

# Reconstruction

## Did the Reconstruction Era following the Civil War result in freedom, equality and civil rights for African Americans?

The Reconstruction Era lasted from the end of the Civil War in 1865 to 1877. Its main focus was on bringing the southern states back into full political participation in the Union, guaranteeing rights to former slaves and defining new relationships between African Americans and whites. While very little fighting occurred on Iowa soil and Iowa had never legalized slavery, black migration of former slaves into the region and the national focus on civil rights forced Iowa to reconsider its own racial relations.

### Amending the U.S. Constitution during Reconstruction

When southern states seceded from the Union, they withdrew their representatives from Congress, leaving both the Senate and the House under the control of the North. While most white Americans still held views that whites were superior to African Americans and were not yet ready to integrate society, many were sympathetic to the plight of freed slaves and wanted to promote their welfare. On the political front, Republicans were eager to give African Americans the right to vote because they anticipated that African Americans would strongly support them at the polls.

To achieve these goals, Republicans needed to amend the U.S. Constitution, a process that requires approval of two-thirds of each chamber of Congress and ratification by three-fourths of the states. Republicans felt an urgency to get these measures approved before southern congressmen returned to Washington, D.C., who could block the process. In 1865, Congress passed and states approved the 13th Amendment to the Constitution prohibiting slavery. In 1868, the 14th Amendment was ratified granting “equal protection of the law” and “due process” to all citizens to prevent southern states from passing laws that would discriminate against African Americans.

### Constitutional Changes in Iowa

The Iowa legislature, controlled by Republicans, approved both amendments. Even though there was some opposition to measures that looked as if they were moving toward racial equality, Iowa Republicans realized they could not impose on the South restrictions that they were not willing to support at home. Before the Civil War, African Americans were denied the right to vote in northern as well as southern states. Iowa was no exception. The 1857 Constitution restricted suffrage to white males 21 years of age and over. Changing the state constitution required an affirmative vote on a referendum. In 1868, two years before the 15th Amendment prohibited denying the vote to anyone based on “race, color or previous condition of servitude” (slavery), the Iowa legislature submitted to the voters (all white males at the time) an amendment to strike the word “white” from voting requirements. The measure won a majority, and African-American males in Iowa could vote. In 1870, when the 15th Amendment came to the states ensuring African-American suffrage nationwide, Iowa became the 29th state to approve it, providing the final state necessary for passage.

The suffrage amendment was controversial on several fronts. Many white voters, primarily Democrats, opposed measures that brought African Americans more fully into mainstream society. Advocates for women’s suffrage were very disappointed that the measure stopped with African Americans — male only — suffrage, leaving all women out of the voter pool. Some Republican leaders urged the suffragists to wait their turn: “This is the black men’s hour.” And wait the women did. Women did not achieve full suffrage for another half century.

### Race Relations in Iowa

There were other legal developments on race relations. In 1867, Susan Clark, a African-American youth in Muscatine, was denied admission to the public school on account of her race. Her father, Alexander Clark, challenged the policy in a case that went to the Iowa Supreme Court, which ruled in her favor. The Iowa Constitution

granted the responsibility to the Board of Education to “provide for the education of all the youths of the State.” The Court ruled that “all” meant all with no authority to deny education to any based on race. In another case, the Supreme Court ruled that there could be no discrimination based on race in public accommodations like railroads and steamboats. In practice, however, the laws were unevenly enforced.

Union soldiers continued to enforce law and order in the South until 1877. During those years and after, Iowa confronted new challenges to the American commitment that “all are created equal” as more African Americans migrated to river and southeastern Iowa cities and to Des Moines. While Iowa can be proud of several major steps toward equality, racial attitudes of most white Iowans of the period continued to oppose full integration.

## Supporting Questions

**How free were African Americans during Reconstruction?**

- [“Emancipation,” 1865 \(Image\)](#)
- [Certification of the 13th Amendment by Secretary of State William H. Seward, December 18, 1865 \(Document\)](#)
- [“Slavery is Dead\(?\),” January 12, 1867 \(Image\)](#)
- [Hampton Plantation Account Book, 1868 \(Document\)](#)
- [“Family record. Before the war and since the war,” 1880 \(Image\)](#)
- [“Proportion of the Colored to the Aggregate Population: 1890,” 1898 \(Map\)](#)

**Were African Americans considered equal members of society and treated as such?**

- [“Startling Revelations from the Department of South Carolina,” 1864 \(Document\)](#)
- [“The Freedman’s Bureau” Political Poster, 1866 \(Image\)](#)
- [Joint Resolution proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of the United States, June 16, 1866 \(Document\)](#)
- [Interview with Cane Cook, a Former African-American Sharecropper, with Reverend H.W. Pierson, 1870 \(Document\)](#)
- [“The Struggle between the Civilization of Slavery and that of Freedom” by Edward C. Billings, October 20, 1873 \(Document\)](#)
- [“The Union as It Was,” 1874 \(Political Cartoon\)](#)
- [“Shall We Call Home Our Troops? We Intend to Beat the Negro in the Battle of Life & Defeat Means One Thing — Extermination,” 1875 \(Political Cartoon\)](#)
- [“Black Laws” of 1861, 1864 and 1878, March 10, 1886 \(Document\)](#)

**How much political power did African Americans have during Reconstruction?**

- [“Letter of Daniel R. Goodloe, to Hon. Charles Sumner, on the Situation of Affairs in North Carolina,” May 7, 1868 \(Document\)](#)
- [George Smith’s Statement on the Ku Klux Klan in an Interview with Reverend H.W. Pierson, 1870 \(Document\)](#)
- [Secretary of State Hamilton Fish’s Certification of the 15th Amendment’s Ratification, March 30, 1870 \(Document\)](#)
- [“The First Colored Senator and Representatives in the 41st and 42nd Congress of the United States,” 1872 \(Image\)](#)
- [“Everything Points to a Democratic Victory This Fall,” October 31, 1874 \(Political Cartoon\)](#)
- [“Radical Members of the First Legislature After the War, South Carolina,” 1876 \(Image\)](#)

## [\\*Printable Image and Document Guide](#)

## Additional Resources

**[“Time Line of African American History, 1852-1880:”](#)** This timeline provides a concise list of events from an African-American history perspective.

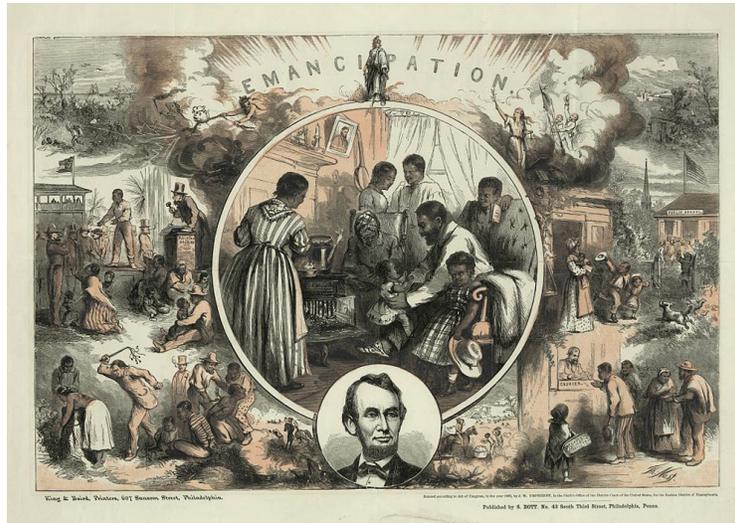
**[“Civil War and Reconstruction, 1861-1877:”](#)** This Library of Congress section of the American Memory Timeline includes a brief introduction/overview and primary sources for each of the following topics: The South During the Civil War, The North During the Civil War, African-American Soldiers During the Civil War, Civil War Soldiers’ Stories, The Freedmen, Reconstruction and Rights and The Travails of Reconstruction.

**[“Primary Documents in American History: 13th Amendment to the Constitution:”](#)** This Library of Congress web guide provides sources from a variety of collections within the Library of Congress, as well as external websites.

**[“Primary Documents in American History: 14th Amendment to the Constitution:”](#)** This Library of Congress web guide provides sources from a variety of collections within the Library of Congress, as well as external websites.

**[“Primary Documents in American History: 15th Amendment to the Constitution:”](#)** This Library of Congress web guide provides sources from a variety of collections within the Library of Congress, as well as external websites.

## “Emancipation,” 1865



Courtesy of Library of Congress, Nast, Thomas, “Emancipation / Th. Nast ; King & Baird, printers, 607 Sansom Street, Philadelphia,” 1865

### Description

In his 1865 image titled “Emancipation,” Thomas Nast celebrates the emancipation of southern slaves with the end of the Civil War by contrasting a life of suffering and pain before the conflict with a life of optimism and freedom afterwards. The central scene shows the interior of a freedman’s home with the family gathered around a “Union” wood stove. The father bounces his small child on his knee while his wife and others look on. Below this scene is an oval portrait of Lincoln and above it, Thomas Crawford’s statue of “Freedom.” On either side of the central picture are scenes contrasting African-American life in the South under the Confederacy (left) with visions of the freedman’s life after the war (right). Fugitive slaves, located on the top left, are hunted down in a coastal swamp. Below, a African-American man is sold, apart from his wife and children, on a public auction block. At the bottom, an African-American woman is flogged and a male slave is branded. Above, two hags, one holding the three-headed hellhound Cerberus, preside over these scenes, and flee from the gleaming apparition of Freedom. In contrast, on the right, a woman with an olive branch and scales of justice stands triumphant. Here, a freedman’s cottage can be seen in a peaceful landscape. Below, a black mother sends her children off to “Public School.” At bottom a free Negro receives his pay from a cashier. Two smaller scenes flank Lincoln’s portrait. In one a mounted overseer flogs a black field slave (left); in the other a foreman politely greets Negro cotton-field workers.

### [Transcript of “Emancipation”](#)

### Text-Dependent Questions

- Using evidence from the image, explain the artist’s attitude about the future of freed slaves living in the South.
- According to the artist, what were the necessary requirements for a former slave to live a life of freedom?
- How did the artist structure his image to celebrate emancipation?
- What else would you have recommended to the artist that he include in this image?

### Citation Information

Nast, Thomas, “Emancipation / Th. Nast ; King & Baird, printers, 607 Sansom Street, Philadelphia,” 1865. [Courtesy of Library of Congress](#)

## Certification of the 13th Amendment by Secretary of State William H. Seward, December 18, 1865

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APPENDIX.

heart and one mind implore the Divine guidance in the ways of national virtue and holiness.

In testimony whereof, I have hereunto set my hand, and caused the seal of the United States to be affixed.

Done as the city of Washington, this twenty-eighth day of October, in [L. S.] the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty-five, and of the Independence of the United States of America the ninetieth.

ANDREW JOHNSON.

By the President:  
WILLIAM H. SEWARD, *Secretary of State.*

—

No. 51.

Dec. 1, 1865. BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:  
Preamble.

A PROCLAMATION.

WHEREAS, by the Proclamation of the President of the United States, of the fifteenth day of September, one thousand eight hundred and sixty-three, the privilege of the writ of *habeas corpus* was, in certain cases therein set forth, suspended throughout the United States;

And whereas the reasons for that suspension may be regarded as having ceased in some of the states and territories:

Now therefore be it known, that I, ANDREW JOHNSON, President of the United States, do hereby proclaim and declare, that the suspension aforesaid and all other proclamations and orders suspending the privilege of the writ of *habeas corpus* in the states and territories of the United States, are revoked and annulled, excepting as to the States of Virginia, Kentucky, Tennessee, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, Arkansas, and Texas, the District of Columbia, and the Territories of New Mexico and Arizona.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand, and caused the seal of the United States to be affixed.

Done as the city of Washington, this first day of December, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty-five, and of the Independence of the United States of America the ninetieth.

ANDREW JOHNSON.

By the President:  
WILLIAM H. SEWARD, *Secretary of State.*

—

No. 52.

WILLIAM H. SEWARD,  
SECRETARY OF STATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

*To all to whom these presents may come, greeting:*

Dec. 18, 1865.  
Preamble.

Know ye, that whereas the congress of the United States on the 1st of February last passed a resolution which is in the words following, namely:

—A resolution submitting to the legislatures of the several states a proposition to amend the Constitution of the United States.

As amended by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, (two thirds of both houses concurring.) That the following article be proposed to the legislatures of the several states as an amendment to the Constitution of the United States, which, when ratified by

Courtesy of Library of Congress, "A Century of Lawmaking for a New Nation: U.S. Congressional Documents and Debates, 1774 - 1875," pp. 774–775, December 18, 1865

### Description

On December 18, 1865, William H. Seward, the U.S. Secretary of State, officially certified the 13th Amendment after its approval by two-thirds of both chambers of Congress and ratification by three-fourths of the state legislatures.

### [Transcript of Certification of the 13th Amendment](#)

### Text-Dependent Questions

- According to the text, what steps are necessary for an amendment to be made to the Constitution?
- What was the intent of the 13th Amendment?
- How could a state or local government have used the text of the amendment to circumvent its intent?
- What was not guaranteed to freedmen by the 13th Amendment that might have been necessary after their emancipation?

### Citation Information

"A Century of Lawmaking for a New Nation: U.S. Congressional Documents and Debates, 1774 - 1875," pp. 774–775, December 18, 1865. [Courtesy of Library of Congress](#)

## “Slavery is Dead(?),” January 12, 1867



Courtesy of Library of Congress, Nast, Thomas, “Slavery is dead(?),” 12 January 1867

### Description

Thomas Nast’s “Slavery is Dead(?)” appeared in the January 12, 1867, edition of *Harper’s Weekly*. Created five years after the Emancipation Proclamation, a year and two months after the ratification of the 13th Amendment and nine months after the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1866, the image depicts the failure of each to fully protect African Americans. Two images, one depicting an African American being sold into slavery as punishment for a crime and a second depicting an African American being whipped as a punishment for a crime, draw attention to the ability of state governments to work around those three legal acts.

### [Transcript of “Slavery is Dead\(?\)”](#)

### Text-Dependent Questions

- Re-examine Nast’s “[Emancipation](#)” image created in 1865. How was it similar and different from this one created only two years later?
- According to the artist, did the Emancipation Proclamation, 13th Amendment and Civil Rights Act of 1866 fulfill their promise? Use evidence from the print to support your decision.
- Use evidence from the print to explain who the artist believed was responsible for the continued suffering of African Americans.

### Citation Information

Nast, Thomas, “Slavery is dead(?),” 12 January 1867. [Courtesy of Library of Congress](#)

## Hampton Plantation Account Book, 1868

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March and Family per acc. m<sup>o</sup> l<sup>o</sup> t<sup>o</sup> Dr.

Hampton Plantation Adm<sup>o</sup> m<sup>o</sup> l<sup>o</sup> t<sup>o</sup>

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Mary			99 50
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Taller			

Courtesy of Library of Congress, "Hampton Plantation Account Book, 1866-1868," 1868

### Description

After the Civil War, some slaves worked for their former owners as wage laborers. Page 69 of the Hampton Plantation (South Carolina) Account Book records monthly wages paid to March, Mary, Milly and Taller, a family of former slaves, for services rendered between February and August 1866.

### [Transcript of Hampton Plantation Account Book](#)

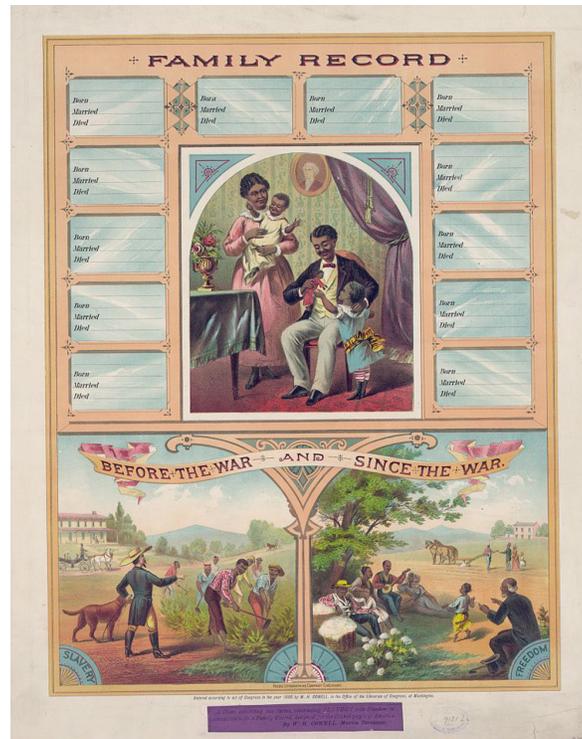
### Text-Dependent Questions

- Identify the type of document this is, and summarize it based on its structure and the information it contains.
- What evidence from the source suggests these workers were former slaves?
- What questions arise based on the information provided in this source?
- How might this source be used to explain the extent to which former slaves were free after [ratification of the 13th Amendment](#)?

### Citation Information

"Hampton Plantation Account Book, 1866-1868," 1868. [Courtesy of Library of Congress](#)

## “Family record. Before the War and Since the War,” 1880



Courtesy of Library of Congress, “Family record. Before the war and since the war,” 1880

### Description

Printed by the Krebs Lithographing Company in Cincinnati, Ohio, this 1880 family tree is designed specifically for former slaves. Titled, “Family Record. Before the War and Since the War,” it includes a central image of a well-off, joyful African-American family. Below are contrasting depictions of farm life before the war under the institution of slavery and farm life after the war where farm ground, equipment and a home is owned by freedmen.

### [Transcript of the “Family Record” Chart](#)

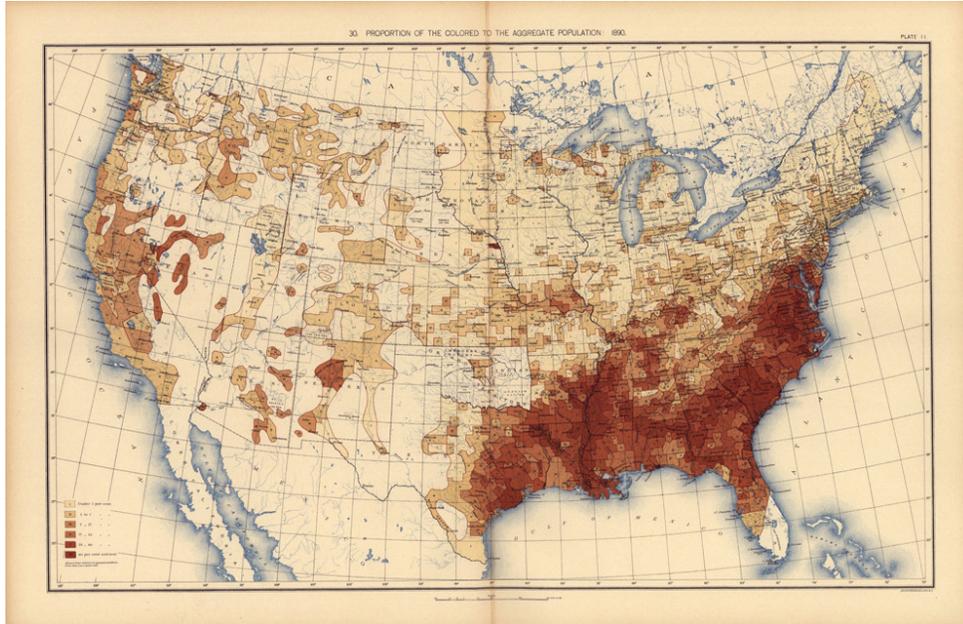
### Text-Dependent Questions

- Use evidence from the source to identify the publisher’s targeted audience. Why would the publisher be targeting this group of people in 1880?
- Explain the differences between a life of slavery and freedom using the contrasting images at the bottom of the source.
- What connection is there between freedom and the ability to document a family record?

### Citation Information

“Family record. Before the war and since the war,” 1880. [Courtesy of Library of Congress](#)

## “Proportion of the Colored to the Aggregate Population: 1890,” 1898



Courtesy of Library of Congress, “Proportion of the Colored to the aggregate population: 1890,” Statistical Atlas of the United States, 1898

### Description

Based upon the results of the 11th census, this map from the 1898 Statistical Atlas of the United States depicts the percentage of people of color per square mile across the United States. Although the heaviest concentrations are overwhelmingly in Maryland, Virginia and the southeastern states, there appear to be emerging concentrations in the northern urban areas (New York City, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, Cleveland, Toledo and Chicago), southern Ohio, central Missouri, eastern Kansas and scattered areas in the West (Oklahoma, New Mexico, Arizona, Nevada and California), reflecting migration patterns that began during Reconstruction.

### [Transcript of “Proportion of the Colored to the Aggregate Population: 1890”](#)

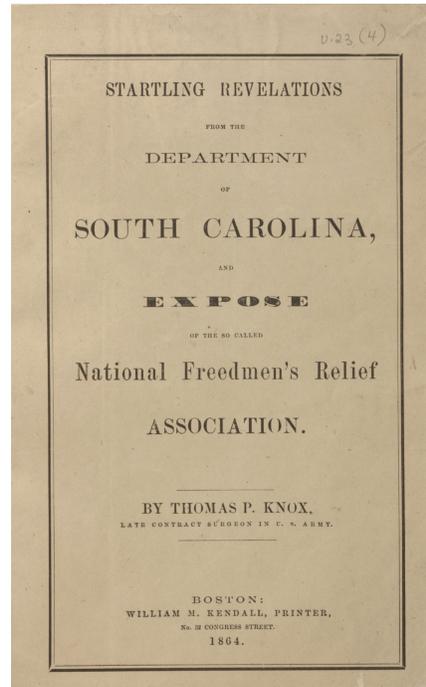
### Text-Dependent Questions

- What region of the United States was most heavily populated by African Americans? Beyond this region, where else had this specific population migrated since the end of the Civil War? (*ignore areas marked as Indian Reservations*)
- What do you notice about large urban areas and the distribution of people of color across the country?
- What might have motivated African Americans to migrate out of the South during Reconstruction? What factors might have forced and/or encouraged them to do so?
- Using the [key](#) and making reference to specific locations, describe Iowa’s population of people of color. Compare Iowa’s cities to others across the United States with similar populations of people of color.
- What is the connection between the [ratification of the 13th Amendment](#) and the data presented in this map?

### Citation Information

“Proportion of the Colored to the aggregate population: 1890,” Statistical Atlas of the United States, 1898. [Courtesy of Library of Congress](#)

## “Startling Revelations from the Department of South Carolina,” 1864



Courtesy of Library of Congress, Knox, Thomas P., “Startling Revelations from the Department of South Carolina, and Expose of the so Called National Freedmen’s Relief Association,” *Anglo-African*, pp. 6–7, 1864

### Description

The following excerpt was taken from an article that appeared in the *Anglo-African* magazine in 1864. In the article, Dr. Thomas P. Knox, who was hired as a doctor to treat freed slaves in South Carolina, recounts his firing and brief confinement in jail on orders of General Saxton, the commander of South Carolina. While doing so, he is also critical of the National Freedmen’s Relief Association, which was designed to assist newly emancipated former slaves across the South. In addition, in this excerpt, he discusses the unequal pay freemen receive for the same labor done by whites.

[Full Transcript of “Startling Revelations from the Department of South Carolina”](#)

[Transcribed Excerpts from “Startling Revelations from the Department of South Carolina”](#)

### Text-Dependent Questions

- According to the author, how helpful to the freedmen of South Carolina were northerners who moved there? Use evidence from the text to support your position.
- Cite specific passages from the text to characterize the freedmen.

### Citation Information

Knox, Thomas P., “Startling Revelations from the Department of South Carolina, and Expose of the so Called National Freedmen’s Relief Association,” *Anglo-African*, pp. 6–7, 1864. [Courtesy of Library of Congress](#)



# Joint Resolution Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of the United States, June 16, 1866

368 THIRTY-NINTH CONGRESS. [Sess. I. Res. 46, 47, 48. 1866.]

was a freeman at the time of enlistment, who, of record to show that a colored soldier was not a freeman at the date aforesaid, under the provision of the fourth section of the "Act making appropriations for the support of the army, for the year ending the 30th day of June, eighteen hundred and sixty-five," the presumption shall be that the person was free at the time of his enlistment.

Sec. 2. And be it further read: That in determining who is or was the wife, widow, or heirs of any colored soldier, evidence that he and the woman claimed to be his wife or widow were joined in marriage by some ceremony deemed by them obligatory followed by their living together as husband and wife up to the time of enlistment, shall be deemed sufficient proof of such marriage for the purpose of securing any arrears of pay, pension or other allowances due any colored soldier at the time of his death; and the children born of any such marriage shall be held and taken to be the lawful children and heirs of such soldier.

APPROVED, June 15, 1866.

June 15, 1866. [No. 47.] A Resolution making an Appropriation to enable the President to negotiate Treaties with certain Indian Tribes.

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That one hundred and twenty-one thousand seven hundred and eighty-five dollars and seventy-seven cents, or so much thereof as may be necessary, be, and the same is hereby, appropriated, to be paid out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, to enable the President to negotiate treaties with the Indian tribes of the Upper Missouri, and the Upper Platte rivers; said sum to be expended by the commissioner of Indian affairs, under the direction of the Secretary of the Interior.

APPROVED, June 15, 1866.

June 16, 1866. [No. 48.] Joint Resolution proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of the United States.

Be it resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, (two thirds of both Houses concurring) That the following article be proposed to the legislatures of the several States as an amendment to the Constitution of the United States, which, when ratified by three fourths of said legislatures, shall be valid as part of the Constitution, namely:—

ARTICLE XIV.

Sec. 1. 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.

Sec. 2. Representatives shall be apportioned among the several States according to their respective numbers, counting the whole number of persons in each State, excluding Indians not taxed. But when the right to vote at any election for the choice of electors for President and Vice-President of the United States, representatives in Congress, the executive and judicial officers of a State, or the members of the legislature thereof, is denied to any of the male inhabitants of such State, being twenty-one years of age, and citizens of the United States, or in any way abridged, except for participation in rebellion or other crime, the basis of representation therein shall be reduced in the proportion which

Courtesy of Library of Congress, "A Century of Lawmaking for a New Nation: U.S. Congressional Documents and Debates, 1774 - 1875," pp. 358-359, 16 June 1866

## Description

On June 16, 1866, the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives proposed to the state legislatures what would become the 14th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. After its ratification by the required three-fourths of the states, the amendment was officially certified on July 28, 1868, by Secretary of State William H. Seward.

[Full Transcript of Congress' Joint Resolution](#)

[Transcribed Excerpt from the Joint Resolution](#)

## Text-Dependent Questions

- How did the 14th Amendment define citizenship?
- Which level of government did the 14th Amendment specifically target?
- What rights did [Sections 1 and 2](#) of the 14th Amendment guarantee for former slaves and other American citizens of all races?

## Citation Information

"A Century of Lawmaking for a New Nation: U.S. Congressional Documents and Debates, 1774 - 1875," pp. 358-359, 16 June 1866. [Courtesy of Library of Congress](#)

## Interview with Cane Cook, a Former African-American Sharecropper, with Reverend H.W. Pierson, 1870

services, and participated in the first public honors that were ever rendered to the 12,716 " brave boys " who sleep there, by decorating the cemetery with processions, prayer, and solemn hymns to God, as described in Appendix A.

My time and labors were mainly given to the Freedmen. In addition to the usual Sabbath services I visited them in their cabins around the stockades, and in the vicinity of the cemetery, reading the Bible to them, and talking and praying with them. It was in the prosecution of these labors that I saw and heard more of sufferings and horrible outrages inflicted upon the Freedmen than I saw and heard of as inflicted upon slaves in any five years of constant horseback travel in the South before the war, when I visited thousands of plantations as agent of the American Tract Society, the American Bible Society, and as President of Cumberland College, Princeton, Kentucky. As illustrations of the sufferings of those oppressed, outraged people, and of their utter helplessness and want of protection from the State or Federal courts, I give a few of the " statements " that I wrote down from their own lips. I know these men, and have entire confidence in their " statements."

### STATEMENT OF CANE COOK.

Cane Cook now lives near Americus, Sumter County, Georgia. I heard through the colored people of the inhuman outrages committed upon him, and went west to him to come to me if possible that I might get a statement of the facts from his own lips. With the greatest difficulty he got into the cars at Americus, and came here to-day. He says:

" I worked for Robert Hodges, last year, who lives about two and-a-half miles from Andersonville, Georgia. I had my own stock, and rented land from him, agreeing to give him one-third of the corn, and one-fourth of the cotton for rent. We divided the corn by the wagon load, and had no trouble about that. I made three bags of cotton, weighing 506, 511, and 479 pounds when it was packed. Mr. Hodges weighed it again, and I don't know what he has got it down, but that was the right weight; one-fourth was his and three-fourths mine. He told me he would buy my cotton and pay me the market price, which was twenty-one cents that day, and I told him he might have

Courtesy of Library of Congress, Pierson, H.W., "A Letter to Hon. Charles Sumner, with 'Statements' of Outrages Upon Freedmen in Georgia, and an Account of my Expulsion from Andersonville, GA. by the Ku-Klux Klan," pp. 4-6, 1870

## Description

In 1870, Reverend H.W. Pierson authored "A Letter to Hon. Charles Sumner, with 'Statements' of Outrages Upon Freedmen in Georgia, and an Account of my Expulsion from Andersonville, GA. by the Ku-Klux Klan." While serving as a pastor and teacher in Georgia, he collected interviews from freedmen and documented the violence and discrimination they faced. This particular account is from the perspective of Cane Cook, a middle-aged, African-American man who was a former sharecropper. Cook recalls his arrangement with Robert Hodges, a white man who he rented land from and gave a percentage of his crops to. The recollection of Hodges turns brutal during a minor disagreement about a charge of syrup. In a rage, Hodges strikes Cook on the back of the head, and Cook loses all control of his body, making him a quadriplegic. Hodges is never charged with the crime and Cook doesn't sue Hodges because "I have not gone before any of the courts I have no money to pay a lawyer, and I know it would do no good." This statement from Cook shows the violent and oppressive abuses facing African-American sharecroppers by their white employers, many of whom were former slave owners.

## [Transcript of "Statement of Cane Cook"](#)

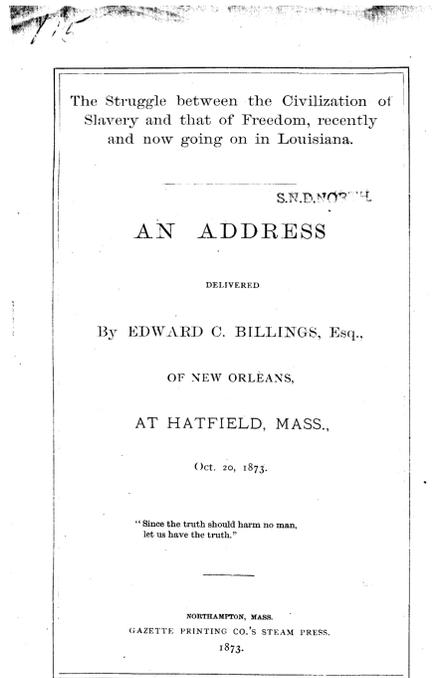
## Text-Dependent Questions

- Sharecropping was very common for freemen in the South during Reconstruction. Using Cane Cook's arrangement with Robert Hodges, explain how sharecropping worked.
- What were the disadvantages of sharecropping for freemen like Cook?
- This incident occurred after the Civil Rights Act of 1866, which granted African-American citizens the right to sue in the court of law. Why then might Cook have believed "it would do no good" to attempt to sue Hodges? What does this suggest about the relationship between state and federal government?

## Citation Information

Pierson, H.W., "A Letter to Hon. Charles Sumner, with 'Statements' of Outrages Upon Freedmen in Georgia, and an Account of my Expulsion from Andersonville, GA. by the Ku-Klux Klan," pp. 4-6, 1870. [Courtesy of Library of Congress](#)

## “The Struggle between the Civilization of Slavery and that of Freedom” by Edward C. Billings, October 20, 1873



Courtesy of Library of Congress, Billings, Edward C., "The Struggle between the Civilization of Slavery and That of Freedom..." pp. 16-18, 20 October 1873

### Description

On October 23, 1873, Edward C. Billings, a northern lawyer who moved to New Orleans in 1865, delivered an address in Hatfield, Massachusetts, to discuss the current state of Louisiana and the challenges faced by the recently-freed enslaved population.

### [Transcript of "The Struggle between the Civilization of Slavery and that of Freedom"](#)

### Text-Dependent Questions

- According to Edward C. Billings, what were the root causes of the violence that plagued Louisiana?
- Billings recounted several instances of African Americans and whites being attacked and killed. What types of activities were they taking part in before the attacks?
- What three groups did Billings stress needed to take action to protect African Americans in his state? Why was he so dependent on these groups?

### Citation Information

Billings, Edward C., "The Struggle between the Civilization of Slavery and That of Freedom, Recently and Now Going on in Louisiana. An Address Delivered by Edward C. Billings, Esq., of New Orleans, at Hatfield, Mass.," pp. 16-18, 20 October 1873. [Courtesy of Library of Congress](#)

## “The Union as It Was,” 1874



Courtesy of Library of Congress, Nast, Thomas, “The Union as it was, The lost cause, worse than slavery,” 1874

### Description

In his 1874 cartoon titled, “The Union as It Was,” Thomas Nast depicts a member of the Ku Klux Klan and a member of the White League shaking hands atop a skull and crossbones that rests above an African-American woman and man huddled over their dead child as a school house burns and an African American is lynched in the background.

### [Transcript of “The Union as It Was” Political Cartoon](#)

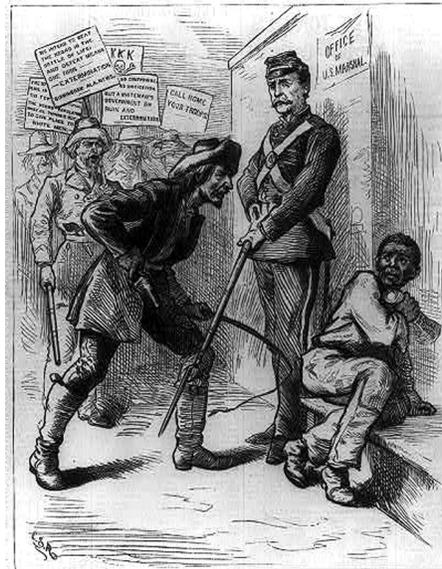
### Text-Dependent Questions

- By 1874, three amendments had been added to the U.S. Constitution and Congress had passed numerous Reconstruction and civil rights acts for the benefit of former slaves. Use evidence from the cartoon to explain the artist’s evaluation of those laws.
- Using your knowledge of Reconstruction and the evidence contained within this primary source and others you have interpreted, do you agree with the artist that life during Reconstruction is worse than slavery for African Americans in the South?

### Citation Information

Nast, Thomas, “The Union as it was, The lost cause, worse than slavery,” 1874. [Courtesy of Library of Congress](#)

## “Shall We Call Home Our Troops? We Intend to Beat the Negro in the Battle of Life & Defeat Means One Thing — Extermination,” 1875



“SHALL WE CALL HOME OUR TROOPS?  
“We intend to beat the Negro in the battle of life, and defeat means one thing—EXTERMINATION!”—Birmingham (Alabama) News.

Courtesy of Library of Congress, “Shall we call home our troops? We intend to beat the negro in the battle of life & defeat means one thing — Extermination,” 1875

### Description

In this 1875 image published in the *Birmingham (Alabama) News* and titled, “Shall we call home our troops? We intend to beat the negro in the battle of life & defeat means one thing--EXTERMINATION,” a group of five Southern white men is shouting at and intimidating an African-American man who cowers behind a United States soldier. The soldier is calmly standing between the mob and African American with his gun and bayonet pointed toward the ground.

### [Transcript of “Shall We Call Home Our Troops?” Political Cartoon](#)

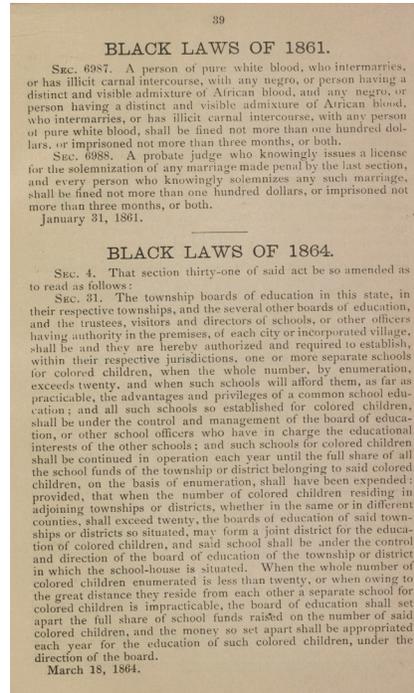
### Text-Dependent Questions

- Whose perspective was this cartoon drawn from? What evidence leads you to believe this?
- Use evidence from the cartoon to explain the role played by the federal government in the South during Reconstruction.
- According to the artist, what was the threat to African Americans if federal troops were removed from the South?

### Citation Information

“Shall we call home our troops? We intend to beat the negro in the battle of life & defeat means one thing — Extermination,” *Birmingham (Alabama) News*, 1875. [Courtesy of Library of Congress](#)

## “Black Laws” of 1861, 1864 and 1878, March 10, 1886



Courtesy of Library of Congress, “The black laws: speech of Hon. B.W. Arnett of Greene County, and Hon. J.A. Brown of Cuyahoga County, in the Ohio House of Representatives, March 10, 1886,” 10 March 1886

### Description

In the Ohio House of Representatives on March 10, 1886, B.W. Arnett of Greene County and J.A. Brown of Cuyahoga County delivered a speech in support of a bill calling for the repeal of the remainder of Ohio’s “black laws.” Such laws began in Ohio in 1804, but most were repealed in 1849. Shortly after though, more “black laws” were added. By a vote of 62-28 (with 12 representatives absent and one abstaining), Greene and Brown were successful in their effort. The document shows three of the “black laws” that were enacted in 1861, 1864 and 1878.

### [Transcript of “Black Laws” of 1861, 1864 and 1878](#)

### Text-Dependent Questions

- Summarize each of the three “black laws” of Ohio between 1861 and 1878.
- In general, what effect did “black laws” intend to have on society?
- As a member of the Union during the Civil War, the state of Ohio helped end the institution of slavery. What do these laws, all passed during or after the Civil War, tell us about American society at the time?

### Citation Information

“The black laws: speech of Hon. B.W. Arnett of Greene County, and Hon. J.A. Brown of Cuyahoga County, in the Ohio House of Representatives, March 10, 1886,” 10 March 1886. [Courtesy of Library of Congress](#)

## “Letter of Daniel R. Goodloe, to Hon. Charles Sumner, on the Situation of Affairs in North Carolina,” May 7, 1868

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therefore null and void. The new Constitution is now ratified, and will become the fundamental law of the land, whenever Congress shall signify its acceptance. Under its provisions, the whole people will have the inalienable right to vote, and I am unwilling to believe that Congress will sanction the unconstitutional and fraudulent scheme of a portion of the people, to usurp to themselves the entire control of affairs, to the exclusion of thousands of the most intelligent and respectable of their fellow-citizens.

**NORTHERN SENTIMENT.**

Having disposed of this question of usurpation, on the part of the majority of the late Convention, as it respects Constitutional power, I now propose to review the situation of affairs from other aspects, in order that you may have the whole case before you. In doing so, I wish to direct your attention, to the state of public opinion which prevailed at the close of the war, on the vexed question of conferring political franchises upon the colored population. I do not wish to say, the unpropitious friends of universal suffrage, without regard to race, color, or former condition. But I wish to say that you had few opponents, even among Republicans. The great and good Mr. Lincoln, not long before his death, had signified his willingness to extend a qualified educational suffrage to the black people, and perhaps, with the ownership of property; and there were not many members of either house of Congress who were willing to go beyond this point, by their votes, whenever some of them might think and say privately. They feared the revolution of public sentiment in those which have since developed itself in the elections in Connecticut, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Michigan, and perhaps in other States, which have rejected the proposition to give suffrage to negroes by decisive majorities. It is no less true that the Northern people are unfriendly to civil and political equality with black men, and the prejudice is by no means confined to copperheads and rebel sympathizers. Taking into view the difference in the numbers of the colored people in the two sections, I am inclined to the opinion that the prejudice against color is stronger in the Northern than the Southern States; and I cannot doubt, if the conditions were reversed—that the North contained the bulk of the black population—that we should see exhibitions of violent opposition to “negro equality,” corresponding to those which are witnessed here.

**THE ORIGINAL CONSTITUTION OF NORTH CAROLINA.**

In support of the remark that the prejudice against color is stronger in the Northern than the Southern States, I refer you to the fact that North Carolina, by her Constitution, framed in 1776, extended suffrage to the free people of color, at a time when the privilege was denied to them in New York, Pennsylvania and New Jersey; and I believe, in most, if not all of the New England States. Tennessee, the only State of North Carolina, received this principle of even-handed justice, to the free colored race, from the latter; and in both States the franchise was practically enjoyed by that unfortunate race, until about the years 1831 and 1835. The exclusion which was then enacted upon the amended State Constitutions, in violation of every legal and equitable principle, was one of the consequences of the great reaction which followed the Southampton Insurrection, of 1831. William Gaston and other members of the Convention of 1835 opposed the outrage which was done to the colored men, but to no purpose. The fears of some, and the prejudices and passions of others, conspired to react the great injustice into the form of fundamental law; and thus, after enjoying for sixty years a Constitution as free as that of Massachusetts to-day—which there was no other under which slavery in any of its forms could hide itself—North Carolina relapsed into the narrow and immoral policy which prevailed in Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and other States North and South of her.

If we consider the large number of negro slaves which the State contained in 1776, the liberality which was manifested towards the free blacks, is as surprising as it is honorable to the great and patriotic men who framed the Constitution. You will observe that the instrument is a solemn memorial of the great-esteemed patriotism and love of freedom which prevailed in North Carolina; and that it shows per capita more her above those of the Northern States of that day. North Carolina was liberal and

Courtesy of Library of Congress, Goodloe, Daniel R., “Letter of Daniel R. Goodloe, to Hon. Charles Sumner, on the Situation of Affairs in North Carolina,” pp. 8, 10, 7 May 1868

### Description

In his May 7, 1868, letter to Massachusetts Senator Charles Sumner, Daniel R. Goodloe of North Carolina expressed his belief that on the whole, northerners were just as opposed to political and social equality for African Americans as southerners as evidenced by the number of northern states that voted against enfranchising African Americans after the Civil War. Goodloe also shared his views on the problems that emerged with the enfranchisement of African Americans in North Carolina and the rest of the South during Reconstruction, including African Americans voting for candidates with no political experience, undesirable characters and criminal backgrounds.

### [Full Transcript of Daniel R. Goodloe's Letter to Hon. Charles Sumner](#)

### [Transcribed Excerpts from Daniel R. Goodloe's Letter to Hon. Charles Sumner](#)

### Text-Dependent Questions

- What can be inferred about political power in some northern states from Daniel R. Goodloe's letter to Massachusetts Senator Charles Sumner? Explain your reasoning.
- Why did Goodloe believe the North was more prejudiced than the South towards African Americans?
- Select one passage that best summarizes the “Northern Sentiment” excerpt of Goodloe's letter. Provide an explanation for your selection.
- Did the right to vote as guaranteed by the Reconstruction Act of 1867 help or hurt African Americans in North Carolina? Provide evidence from Goodloe's letter to support your decision.

### Citation Information

Goodloe, Daniel R., “Letter of Daniel R. Goodloe, to Hon. Charles Sumner, on the Situation of Affairs in North Carolina,” pp. 8, 10, 7 May 1868. [Courtesy of Library of Congress](#)

## George Smith's Statement on the Ku Klux Klan in an Interview with Reverend H.W. Pierson, 1870

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engaged in these outrages, has ever been arrested or punished in any way, and no one of these freedmen has ever had any redress for his sufferings and losses. I will make oath to these statements."  
ANDERSONVILLE, GA., Feb. 12, 1869.

### STATEMENT OF GEORGE SMITH.

George Smith now resides five miles from Ellaville, in Schley county, Georgia. He says:

"Before the election of Grant, large bodies of men were riding about the country in the night for more than a month. They and their horses were covered with large white sheets, so that you could not tell them or their horses. They gave out word that they would whip every Radical in the country that intended to vote for Grant, and did whip all they could get hold of. They sent word to me that I was one of the leaders of the Grant club, and they would whip me. I saw them pass my house one night, and I should think there were thirty or forty of them. They looked in the night like Jersey wagons. I supposed they were after me, and I took my blanket and gun and ran to the woods and lay out all night, and a good many other nights. Nearly all the Radicals in the neighborhood lay in the woods every night for two weeks before election. The Ku Klux would go to the houses of all that belonged to the Grant club, call them to the door, throw a blanket over them and carry them off and whip them, and try and make them promise to vote for Seymour and Blair. The night I saw them they went to the house of Mr. Henry Davis and ordered him out. He refused to come out and they tore down both of his doors. He fired at them and escaped. I heard a good many shots fired at him. He lay out about a week in the woods, and then slipped back in the night and got his family and moved off. He had bought a place and paid \$250 on it; but he could not get a deed, and he has gone off and left it. They then went to the house of Tom Pitman and Jonas Swanson, called them to the door, threw blankets over their heads, carried them off and whipped them tremendously. They told them that they were damned Radicals and leaders of the Grant club, and that they would whip every one that voted for Grant, and would not give any work to any but Democrats.

Bob Wiggins, a preacher, was whipped all most to death because they said he was preaching Radical doctrines to the col-

Courtesy of Library of Congress, Pierson, H.W., "Lawlessness in Georgia. A Letter to Hon. Charles Sumner, with 'Statements' of Outrages upon Freedmen in Georgia, and an Account of My Expulsion from Andersonville, Ga., by the Ku-Klux Klan," pp. 8-9, 1870

### Description

In 1870, Reverend H.W. Pierson authored "A Letter to Hon. Charles Sumner, with 'Statements' of Outrages Upon Freedmen in Georgia, and an Account of my Expulsion from Andersonville, GA. by the Ku-Klux Klan." While serving as a pastor and teacher in Georgia, he collected interviews from freedmen and documented the violence and discrimination they faced. This particular account from George Smith speaks to the terror instilled by the Ku Klux Klan in the South as a means to assert power to oppress and brutalize people of color and white people who were willing to stick up for African Americans in their community.

### [Transcript of George Smith's Statement on the Ku Klux Klan](#)

### Text-Dependent Questions

- Based on George Smith's account, what was one of the main purposes of the Ku Klux Klan during Reconstruction? Use evidence from the text to support your position.
- Use evidence from Smith's account to explain the effectiveness of the Ku Klux Klan.

### Citation Information

Pierson, H.W., "Lawlessness in Georgia. A Letter to Hon. Charles Sumner, with 'Statements' of Outrages upon Freedmen in Georgia, and an Account of My Expulsion from Andersonville, Ga., by the Ku-Klux Klan," pp. 8-9, 1870.  
[Courtesy of Library of Congress](#)

## Secretary of State Hamilton Fish's Certification of the 15th Amendment's Ratification, March 30, 1870

APPENDIX. 1181

And whereas, due inquiry having been made and satisfactory answers having been received that similar provisions are in force in France, Prussia, and the other States of the North German Union and Italy.

Now, therefore, be it known that I, ULYSSES S. GRANT, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim the same accordingly.

Done at the city of Washington, this 14th day of February, in the year [1870] of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and seventy, and of the Independence of the United States of America the ninetieth.

U. S. GRANT.

By the President:  
HAMILTON FISH, Secretary of State.

—

No. 10.

HAMILTON FISH,  
SECRETARY OF STATE OF THE UNITED STATES. March 30, 1870.

*To all to whom these presents may come, greeting:*

Know ye, that the Congress of the United States, on or about the twenty-seventh day of February, in the year one thousand eight hundred and sixty-nine, passed a resolution in the words and figures following, to wit:

Pub. Res. No. 15, Vol. xv, p. 846.

*"A Resolution proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of the United States.*

*Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled (two-thirds of both Houses concurring): That the following article be proposed to the legislatures of the several States as an amendment to the Constitution of the United States, which, when ratified by three-fourths of said legislatures, shall be valid as part of the Constitution, namely:*

ARTICLE XV.

SECTION 1. 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.

SECTION 2. The Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.

And, further, that it appears from official documents on file in this Department that the amendment to the Constitution of the United States, proposed as aforesaid, has been ratified by the legislatures of the States of North Carolina, West Virginia, Massachusetts, Wisconsin, Maine, Louisiana, Michigan, South Carolina, Pennsylvania, Arkansas, Connecticut, Florida, Illinois, Indiana, New York, New Hampshire, Nevada, Vermont, Virginia, Alabama, Missouri, Mississippi, Ohio, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Rhode Island, Nebraska, and Texas, in all twenty-nine States.

And, further, that the States whose legislatures have so ratified the said proposed amendment constitute three-fourths of the whole number of States in the United States.

And, further, that it appears from an official document on file in this Department that the legislature of the State of New York has since passed resolutions claiming to withdraw the said ratification of the said amendment which has been made by the legislature of that State, and of which official notice had been filed in this Department.

And, further, that it appears from an official document on file in this Department that the legislature of Georgia has by resolution ratified the said proposed amendment.

Now, therefore, be it known that I, HAMILTON FISH, Secretary of State of the United States, by virtue and in pursuance of the second section of the act of Congress approved the twentieth day of April, in the year eighteen hundred and eighteen, entitled "An act to provide for the publication of the laws of the

Fifteenth amendment to the Constitution ratified by twenty-nine States.

New York withdrawal.

Georgia ratification.

Amendment document filed 1870, ch. 86, § 1. Vol. 11, p. 418.

Courtesy of Library of Congress, Fish, Hamilton, "A Century of Lawmaking for a New Nation: U.S. Congressional Documents and Debates, 1774 - 1875," pp. 1131-1132, 30 March 1870

### Description

On March 30, 1870, United States Secretary of State Hamilton Fish officially certified the 15th Amendment after its approval by two-thirds of both chambers of Congress and ratification by three-fourths of the state legislatures. The ratification of this amendment meant that no American could be denied the right to vote, based on race, color or being a former slave — although women didn't receive the right to vote for another 50 years. It not only finally gave African Americans the right to vote, but also allowed the most African Americans in history to be elected into public office.

### [Transcript of Hamilton Fish's Certification of 15th Amendment's Ratification](#)

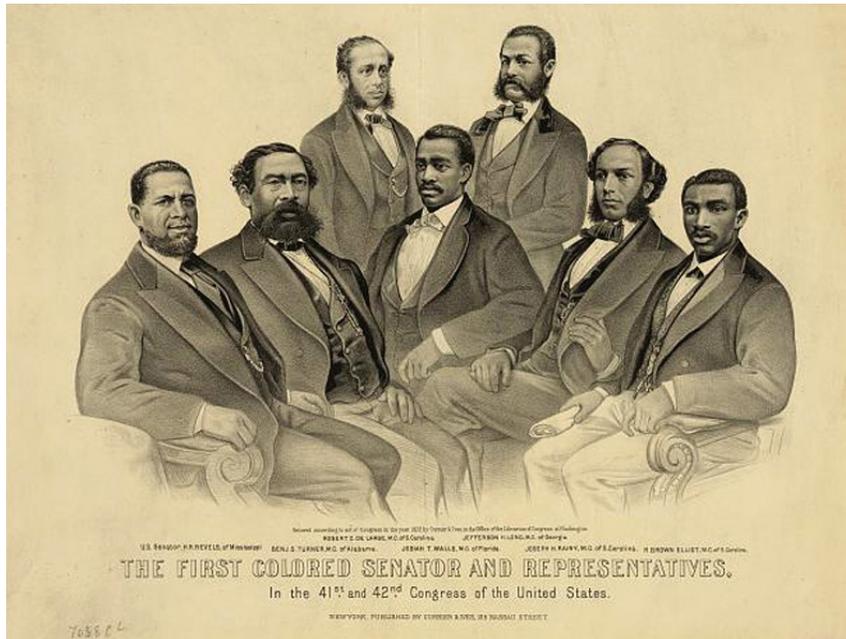
### Text-Dependent Questions

- What was the intent of the 15th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution?
- Which segment of the population did the 15th Amendment not include?
- Based on your interpretation of previous primary sources from the Reconstruction Era, how could a state government have circumvented the 15th Amendment?

### Citation Information

Fish, Hamilton, "A Century of Lawmaking for a New Nation: U.S. Congressional Documents and Debates, 1774 - 1875," pp. 1131-1132, 30 March 1870. [Courtesy of Library of Congress](#)

## “The First Colored Senator and Representatives in the 41st and 42nd Congress of the United States,” 1872



Courtesy of Library of Congress, Currier & Ives, “The first colored senator and representatives - in the 41st and 42nd Congress of the United States,” 1872

### Description

This 1872 portrait print published in New York by Currier and Ives depicts a group portrait of the first African-American legislators in the history of the United States Congress: Representative Robert C. De Large of South Carolina, Representative Jefferson H. Long of Georgia, Senator H.R. Revels of Mississippi, Representative Benj. S. Turner of Alabama, Representative Josiah T. Walls of Florida, Representative Joseph H. Rainy of South Carolina and Representative R. Brown Elliot of South Carolina.

### [Transcript of the “The First Colored Senator and Representatives in the 41st and 42nd Congress of the United States”](#)

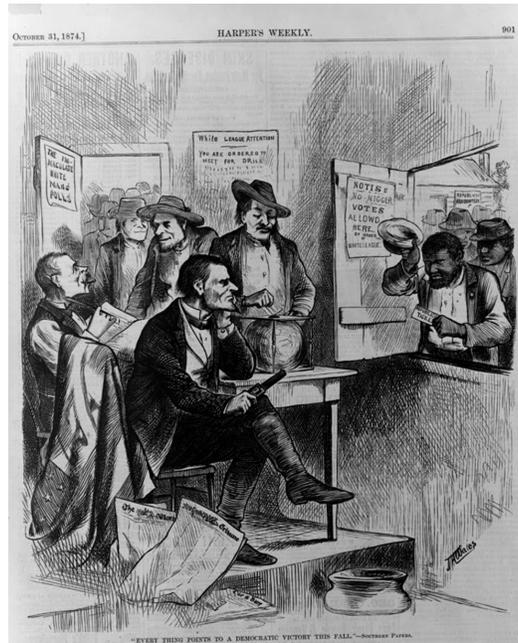
### Text-Dependent Questions

- What amendment to the U.S. Constitution made this scene possible?
- How does this portrait contrast with the concerns expressed by [Daniel R. Goodloe in his 1868 letter](#) to Massachusetts Senator Charles Sumner?

### Citation Information

Currier & Ives, “The first colored senator and representatives - in the 41st and 42nd Congress of the United States,” 1872. [Courtesy of Library of Congress](#)

## “Everything Points to a Democratic Victory This Fall,” October 31, 1874



Courtesy of Library of Congress, Wales, James A., “Everything points to a Democratic victory this fall - Southern Papers,” Harper’s Weekly, 1874

### Description

This October 31, 1874, image drawn by James Albert Wales for Harper’s Weekly depicts African Americans being discriminated against at the polls by the White League in their effort to vote for Republican Party candidates. A line of African-American voters stand outside the polling place while a line of white voters cast their ballots for Democrats with the assistance of armed White League members.

### [Transcript of “Everything Points to a Democratic Victory This Fall”](#)

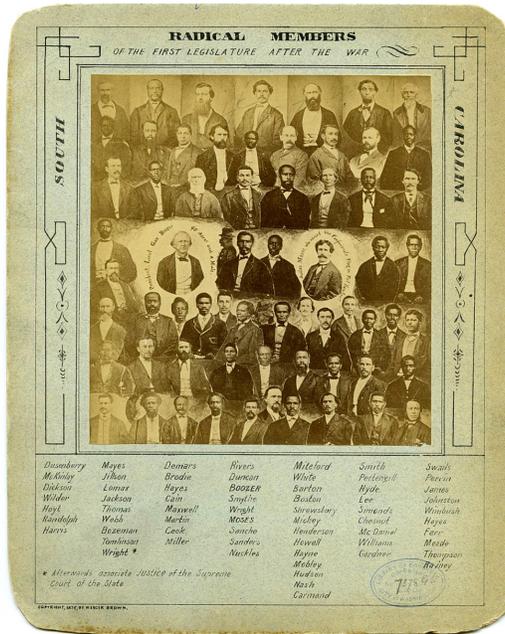
### Text-Dependent Questions

- According to the artist, was the [15th Amendment](#) being adhered to? Use text from the amendment and evidence from the image to defend your position.
- How might activities such as these have impacted the lives of African Americans in the South?

### Citation Information

Wales, James A., “Everything points to a Democratic victory this fall - Southern Papers,” *Harper’s Weekly*, 1874.  
[Courtesy of Library of Congress](#)

## “Radical Members of the First Legislature After the War, South Carolina,” 1876



Courtesy of Library of Congress, “Radical Members of the First Legislature After the War, South Carolina,” 1876

### Description

This 1876 photo montage depicts the first South Carolina legislature after the 1867 Reconstruction Acts. Names of each of the 65 members is listed below the photo montage. This legislature became the first in American history with an African-American majority.

### [Transcript of the “Radical Members” Montage](#)

### Text-Dependent Questions

- What was unique about South Carolina’s state legislature that would not have been possible prior to the Civil War and Reconstruction Act of 1867?
- Why would this state legislature be worth creating a photo montage of eight years after its beginning?
- How might the fact that the South Carolina state legislature was made up of a majority of African Americans have impacted state laws and public policy?

### Citation Information

“Radical Members of the First Legislature After the War, South Carolina,” 1876. [Courtesy of Library of Congress](#)