

# Handouts 2.1 - 2.4: Rounds 1 & 2 Data Sheets

## Reconstruction was a Success 2.1 Round One

- **The 13th Amendment ended the practice of slavery in the United States.**

The 13th Amendment was ratified in 1865. It said that there would no longer be any kind of slavery in the United States or its territories. The only exception would be if it were a punishment for a man convicted of a crime.

*“Passed by Congress on January 31, 1865, and ratified on December 6, 1865, the 13th amendment abolished slavery in the United States and provides that ‘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.’”* (<http://www.loc.gov/rr/program/bib/ourdocs/13thamendment.html>)

- **The 14th Amendment granted due process and equal protection under the law to all U.S. citizens.**

The 14th Amendment was ratified in 1868. It said that anyone born in the United States or who was naturalized (foreign born people given citizenship) was granted full citizenship. All citizens, including former slaves, could not be denied life, liberty or property by any state. In every state they had a right to equal protection under the laws.

*“The 14th Amendment to the Constitution was ratified on July 9, 1868, and granted citizenship to ‘all persons born or naturalized in the United States,’ which included former slaves recently freed. In addition, it forbids states from denying any person ‘life, liberty or property, without due process of law’ or to ‘deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws.’ By directly mentioning the role of the states, the 14th Amendment greatly expanded the protection of civil rights to all Americans and is cited in more litigation than any other amendment.”* (<http://www.loc.gov/rr/program/bib/ourdocs/14thamendment.html>)

- **The 15th Amendment granted the right to vote to African American males.**

The 15th Amendment said that no citizens of the United States could be denied the right to vote in any state because of their race, color, or former status as a slave.

*“The 15th Amendment to the Constitution granted African American men the right to vote by declaring that 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.’”* (<http://www.loc.gov/rr/program/bib/ourdocs/15thamendment.html>)

- **The Civil Rights Act of 1866 made it illegal to discriminate in housing and hiring for jobs based on race. This extended to African- Americans, Jews, and Arabs who were previously considered separate races.**

This act did three things for African Americans as well as Jews and Arabs:

1. It said that everyone born in the United States is a citizen.
2. It said what citizens have a right to do, including the right to make a contract, to sue, and to purchase and inherit property and do with it what they wanted. These citizens had the same rights as white citizens.
3. The act said it was unlawful to deny any of these rights of citizenship because of one's race, color, or former status as a slave.

*“The act accomplished three primary objectives designed to integrate blacks into mainstream American society. First, the act proclaimed ‘that all persons born in the United States ... are hereby declared to be citizens of the United States.’ Second, the act specifically defines the rights of American citizenship:*

*Such citizens, of every race and color, and without regard to any previous condition of slavery or involuntary servitude, ... shall have the same right in every state and territory in the United States, to make and enforce contracts, to sue, be parties, and give evidence, to inherit, purchase, lease, sell, hold, and convey real and personal property, and to full and equal benefit of all laws and proceedings for the security of person and property, as is enjoyed by white citizens...*

*Third, the act made it unlawful to deprive a person of any of these rights of citizenship on the basis of race, color, or prior condition of slavery or involuntary servitude.” --Civil Rights Act of 1866. Major Acts of Congress. Ed. Brian K. Landsberg, Macmillan-Thomson Gale, 2004. eNotes.com. 2006. 22 Jul, 2010 (<http://www.enotes.com/major-acts-congress/civil-rights-act>)*

## Reconstruction was a Success

### 2.3 Round Two

- **The Civil Rights Act of 1866 made it illegal to discriminate in housing and hiring for jobs based on race. This extended to African-Americans, Jews, and Arabs who were previously considered separate races.**

The act accomplished three primary objectives designed to integrate blacks into mainstream American society. First, the act proclaimed "that all persons born in the United States ... are hereby declared to be citizens of the United States." The act also outlined what citizens had a right to do, including owning property. Finally, the act made it illegal to deprive a person of any of these rights of citizenship on the basis of race, color, or prior condition of slavery or involuntary servitude.

- **The 13th Amendment ended the practice of slavery in the United States.**
- **The 14th Amendment granted due process and equal protection under the law to all U.S. citizens.**
- **The 15th Amendment granted the right to vote to African American males.**
- **African-American men could hold public office.**

Hiram Revels was the first black U.S. Senator to be elected. He took office in 1870.

Black-American Representatives and Senators by State and Territory, 1870-1880:

*Alabama-House:* Benjamin Sterling Turner (1871), James Thomas Rapier (1873), Jeremiah Haralson (1875)

*Florida-House:* Josiah Thomas Walls (1871)

*Georgia-House:* Jefferson Franklin Long (1871)

*Louisiana-House:* Charles Edmund Nash (1875)

*Mississippi-Senate:* Hiram Rhodes Revels (1870), Blanche Kelso Bruce (1875)

*North Carolina-House:* John Adams Hyman (1875)

*South Carolina-House:* Joseph Hayne Rainey (1870), Robert Brown Elliott (1871), Robert Carlos De Large (1871), Alonzo Jacob Ransier (1873), Richard Harvey Cain (1877)

(<http://baic.house.gov>)

- **The Civil Rights Act of 1875 guaranteed equal rights to African Americans in public accommodations (e.g., parks, theatres, public transportation) and jury duty.**
- **The Freedmen's Bureau was established on March 3, 1865 to provide housing, educational resources, food, and medical aid to refugees and to reunite family members.**

*“Within a year of black freedom, at least 8,000 former slaves were attending schools in Georgia; eight years later, black schools struggled to contain nearly 20,000 students.”* (<http://www.georgiaencyclopedia.org/nge/Article.jsp?id=h-634>)

## Reconstruction was a Failure

### 2.2 Round One

- **Hate groups like the Klu Klux Klan flourished, terrorizing the newly freed African-Americans.**

Freed slaves feared the terrible actions of a loosely organized group, the Ku Klux Klan (KKK). This group believed that whites were the superior race and that they must intimidate voters to keep political control in the South.

*“From 1868 through the early 1870s the Ku Klux Klan (KKK) functioned as a loosely organized group of political and social terrorists. The Klan’s goals included political defeat of the Republican Party and the maintenance of absolute white supremacy in response to newly gained civil and political rights by southern blacks after the Civil War (1861-65). Most Klan action was designed to intimidate black voters and white supporters of the Republican Party.”* (<http://www.georgiaencyclopedia.org/nge/Article.jsp?id=h-694>)

- **Newly freed African-Americans could not afford land of their own and were forced to work on farms owned by whites (sharecropping).**

African Americans who did not have money to buy their own land worked as sharecroppers. This means that they got a small share of the profits for working on white owners’ land. This was almost like slavery, since they did not gain property and worked for very little.

*“A practice that emerged following the emancipation of African-American slaves, sharecropping came to define the method of land lease that would eventually become a new form of slavery. Without land of their own, many blacks were drawn into schemes where they worked a portion of the land owned by whites for a share of the profit from the crops.”* (Trudier Harris, “Sharecropping” *The Oxford Companion to Women’s Writing in the United States*. Oxford University Press.)

*“Following his epic march through Georgia, Sherman confiscated approximately 400,000 acres of land, which he divided into 40 acre plots, along the Atlantic Coast. He proposed giving this land to the approximately 18,000 former slaves already living in the region so they could be economically independent landowners and farmers. However, following the death of Abraham Lincoln, southerner Andrew Johnson succeeded him as president and believed the South had suffered enough. As a result, a majority of blacks failed to acquire title to the lands they were working, and the dream of economic independence through landownership became an unfulfilled promise; a casualty of the new sympathies given to the former slave owners.”* ([Forty Acres and a Mule: The Failed Promise of Equality http://us-civil-war.suite101.com/article.cfm/forty\\_acres\\_and\\_a\\_mule#ixzz0uLASEToY](http://us-civil-war.suite101.com/article.cfm/forty_acres_and_a_mule#ixzz0uLASEToY))

- **Black Codes were passed in the South which limited the civil rights and civil liberties of African-Americans. They were often treated as second-class citizens.**

*“Black Codes left African Americans with little to no freedom at all. They were unable to even choose the type of work they wanted to do. This gave Southerners a way to continue to get laborers on their land since it was*

one of the approved occupations they could have. The State of South Carolina required a special license and certificate from a judge to pursue any other work other than that of domestic or agriculture work. Black Codes prohibited African Americans from raising their own crops. They were also unable to rent or lease land outside of town without permission.” ([http://africanhistory.suite101.com/article.cfm/the\\_history\\_of\\_the\\_black\\_codes\\_of\\_1865#ixzz0uLCnqURb](http://africanhistory.suite101.com/article.cfm/the_history_of_the_black_codes_of_1865#ixzz0uLCnqURb))

- **The 13th, 14th, and 15th Amendments were passed by Congress, but were ineffectively put into practice. It can be argued that they were not fully realized until the Civil Rights Movement 100 years later.**

“Southern reaction to Reconstruction was anything but cooperative. In North Carolina, the state legislature abolished all public schools to avoid having to educate black children. State legislatures passed laws limiting the types of employment blacks could pursue and enacted Black Codes that severely curtailed personal liberties, freedom of movement, and frequently reintroduced harsh criminal penalties formerly found in slave codes. The Thirteenth Amendment would open the door to the Fourteenth Amendment which attempted to strengthen Congressional authority over obdurate Southern states even more. Sadly, the full effect of the Civil War Amendments would not be felt until the Civil Rights Movement of the 20th Century.” (<http://www.suite101.com/content/the-thirteenth-amendment-to-the-constitution-a115830>)

- **Poll taxes were enacted and literacy tests were adopted by Southern governments which prevented many poor and undereducated freedmen from voting.**

“The poll tax was written into state constitutions after passage of the 15th Amendment to slow down the growth of African American political power. Targeted to disenfranchise black Americans, at a cost of approximately \$1.50, many poor white farmers and laborers were unable to pay poll taxes either. To make it even harder for those unable to pay to vote in the future, the poll tax was made cumulative. So that if a person failed to pay the tax in one year, it would be added to the tax the following year. It is not surprising that many chose not to vote at all.” (<http://archive.fairvote.org/?page=875>)

## Reconstruction was a Failure

### 2.4 Round Two

- **Although ratification of the 15th Amendment on February 3, 1870 guaranteed the voting rights of African American men, the promise of the 15th Amendment would not be fully realized for almost a century.**

Through the use of poll taxes, literacy tests and other means, Southern states were able to effectively disenfranchise African Americans. It would take the passage of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 before the majority of African Americans in the South were registered to vote. (<http://archive.fairvote.org/?page=875>)

- **Black Codes were passed in the South which limited the civil rights and civil liberties of African-Americans. They were often treated as second-class citizens.**

Black Codes left African Americans with little to no freedom at all.

- African Americans were forbidden from carrying firearms.
- They were unable to testify in court unless the matter pertained to other African Americans.
- Interracial marriages were not allowed.
- African Americans' movement was restricted. They could not travel without permission. ([http://africanhistory.suite101.com/article.cfm/the\\_history\\_of\\_the\\_black\\_codes\\_of\\_1865#ixzz0uLCnqURb](http://africanhistory.suite101.com/article.cfm/the_history_of_the_black_codes_of_1865#ixzz0uLCnqURb))

- **Hate groups like the Klu Klux Klan flourished, terrorizing the newly freed African-Americans.**

*“Most Klan action was designed to intimidate black voters and white supporters of the Republican Party. Increasingly during 1868 these actions became violent, ranging from whippings of black women perceived as insolent to the assassination of Republican leaders. Black churches and schools were burned, teachers were attacked, and freedpeople who refused to show proper deference were beaten and killed. Nearly 5,000 African Americans were lynched in the United States between 1860 and 1890.”* (<http://www.georgiaencyclopedia.org/nge/Article.jsp?id=h-694>)

- **Newly freed African-Americans could not afford land of their own and were forced to work on farms owned by whites (sharecropping).**

Despite General Sherman's promise of 40 acres and a mule for every freed slave, most African Americans received no property and were forced to sharecrop, or rent, plots of land on former plantations for little or no profit.

**Resources:**

- <http://baic.house.gov> : Black Americans in Congress, historical data, essays, educational resources, etc.
- <http://freedmensbureau.com/> : Freedmen's Bureau resources and data
- <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/reconstruction/sharecrop/index.html> : Great resource for Reconstruction info and primary sources
- <http://www.uic.edu/educ/bctpi/historyGIS/greatmigration/gmdocuments.html#Sharecrop> : Great Migration information
- <http://www.jimcrowhistory.org/> : Great resource on Jim Crow