Lincoln's inauguration)
March 4, 1861 - Lincoln's inauguration
April 12, 1861 - Ft. Sumter - the Civil War begins and lasts for 4 bloody years
April 9, 1865 - Lee surrenders to Grant at Appomattox, Virginia
April 14, 1865 - Lincoln is shot
April 15, 1865 - Lincoln dies (Vice President Andrew Johnson becomes the new president)
December 6, 1865 - the 13th amendment is ratified
Late 1865 - the first of the Black Codes are passed in Mississippi and South Carolina
February 24, 1868 - impeachment of Andrew Johnson begins
July 21, 1868 - the 14th amendment is ratified
March 30, 1870 - the 15th amendment is ratified
Early 1877 - the Compromise of 1877 ends Reconstruction

1950's - 1960's - the Civil Rights Movement

The Civil War Amendments

Amendment	Description
13th Abolition of Slavery	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.
14th Citizenship Rights, Equal Protection, Apportionment and Civil War Debt	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. No State shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States; nor shall any State deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws.
15th Right to Vote not Denied by Race	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.

Your Thoughts Concerning the Civil War Amendments:

13th Amendment	
14th Amendment	
15th Amendment	

Discussion/Research Questions

- How many slaves were freed with the 13th amendment?
- How many states had slaves in 1865 and which ones had the most?
- What needed to be reconstructed in the U.S. after the Civil War?
 - ❑ What property needed to be reconstructed and where?
 - ❑ What aspects of society needed to be rebuilt in both north and south?
 - ❑ What did Freedmen (former slaves) need once slavery was over?
 - ❑ What made it difficult for the Union to be rebuilt?
 - ❑ How was the economy affected by the Civil War in both north and south?
 - ❑ What obstacles stood in the way of building new relationships between former slaves and former masters?
- How did Abraham Lincoln, Andrew Johnson, and the Radical Republicans differ in their views on Reconstruction?
- Who were the Radical Republicans and what role did they play in Reconstruction?
- What happened in the U.S. during the 100 years between the Civil War Amendments and the Civil Rights Movement?
- What role did the KKK play in those 100 years?