

The 13th, 14th, and 15th Amendments - Congress investigates the KKK

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Source Handout Packet

Source 1A: Text of the 13th, 14th, and 15th Amendments

Directions: Answer the comprehension questions for each amendment.

13 th Amendment	
What is the point of this amendment? Why was it written?	
Is there any situation in which involuntary servitude is legal in the United States?	
Why is Section 2 essential?	
14 th Amendment	
What is the purpose of Section 1?	
Look at the date this amendment was passed. What is the original purpose of Section 2?	
What was the original purpose of Section 3?	
What was the original purpose of Section 4?	
Why is Section 5 vital?	
15 th Amendment	
What is the purpose of Section 1?	
Based on Section 1 of this amendment, what can you infer about the effectiveness of Section 2 of the 14 th Amendment?	



Source 1B: Selections of Black Codes

Directions: Use source 1B to fill out the table below.

Black Codes	Which natural rights (i.e. Life, Liberty, Pursuit of Happiness) seem to be violated?	Which Amendment aims to restore those rights?
Louisiana (1865)		<input type="checkbox"/> 13 th Amendment <input type="checkbox"/> 14 th Amendment <input type="checkbox"/> 15 th Amendment <input type="checkbox"/> None
Mississippi (1865)		<input type="checkbox"/> 13 th Amendment <input type="checkbox"/> 14 th Amendment <input type="checkbox"/> 15 th Amendment <input type="checkbox"/> None
Florida (1865)		<input type="checkbox"/> 13 th Amendment <input type="checkbox"/> 14 th Amendment <input type="checkbox"/> 15 th Amendment <input type="checkbox"/> None

Sources 3A&3B: Majority Report (adapted excerpts) and Force Acts (adapted excerpts)

Directions: Match quotes from the Congressional Majority Report to the related provisions in the Force Acts. Each Force Act provision is labeled with a letter at the top to make it easy to refer to. Pair the Force Act excerpt with the quote (or quotes) from the majority report with which you think it best fits. Excerpts may be used more than once, but all excerpts are used.

Congressional Majority Report Quotes (Source 3A)	Force Act Provisions (Source 3B)
1. "...justice cannot be obtained against those who commit crimes in disguise and at night [as the Ku Klux Klan are known to do]."	
2. "...bad legislation, official incompetency, corruption, and other causes, have been identified as problems as well."	
3. "Governor Lindsay was elected in 1870, when it is complained Ku-Klux violence deterred people in various counties from voting."	
4. "...when identification is attempted, other members of the organization come in and either lie on the witness stand or in the jury-box, and the perpetrator goes free."	

Congressional Majority Report Quotes (Source 3A)	Force Act Provisions (Source 3B)
5. "The terror inspired by their acts, as well as the public support in many areas paralyzes the arm of local government."	

Source 3C: Timeline of KKK Activity

Directions: Use source 3C to complete the comprehension questions.

1. According to the timeline, how long did the KKK remain dead as an organization?
2. What seemed to lead to its revival?

Source 3D: Excerpt of NPR interview between Terry Gross and historian Eric Foner, 2006

Directions: Use source 3D to complete the comprehension questions.

1. Why was federal intervention in the South considered necessary in the years immediately following the Civil War?
2. How did states get around the protections guaranteed by the 15th Amendment?



Name: _____



Supporting Question 1: Exit Ticket

Why were the 13th, 14th, and 15th Amendments adopted? Make sure you pay attention to the dates on the Black Codes and the dates of passage of the Amendments.

Name: _____



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Supporting Questions Handout Packet

Supporting Question 2 CER

Directions: When Congress heard reports about violence in the former Confederate States, they created a committee with both Republicans and Democrats, heard from 600 witnesses, held multiple hearings, and issued a report with 13 volumes of evidence. You are going to be an investigator and look at multiple sources, some of them taken from the testimony Congress received. For each source, write down the key takeaway and two pieces of evidence that support it. This will help you answer the supporting question on the back.

Source	Key Takeaway from Source	Evidence 1	Evidence 2
2A: "Portraits in Oversight" video			
2B: "One Less Vote" political cartoon			
2C: Excerpts from the Congressional investigation			
2D: "Lynchings and Racial Violence during Reconstruction 1865-1876" video			

Supporting Question 2

How did the KKK work to suppress the rights of freed slaves and their white supporters, and were the Reconstruction Amendments enough to stop it? Cite a minimum of two pieces of evidence from your chart and explain your reasoning.

Name: _____

Supporting Question 3

Use the timeline, as well as all the knowledge you have gained from the rest of the inquiry, to answer supporting question 3. Cite at least one quote from source 3C and one quote from Source 3D as evidence for your answer.

Were the Force Acts passed by Congress effective?

Reconstruction Writing Assessment

You are a journalist writing an op-ed for a local newspaper. The title of your article is "Is it worth it for Congress to investigate problems?" Use three pieces of evidence you encountered in the inquiry to support your claim and inform the public about congressional investigations.

In your article you must include:

1. A topic sentence that states your claim
2. Three pieces of evidence (cited) which support your claim.
3. An explanation (in your own words) of HOW that evidence supports your claim.
4. One piece of evidence which could be used against your claim, with an explanation as to why that evidence and argument wasn't persuasive enough for you to change your claim.

Because this is an article intended to be read by the public, your writing must be free of grammar, spelling, and punctuation errors.

OPTIONAL: If you want to express your views through a political cartoon, you are free to do so. If you choose this, you must include a written statement with an explanation of your thinking which meets all the requirements of the rubric.

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Criteria	Exceeds Expectations	Meets Expectations	Approaching Expectations	Needs Improvement
Claim	Clearly takes a position on the issue; provides detailed background and relevant context.	Clearly takes a position on the issue; some background provided.	Takes a position on the issue but lacks clarity or detail.	Position on the issue is vague, missing, or not connected to the question.
Rationale for Support (Evidence 1)	Provides a thoughtful, persuasive, and well-supported explanation for your claim.	Explains why you are making your claim, with some supporting reasons.	Gives a basic reason for your claim, explanation lacks depth.	Offers little or no explanation for your claim. Has no cited sources.
Rationale for Support (Evidence 2)	Provides a thoughtful, persuasive, and well-supported explanation for your claim.	Explains why you are making your claim, with some supporting reasons.	Gives a basic reason for your claim, explanation lacks depth.	Offers little or no explanation for your claim. Has no cited sources.
Rationale for Support (Evidence 3)	Provides a thoughtful, persuasive, and well-supported explanation for your claim.	Explains why you are making your claim, with some supporting reasons.	Gives a basic reason for your claim, explanation lacks depth.	Offers little or no explanation for your claim. Has no cited sources.
Counterclaim	Provides a thoughtful, persuasive, and well-supported explanation for how your counterclaim could be used against you, and why it still doesn't convince you	Explains why you are making your counterclaim, with some supporting reasons it could be used against you.	Gives a basic reason for your counterclaim, explanation lacks depth.	Offers little or no explanation for your counterclaim. Has no cited sources.
Organization Mechanics	Article is well-organized, with clean spelling, grammar, and punctuation.	Article is clear and organized; few spelling, grammar, or punctuation errors.	Article is somewhat disorganized, with spelling, grammar, and punctuation errors.	Article is hard to follow or lacks structure with many spelling, grammar, and punctuation errors.



Name: _____

Reconstruction Discussion Assessment

Is it worth it for Congress to investigate problems?

Claim		
Evidence A	Reason A	Ranking
Evidence B	Reason B	
Evidence C	Reason C	

Rank your evidence from most persuasive to least persuasive, with 1 being most persuasive and 3 being least persuasive. Why is the piece of evidence you ranked #1 the most persuasive piece of evidence?

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“The Last Word”

What is your group’s most persuasive piece of evidence?

Why?

Based on the discussion, would you change your initial answer to the compelling question? Why or why not?

