

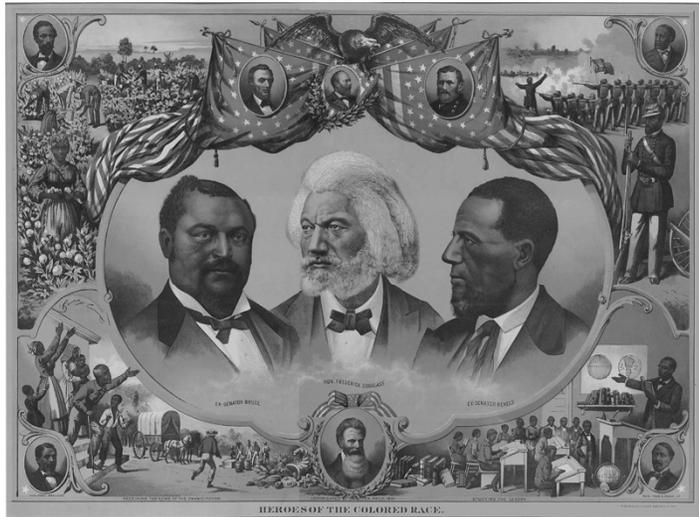
Sample Lesson #2

The 13th, 14th, and 15th Amendments

Congress set out to amend the United States Constitution in order to protect the rights of African Americans and to increase the power of the federal government. The **Thirteenth Amendment** abolished slavery throughout the country. In 1865, three-fourths of the states ratified this amendment.

The **Fourteenth Amendment**, proposed in 1868, gave the rights of citizenship to African Americans and all others. Most southern states refused to ratify this amendment at first. However, southern states were required to draft new constitutions and to ratify the Fourteenth Amendment before they would be allowed to rejoin the United States.

The **Fifteenth Amendment** was ratified in 1870. It gave African American men the right to vote. Many men, who were recently granted citizenship and the right to vote, ran for local and state offices. For the first time, African Americans began to take an active role in the government of their country.



Nineteenth Century African American leaders. With the passage of the 13th-15th Amendments, African Americans were able to take an active role in government.

1. Congress enacted the 13th, 14th, and 15th Amendments to the Constitution to accomplish two goals. These goals were _____.
 - _____ to increase the power of the federal government
 - _____ to give women the right to vote
 - _____ to protect the rights of African Americans by giving them citizenship
 - _____ to block southern states from re-entering the Union
2. Which two words mean about the same?

amend vote ratify change

3. Match each amendment with its clue.

- | | |
|--------------------------|--|
| ___ Thirteenth Amendment | A) gave citizenship to African Americans |
| ___ Fourteenth Amendment | B) gave African American men the right to vote |
| ___ Fifteenth Amendment | C) abolished slavery throughout the country |

4 – 10. These phrases apply to the Northern or Southern army or both. Place the letter of each phrase in the correct space on the Venn diagram.

(Lessons #101 – 102)

- A) had to start a draft to get more soldiers
- B) had use of the United States Navy
- C) had more rail lines
- D) victorious at Fort Sumter
- E) had more factories for building weapons
- F) was known as the Union army
- G) had a strategy to end the fighting and win the war quickly
- H) had excellent generals such as Robert E. Lee
- I) had many casualties
- J) was fighting to preserve the Union
- K) was known as the Confederate army
- L) won the Battle of Antietam
- M) was victorious at the First Battle of Bull Run
- N) won the Civil War

The Civil War

