

GRADE 5, UNIT 4

Slavery, the Legacy of the Civil War, and the Struggle for Civil Rights for All



CLASSROOM RESOURCES



Boston Black History Mural in Grove Hall

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“More Perfect Union”

The nation will make progress toward being a place where all states work together, and all people live together, in a way that upholds America’s declared values for all.

1861—Goal of the Rebel States

Protect the rights of enslavers to own African Americans as property by becoming an independent nation separate from the United States.

1861—Goal of the United States (the “Union” of States)

Bring the seceded states back into the Union
without taking away the rights of enslavers to own
African Americans as property.

1

“Ever since the beginning of the war, the slaves had heard that they might at some time be free. They seemed very happy. They were afraid to let the masters know that they ever thought of such a thing. They only spoke about freedom among themselves.”

— Louis Hughes (enslaved in Virginia, Mississippi, and Tennessee)

Text source: Adapted for the 5th grade reader from Louis Hughes, [Louis Hughes, Thirty Years a Slave: From Bondage to Freedom, 1897, excerpts](#) from Bondage to Freedom, 1897, excerpts via National Humanities Center



A PLANTATION "CORN-SHUCKING"—SOCIAL MEETING OF SLAVES

[Corn Shucking in Virginia](#), Image is in the public domain. Metadata is available under [CC BY-NC 4.0](#), via Slavery Images: A Visual Record of the African Slave Trade and Slave Life in the Early African Diaspora.

2



[The Cook](#) Image is in the public domain.
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Slavery Images: A Visual Record of the African
Slave Trade and Slave Life in the Early African
Diaspora.

“During the war, Aunt Kitty, the cook at Master Jack’s, used to sing a song about freedom:

‘There’ll be no more talk about Monday,
by and by, But every day will be Sunday,*
by and by.’

Aunt Kitty was singing it one day, and
[her enslaver] old lady McGee heard her.
Old Mrs. McGee broke in upon her [and
said]: ‘Don’t think you are going to be
free.’”

— Louis Hughes (enslaved in Virginia,
Mississippi, and Tennessee)

*Sunday is a religious day of rest for Christians.

Text source: [Louis Hughes, *Thirty Years a Slave: From Bondage to Freedom*, 1897, excerpts](#) via National Humanities Center

3



[Prayer Meeting in Georgia](#) Image is in the public domain.
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“Master George came in the house and told Miss Emmaline that there is going to be a bloody war. He said he feared that all the slaves would be taken away. From that minute I started praying for freedom. All the rest of the women did the same.”

— Dora Franks

(enslaved in Mississippi)

Text source: [Enslavement & Emancipation during the Civil War: WPA Interviews, National Humanities Center](#) (adapted for the 5th grade reader)

4



[Frederick Douglass](#) Public Domain, via Wikimedia Commons

“There is one easy, short and effective way to stop and end this awful war. Darkness must be met with light. War for the destruction of liberty must be met with war for the destruction of slavery.”

— Frederick Douglass

Text source: Frederick Douglass “[How to End the War](#),” May 1861”
(adapted for the 5th grade reader)

5

“We wish to God you would let us do something! We are ready. We would go. We would be happy to be permitted to serve and suffer for the cause of freedom. But you won't let us go. The colored citizens of Boston have offered their services to the Government and were refused.”
— Frederick Douglass

Text source: Frederick Douglass, , “[How to End the War](#), May 1861” (adapted for the 5th grade reader)



[Mustering Into Service](#) Image is in the public domain.
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A Greater Goal: African Americans, the Union, and the Civil War



[Fort Monroe Contraband Decision](#), Library of Congress



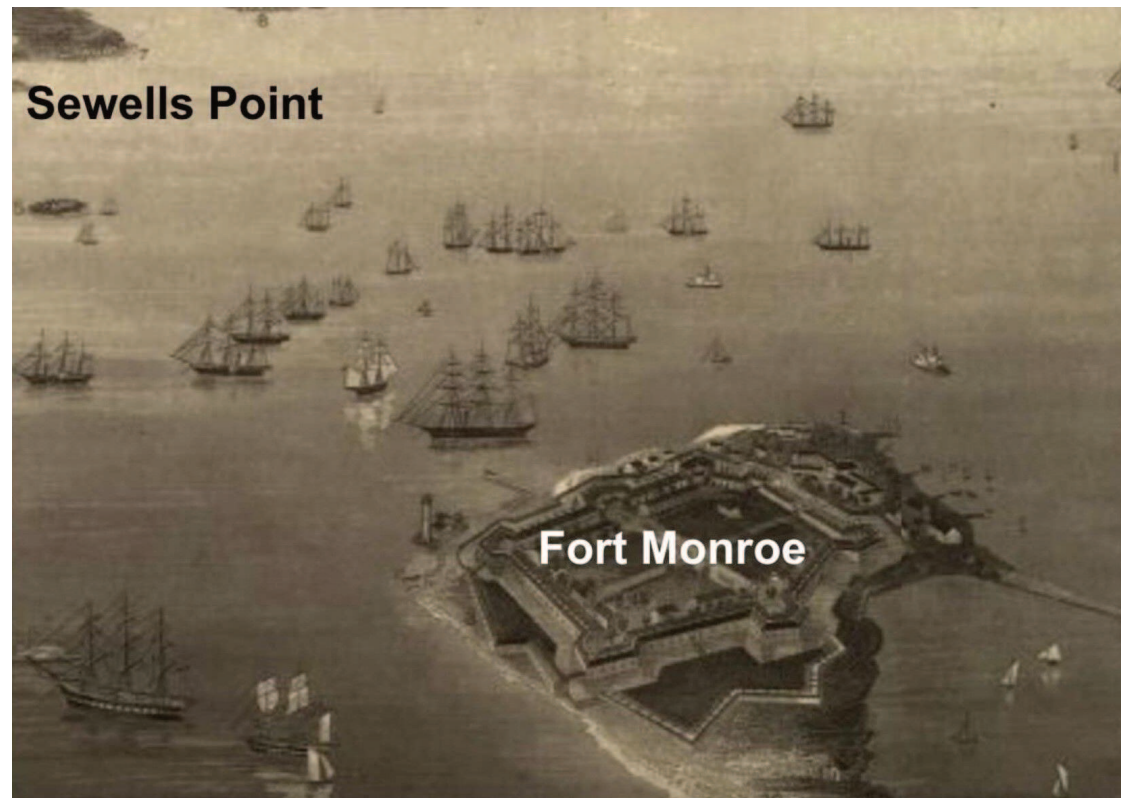
[54th Regiment Portrait](#) via Wikimedia

In May 1861, Charles Mallory, a colonel in the Confederate Army, brought three men he had enslaved to Sewells Point on the coast of Virginia. He brought them there to labor for the Confederate Army. The men were put to work building fortifications and ramps for cannons.



[Fortress Monroe](#) by Jacob Wells, Library of Congress (adapted) [Charles King Mallory – Encyclopedia Virginia](#)

The three men were named Shepard Mallory, Frank Baker, and James Townsend. They were determined to be free. They made a very dangerous and brave choice. On the night of May 23, 1861, they took a small rowboat and escaped across the James River to Fort Monroe. Fort Monroe was controlled by the Union.



[Fortress Monroe](#), by Jacob Wells, Library of Congress (adapted)

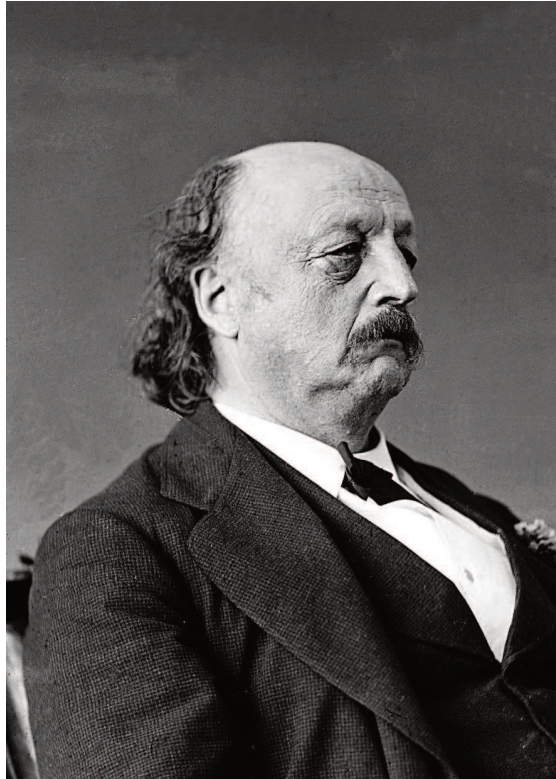
When the three men arrived at Fort Monroe, they asked the soldier on guard for protection. The soldier's name was John W. Phelps. Phelps was an abolitionist from Vermont. He was sympathetic to their situation and allowed them to enter the fort. The men were safe for the night!

Phelps told them that General Butler, the fort's commander, would decide if they would be allowed to stay or be returned to the Confederate Army in the morning.



[Union Soldier at Fort Monroe](#) Library of Congress

General Benjamin Butler was no abolitionist. He also understood Abraham Lincoln's war goal was to preserve the Union, not to end slavery. Butler knew that the military was supposed to return escaped enslaved people to the Confederacy.



[General Benjamin Butler](#) by Matthew Benjamin Brady, Public Domain

But General Butler decided NOT to return them to the Confederate Army. He declared that the three men were **contraband**! According to Butler, the Confederacy claimed that enslaved people were property. The Confederacy was using its so-called property to fight against the Union. As a result, he stated that the Union had every right to take Mallory, Baker, and Townsend as contraband of war! The three men were allowed to stay at Fort Monroe. They began to work for the Union.



[Fort Monroe Contraband Decision](#), Library of Congress

By June of 1851, more than 500 enslaved men, women, and children were living at Fort Monroe. Like Baker, Townsend, and Mallory, they had bravely escaped from the Confederacy. General Butler declared them all contraband of war. As a result, Fort Monroe became known as “Fort Freedom”!



[Fort Monroe Asylum Seekers, Library of Congress](#)

A month later, the first land battle of the Civil War took place at Bull Run in Virginia. The Confederacy cheered their victory, led by General Stonewall Jackson. The loss ended the Union's hope that the war would end quickly. In this one battle, almost 500 Union soldiers were killed, and 2,000 more were wounded or missing. If the Union was going to win the war, they would need many more soldiers and workers for the army!



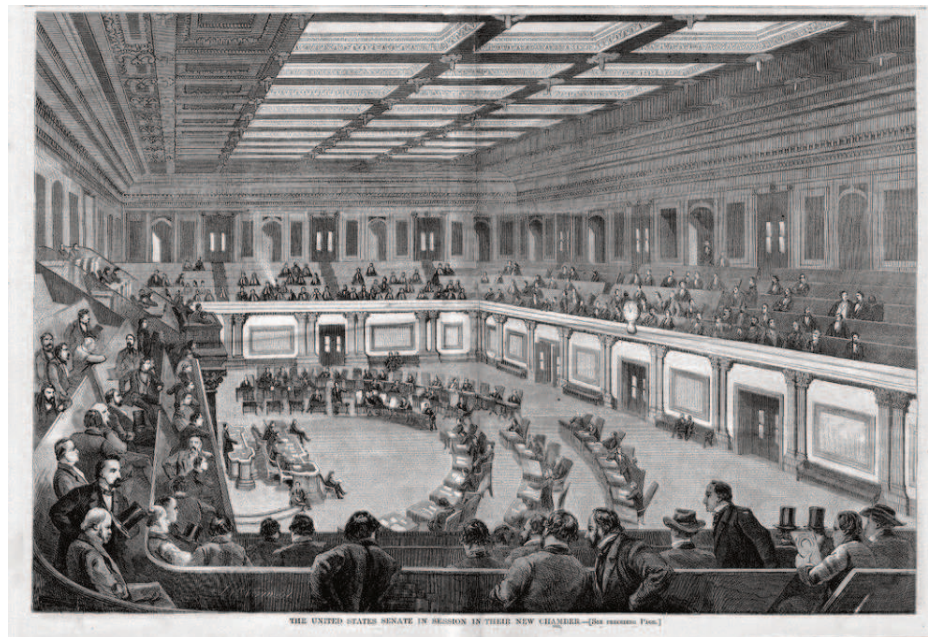
[Historical War Map](#) by Asher & Co, Library of Congress (adapted)



[Stonewall Jackson](#) by Nathaniel Routzahn, Public Domain

In August 1861, Congress passed a law. The law said that all enslaved people who were being forced to fight or work for the Confederate Army were released from their duties. The United States was saying that the Confederate States did not have the right to use the labor of the people they enslaved to fight against the Union.

This law was inspired by the brave actions of enslaved persons who escaped to Union lines. It was justified by Butler's contraband decision.



[The United States Senate](https://www.senate.gov), via Senate.gov

Word of the new law spread quickly. Thousands of enslaved persons fled to the protection of the Union. These men, women, and children were called “contrabands.”

Contrabands who worked for the Union's military were paid. Their families were provided with food and shelter. Men earned \$8 a month, and women earned \$4. But being contraband wasn't the same as being free. It still wasn't clear what would happen when the war was over. Lincoln's goal was still to save the Union, not to end slavery.

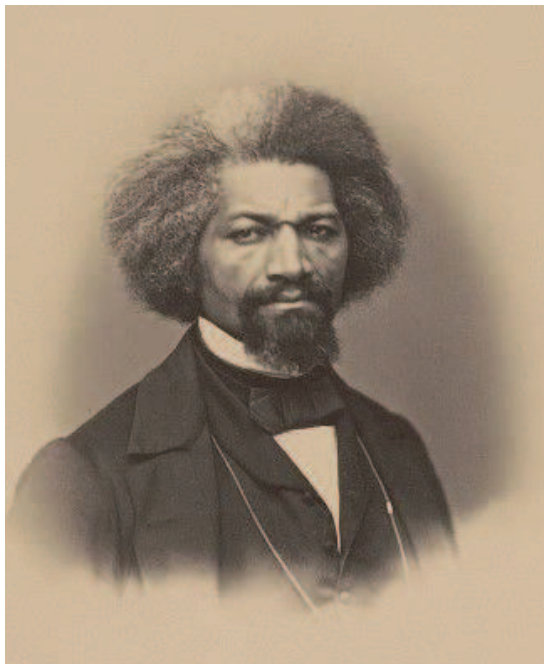


[Culpeper, Va “Contrabands”](#) by Timothy H. O’Sullivan, Library of Congress



[Cumberland Landing “Contrabands”](#) by James F. Gibson, Library of Congress

By January of 1862, more than 5,000 Union soldiers had been killed, injured, or captured by Confederates. The Union needed more soldiers! Abolitionists such as Harriet Tubman and Frederick Douglass tried to convince Lincoln to expand the Union's goals for the war. Tubman urged, "God won't let Lincoln beat the South until he does the right thing. He can do it by setting the Negroes free." Frederick Douglass wrote to Lincoln. He said that "This is no time to fight only with your white hand, and allow your black hand to remain tied."



[Frederick Douglass](#) by John White Hurn,
Library of Congress



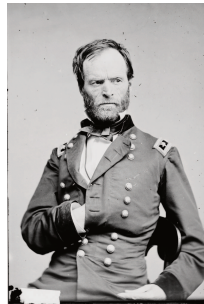
[Harriet Tubman](#) by Benjamin F. Powelson,
Library of Congress

But Abraham Lincoln continued to fight the war with one hand. He did not allow African Americans to fight for the Union. He was hopeful when the Union won an important battle at Shiloh in Tennessee in April of 1862 under the leadership of Generals Ulysses S. Grant and William Tecumseh Sherman. Yet this victory was not enough. A few months later, the Confederates, led by General Robert E. Lee, won the Second Battle at Bull Run and the Battle of Fredericksburg in Virginia. The need for Union soldiers was more important than ever: In just three battles, almost 5,000 Union soldiers had died!

Union

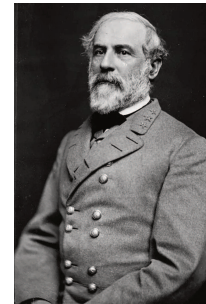


Ulysses S. Grant
by Matthew S.
Brady, Library of
Congress



William
Tecumseh
Sherman, by
Matthew S.
Brady, Library of
Congress

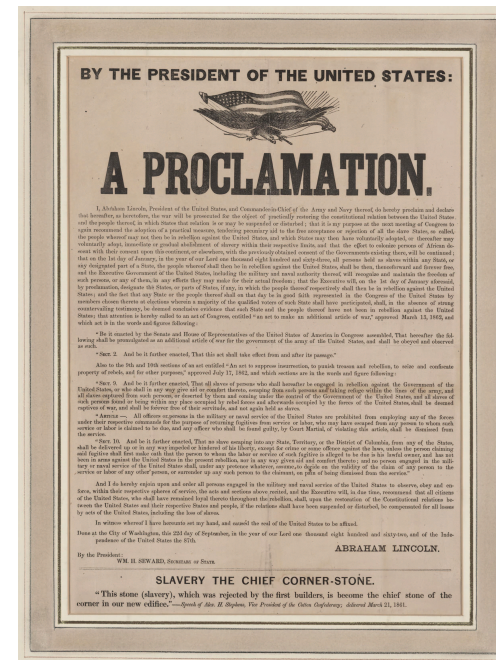
Confederate



Robert E. Lee by
Jules Vannerson,
Library of
Congress

Finally, on January 1, 1863, Lincoln expanded the Union's goal for the Civil War. He issued the Emancipation Proclamation. The word “emancipate” means to free someone from someone else’s control. The proclamation said that all enslaved persons who lived in the Confederate States were free, FOREVER! The proclamation also said that formerly enslaved men could serve in the Union Army. Finally, more soldiers!

“All persons held as slaves within any State or designated part of a State in rebellion against the United States, shall be thenceforward, and forever free.”



Emancipation Proclamation Library of Congress

Grade 5, Unit 4: Slavery, the Legacy of the Civil War, and the Struggle for Civil Rights for All

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After Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation, Frederick Douglass immediately began recruiting African Americans to fight for the nation. His two sons, Charles and Lewis, traveled to Massachusetts to join the 54th Regiment.



[54th Regiment Recruitment Poster Flyer](#),
Public Domain, via Wikimedia



[54th Regiment Portrait](#) via Wikimedia

African Americans who signed up to fight showed dedication to their country. These African Americans fought to end the Confederacy and bring seceded states back into the Union of States. They also fought to protect the freedom of their people forever! By the end of the war, 179,000 Black soldiers had volunteered and fought for the Union.



["Marching on!"-The Fifty-fifth Massachusetts Colored Regiment singing John Brown's March in the streets of Charleston, February 21, 1865:](#) Public domain. Metadata is available under [CC BY-NC 4.0](#) Public Domain, via Library of Congress

Through their actions and resistance, African Americans had helped to shift the Union's goals for the Civil War.



[Union Soldier with Family](#), courtesy of [Liljenquist Family Collection of Civil War Photographs](#), Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division

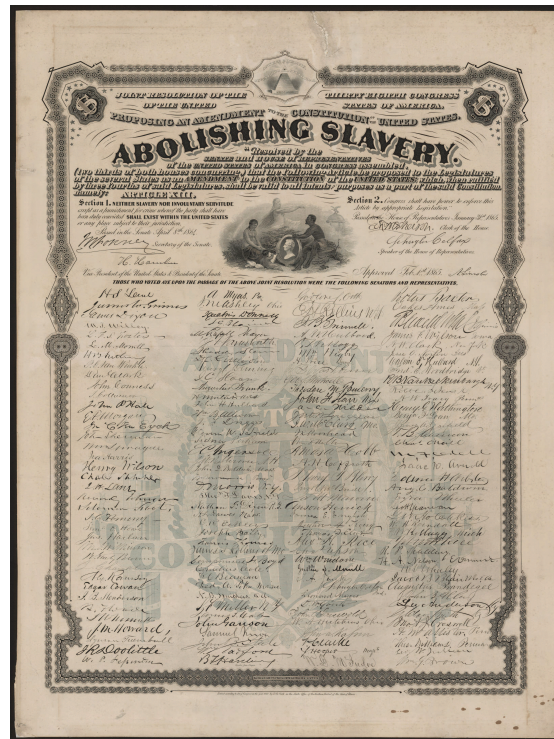
1861—Goal of Free and Enslaved African Americans

- . Freedom
- . End of slavery
- . Fight for the Union in the war

13th Amendment

In 1865, Congress (a branch of the federal government) passed the 13th Amendment to the Constitution. The amendment abolished slavery everywhere in the United States.

The 13th Amendment made it clear that African Americans could no longer be owned as property and forced to work for others without pay.



[Joint Resolution of 38th Congress of the United States](#) Library of Congress, Rare Book and Special Collections Division

14th Amendment

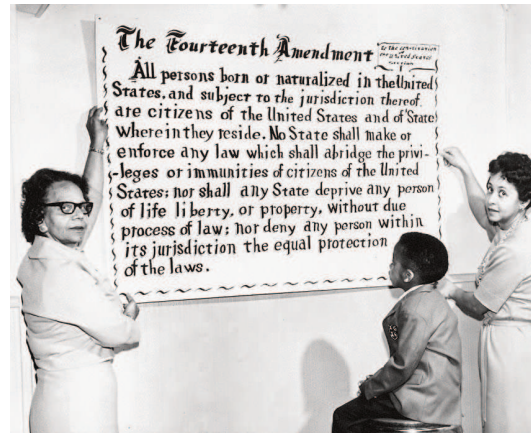
Congress (a branch of the federal government) passed the 14th Amendment in 1868. The 14th Amendment granted:

- All African Americans have the **right to citizenship** in the United States. This meant that formerly enslaved people were protected by the Constitution and the Bill of Rights.
- All citizens of the United States have the **right to due process under the law**. This means that a citizen's life, freedom, and property cannot be taken away without a legal reason.
- All citizens are governed by the **same set of laws**. There cannot be special laws for one race or group.

The 14th Amendment was passed to stop the Southern states from passing laws that discriminated against formerly enslaved people and limited their freedom. To **discriminate** means to treat a person or group unfairly or differently from other people or groups.



[Cartoon of the Civil Rights Bill](#) by Thomas Nast, Public Domain

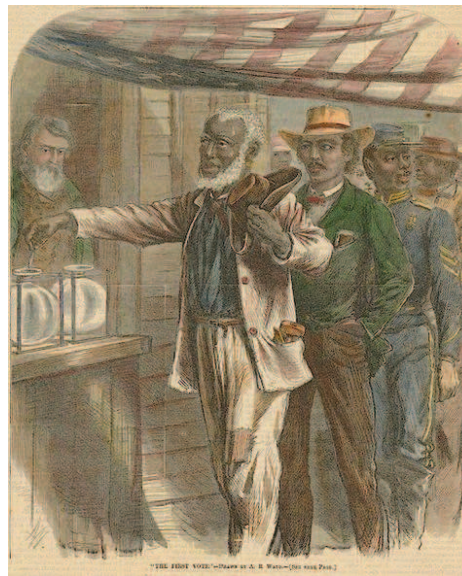


[Portland Chapter NAACP 50th Anniversary](#)

The 15th Amendment

Congress (a branch of the federal government) passed the 15th Amendment to the Constitution in 1870. It gave African American men the right to vote. It said that the right of a citizen to vote could not be limited because of race, color, or previous enslavement.

It did not give African American women the right to vote. No women were allowed to vote in the United States until the 19th Amendment was passed in 1919.



[The First Vote](#) by Alfred Waud, Public Domain, via Wikipedia

Freedmen's Bureau

The Freedmen's Bureau was established by the federal government. Its job was to help formerly enslaved people transition to their new lives as free people. It hired Black and White people to help with this work.



[Teaching The Freedmen - Education Outreach - Tennessee Virtual Archive](#)

The Freedmen's Bureau:

- Provided food and medical care
- Opened schools
- Helped Black veterans collect their pay for fighting in the Civil War
- Helped formerly enslaved people to find family members who had been sold away during slavery

The Freedmen's Bureau tried to help formerly enslaved people become landowners. Being landowners would give them a home and a way to support themselves. There was a plan to give them the land of people who supported the Confederacy. However, this plan was canceled after Abraham Lincoln was assassinated. Andrew Johnson, the next president, returned all the land to the former Confederates. They were allowed to keep their land even though they had committed treason against the United States!

Black Senators and Representatives in Congress

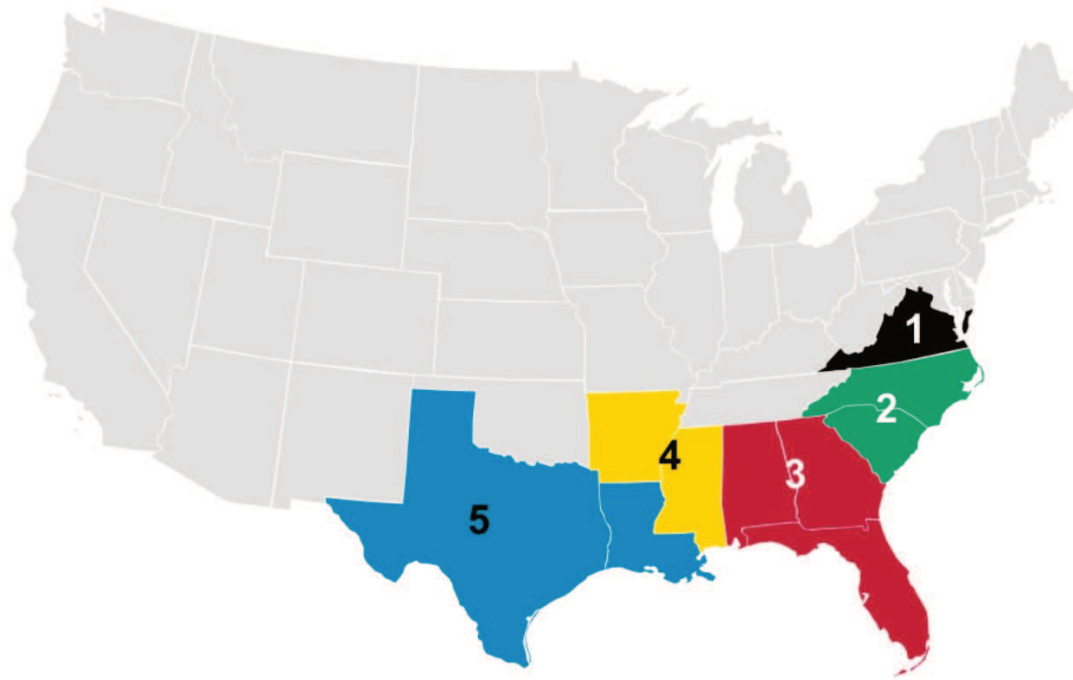


[Black Senators and Representatives](#) by Currier and Ives, Library of Congress (adapted)

After the 15th Amendment was passed, African American men had the right to vote. They used this power to elect people who would represent their interests and the nation's values in Congress. This made the nation's democracy more complete. Seven Black men served in the 41st and 42nd Congress of the United States. All of the men were Republicans.

Except for Senator Hiram Revels, all of the Black men elected to the 41st and 42nd Congress were born into slavery. Hiram Revels was the first Black man to serve in Congress.

Military Reconstruction



In 1867, Congress (a branch of the federal government) passed the Military Reconstruction Act. The act divided the former Confederate States into 5 districts controlled by Union generals.

Many White people in the South did not want African Americans to enjoy their rights and freedoms. Congress did not trust the former Confederate States to treat African Americans fairly. The presence of the military was the federal government's way of ensuring that Black rights were protected.

[Military Districts](#) by JayCoop, [CC0 1.0 Universal \(CC0 1.0\)](#) (adapted)

1865

**13th Amendment
abolishes slavery in the U.S.**

1868

**14th Amendment
expands citizenship and equal
protection to African Americans.**

1870

**15th Amendment
expands the right to vote
to African American men.**

1872

Federal government ends the Freedmen's Bureau.

1877

**Military Reconstruction ends.
Federal government leaves
the South.**

1896

**Supreme Court rules that
segregation is constitutional.
“separate but equal”**

1896–1954

Jim Crow era

1954

20th-century Civil Rights Movement begins.

1865

The Ku Klux Klan, a terrorist organization focused on White supremacy, is formed.

1909

The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) is established.

1955-1956 Montgomery Bus Boycott



[Rosa Parks 1956 Arrest](#) Associated Press, Public Domain, Wikimedia



[Montgomery Bus Boycott](#) Public Domain, Opendemocracy.net

On December 1, 1955, Rosa Parks, a secretary at the local NAACP chapter, was arrested. By law, Black passengers were required to give their seats to White passengers if the bus was full. She refused to do this.

After Parks's arrest, activists organized a boycott of Montgomery buses on December 5, 1955.

The Montgomery Advertiser newspaper reported on the boycott. The boycott got national media attention.

Around 40,000 African Americans protested segregation by refusing to ride Montgomery's buses. Black people walked to work. Taxi drivers only charged Black people 10 cents—the same as riding a bus.

The bus boycott lasted 13 months. During this time, Black people continued to walk to work rather than ride the bus. During that time, activists sued the city of Montgomery for segregating its buses.

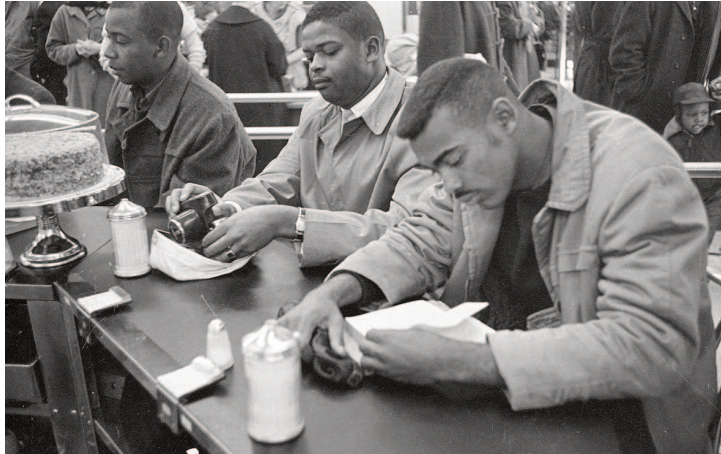
In 1956, a federal court declared that segregated buses violated the 14th Amendment's protection of equal rights.

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1960 Lunch Counter Sit-Ins



[Woolworth's Sit-In](#) State Archives of North Carolina, Public Domain, Wikimedia,



[Woolworth's Sit-In](#) State Archives of North Carolina, Public Domain, Wikimedia

On February 1, 1960, four African American students at North Carolina Agricultural and Technical College sat at the lunch counter at a store called Woolworth's.

Woolworth's policy was that only White people could eat at their counter. The waitress refused to serve the men. The men refused to give up their seats. They sat peacefully. White customers yelled at them to leave.

Ralph Johns was a White businessman who supported Black civil rights. He called reporters to bring attention to the sit-in.

Television news coverage inspired sit-ins throughout the South and North at segregated businesses. It also allowed people around the world to see the injustice of segregation.

By February 5, 1960, 300 students were protesting at Woolworth's lunch counters. They waited in line for a turn to protest! By March 1960, 55 cities and 13 states had sit-ins.

This action inspired the creation of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) in 1960.

March on Washington 1963



[March on Washington](#) No Known Copyright Restrictions, Wikimedia



[March on Washington](#) U.S. Information Agency, Press and Publication Service, Public Domain, Wikimedia

In 1963, civil rights activists organized a march in Washington, D.C. They marched to raise awareness about the continued discrimination that African Americans experienced in the nation.

Around 250,000 people attended the march. More than 3,000 reporters covered the march. They took photographs, wrote articles, and shared videos of the event. This helped to raise awareness of the issue across the nation and the world.

There were many speeches given by members of the Civil Rights Movement at the march.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., delivered his “I Have a Dream” speech, which ended with the words from a spiritual, “Free at last! Free at last! Thank God Almighty, we are free at last!”

1965 Marches from Selma to Montgomery



[Selma to Montgomery Marches](#) by Peter Pettus, Public Domain, Wikimedia



[Dr. Abernathy and Dr. King March](#) by the Abernathy Family, Public Domain, Wikimedia

In 1965, only two percent of the Black residents of Selma, Alabama, were registered to vote. Discriminatory laws and threats of violence had made it almost impossible for them. The people of Alabama chose to elect a government that did not protect voting rights for African Americans.

In 1965, civil rights activists organized a 54-mile march from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama, to advocate for Black voting rights. Alabama state police officers violently attacked the protesters as they tried to cross the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma. This became known as Bloody Sunday. Images of the attack outraged the nation, including many White Southerners. President Johnson went on television and gave a speech supporting the Voting Rights Act.

Activists walked 12 hours a day for several days. They arrived in Montgomery on March 25th. They were greeted by 50,000 supporters of the Civil Rights Movement. In August, President Johnson signed the Voting Rights Act.

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