

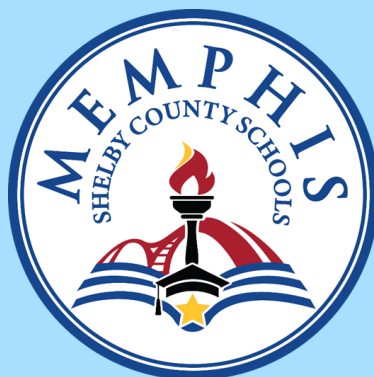


# SOCIAL STUDIES



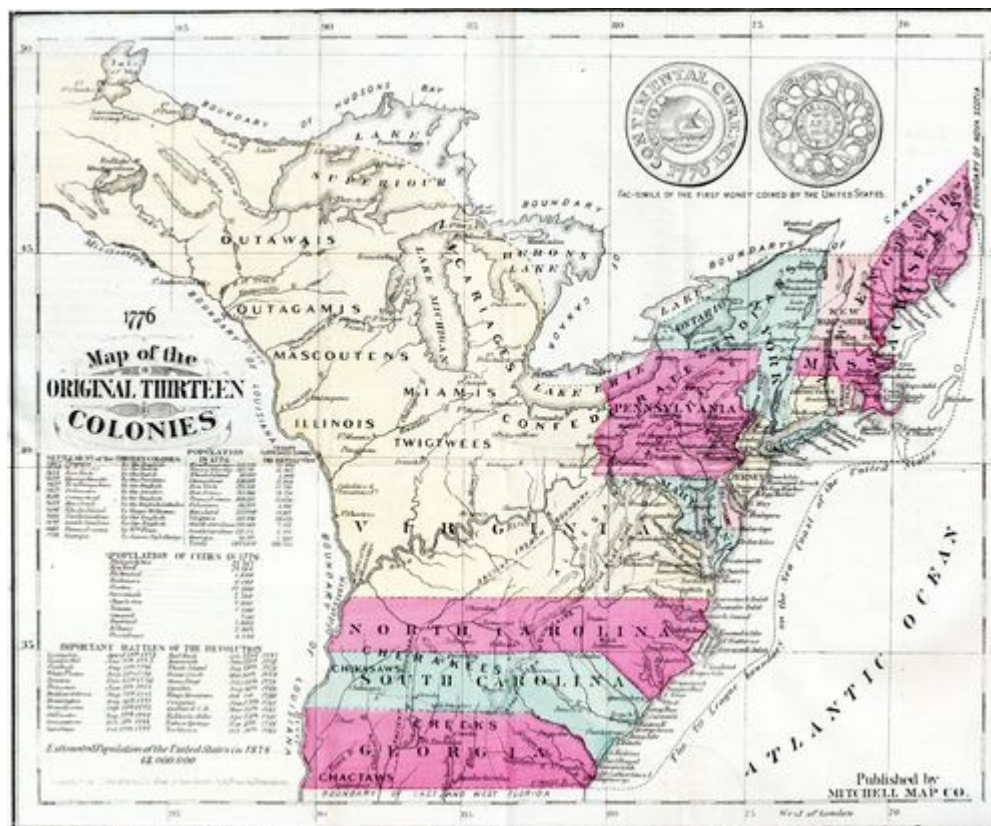
# 5TH GRADE

## INCLEMENT WEATHER PACKET



# Colonization and Revolutionary War: Background to the Colonies

by ReadWorks



Before the Revolutionary War, there were thirteen colonies under British rule in North America. People came from all over Europe seeking freedom or fortune in the colonies. Many people brought their culture with them, and people of similar backgrounds often came together or settled in the same place. Soon, each colony began to take on its own character.

There were three main groups of colonies: the New England Colonies, the Middle Colonies, and the Southern Colonies. Each group began to share characteristics based on its location and people. For example, the Southern Colonies had fertile soil and sunshine necessary for farms. The Northern Colonies had some important ports.

## New England

Soil in New England was rocky and the winters were harsh, which made farming difficult. There were small farms in New England, but no big farms like the southern plantations.

Instead, the North became the center of the shipbuilding industry. Trees were everywhere. Before long, Boston, which began as the Massachusetts Bay Colony, became the most important port city in the colonies.

Religion was very important to the people in New England. You may have heard of the Pilgrims who came to the New World to find religious freedom. They wanted to be free to practice their own religion, but they did not always allow other people the same freedom. Town life was centered on the church. If you did not belong to the church, you were an outcast.

## The Middle Colonies

The Middle Colonies tolerated more types of religions than the Pilgrims and Puritans of New England. William Penn began the colony Pennsylvania. He wanted people of every faith and every nationality to come to his colony. Philadelphia, "The City of Brotherly Love," was the biggest city in all the colonies. When the Revolutionary War broke out, representatives from all the colonies met in Philadelphia for the First Continental Congress. Philadelphia became the first capital of the new continental government. Many U.S. symbols, like the Liberty Bell, are still in Philadelphia.

New York was also a Middle Colony and an important shipping and trading center. The population in New York was the most diverse of anywhere in the young colonies. If you listened in on dinner table conversations along the Hudson River, you would hear more than 12 languages! Most of the immigrants from other countries who came to the middle colonies were skilled at a craft. They came and built shops where they could practice their trade - from cabinet making to weaving to candle making.

## The Southern Colonies

Rich land and a mild climate determined the future of the Southern Colonies: agriculture. The Southern Colonies were based on farming, especially tobacco farming. Tobacco was grown on large plantations. The most important people in the Southern Colonies lived on these big farms and not in towns. As a result, the Southern Colonies were more spread out. Towns were smaller. Houses were more spread out from each other. Instead of going to schools in town like children in New England, southern children might have studied at home. Many were also sent to England to be educated.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

1. Why did people come from Europe to the 13 colonies?
  - A. They wanted religious freedom and a better way of life.
  - B. They wanted to live near relatives.
  - C. They wanted to go for a vacation.
  - D. They wanted to see if the trees were better for shipbuilding than back home.
  
2. The Southern Colonies had rich land and a mild climate, and the effect of this was that
  - A. those colonies focused on agriculture.
  - B. British colonists did not want to live there.
  - C. the people who lived there needed food.
  - D. those colonies chose to build factories.
  
3. Based on the passage, it can be concluded that
  - A. the colonies did not need to trade with each other.
  - B. every colony tried to focus mostly on shipping.
  - C. life at home for the colonists was the same in each colony.
  - D. each colony's location affected its businesses.
  
4. Read the following sentences: "Town life was centered on the church. If you did not belong to the church, you were an outcast."

The word **outcast** means

- A. someone forced to work outside
- B. someone praised as a hero
- C. someone who is not remembered
- D. someone kicked out of a social group

5. The passage "Background to the Colonies" is mostly about

- A. the differences in weather between the colonies
- B. the biggest city in each colony and why it was so big
- C. the ground that was shared by all of the colonies
- D. the three groups of colonies and how they were different

6. What was the biggest city among the colonies, and what colony was it in?

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7. Based on the passage, explain how the New England Colonies would have been different if they did not have many trees.

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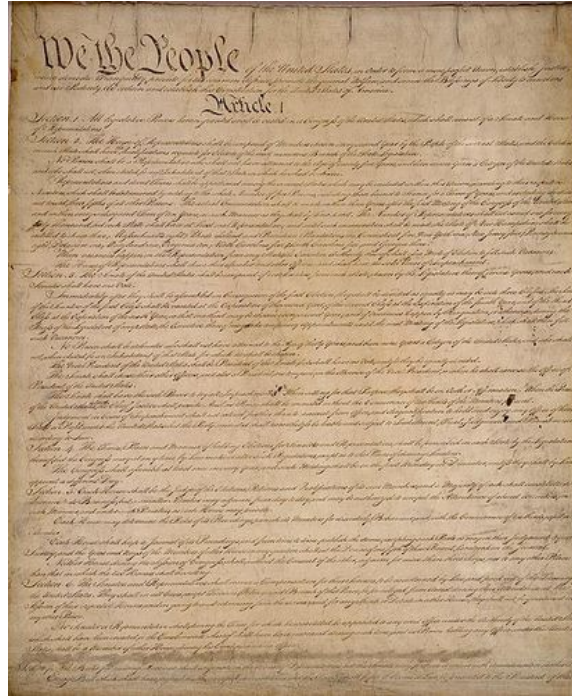
8. The question below is an incomplete sentence. Choose the answer that best completes the sentence.

New York didn't have a lot of farms; \_\_\_\_\_ it was a shipping and trading center.

- A. instead
- B. for example
- C. soon
- D. first

# The Constitution Tells the States Who Has the Right to Vote

by Judith Schiffer



The Constitution of the United States

The United States is a "Federal Republic." This means that power, like the power to pass laws, is shared between the Federal Government in Washington, D.C., and the governments of each of the 50 states. The Federal Government has certain powers, and the states (and their local governments, like cities and towns) have certain powers. The Constitution of the United States sets out which powers belong to the Federal Government, and which powers belong to the states.

The United States Constitution is the highest law of the land. One of the things it does is to tell the 50 states what they *must do*, and also what they *are not permitted* to do.

The Constitution gives the states the power to conduct elections and to make their own rules about how they do it, and it also tells them what they *are not allowed to do* in conducting elections. For example, states are not allowed to reject people who have the right to vote in an election.

The Constitution says that to be allowed to vote, a person must be a citizen of the United States. You are a U.S. citizen automatically if you are born in the United States. There are

also ways to become a U.S. citizen if you were not born there. One of the ways is a process called "naturalization."

Not all citizens are allowed to vote. For example, a ten-year-old may not vote. For much of early U.S. history mostly white men who were at least 21 years old had the right to vote. Other groups, such as women, were not allowed to vote.

Since then, the rules about who has the right to vote for president and other elected officials have changed, with more groups of American citizens being given this right. These changes were the result of additions, or "amendments," to the Constitution. Twenty-seven amendments have been added to the Constitution, and three of them have to do with who has the right to vote. These three Amendments prohibit the states from denying the right to vote to some groups of citizens. These three groups are African Americans, women, and people who are 18 to 20 years old. Over time, each of these groups was given the right to vote.

In addition, elected officials in Congress have passed laws so that citizens with voting rights can vote. One law makes it illegal for the states to do anything that prevents or makes it especially difficult for these citizens to vote. But some of the states found ways to prevent some citizens from voting, even though they had the Constitutional right to do so. For example, after former African American slaves were allowed to vote, some states did not want them to vote. So they required voters to be able to read and write. They knew that recently freed slaves were prevented from learning to read and write by their former owners.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

1. According to the text, what does the federal government of the United States share with the 50 state governments?
  - A. power
  - B. money
  - C. voting rights
  - D. companies
  
2. What does the text list and describe?
  - A. powers the president has
  - B. what the Constitution say about voting rights
  - C. the Bill of Rights of the Constitution
  - D. facts about the creation of the Constitution
  
3. The rights of African American voters have been threatened in the United States. What evidence from the text best supports this statement?
  - A. The Constitution says that to be allowed to vote, a person must be a citizen of the United States.
  - B. The Constitution gives the states the power to conduct elections and to make their own rules about how they do it.
  - C. Some states required voters be able to read and write to prevent former African American slaves from voting.
  - D. The voting rights of African Americans have been addressed in the Constitution.
  
4. Based on the text, to whom did the Constitution give voting rights when it was first written?
  - A. white men and women who were at least 21 years old
  - B. black men who were at least 21 years old
  - C. Native American males who were at least 21 years old
  - D. white men who were at least 21 years old

5. What is the main idea of the text?

- A. The federal government of the United States has certain powers, and the 50 states have certain powers.
- B. The United States Constitution includes laws about who can vote but gives states the power to conduct elections.
- C. Some of the 50 states have found ways to prevent some citizens from voting, even though they had the Constitutional right to do so.
- D. Twenty-seven amendments have been added to the Constitution, and three of them have to do with who has the right to vote.

6. Read the following sentences from the text.

"The Constitution gives the states the power to conduct elections and to make their own rules about how they do it, and it also tells them what they *are not allowed to do* in conducting elections. For example, states are not allowed to reject people who have the right to vote in an election."

Based on the text, what does the word "conduct" most nearly mean?

- A. to lead or manage
- B. to carry electricity
- C. to stop or prevent
- D. to make popular

7. Choose the answer that best completes the sentence below.

The Constitution

The United States Constitution tells the 50 states what they *must do*, and also what they *are not permitted* to do. \_\_\_\_\_, the Constitution gives the states the power to conduct elections and to make their own rules about how they do it

- A. However
- B. In conclusion
- C. On the other hand
- D. For example

**8.** Three amendments of the Constitution have given voting rights to different groups of people. Who are these three groups of people?

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**9.** Why did some states require voters be able to read and write?

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**10.** Explain how the right to vote in the United States is impacted by the Constitution and the 50 states. Use information from the text to support your answer.

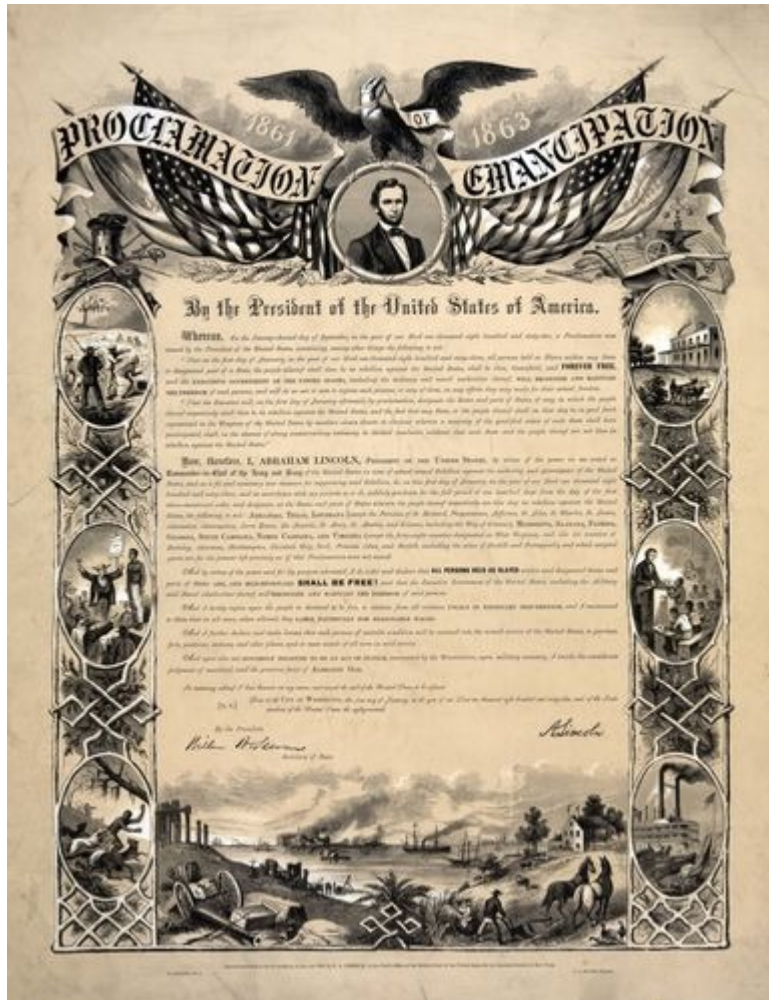
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# Slavery, the Civil War, and Reconstruction in America: The Emancipation Proclamation

by ReadWorks



On September 22, 1862, President Lincoln declared that all enslaved Black people in the rebellious states were free. During the U.S. Civil War, the rebellious states of the South were fighting against the North because they wanted to secede from the Union. This means they wanted to withdraw and separate from the United States. These rebellious states are also known as the Confederacy.

Lincoln's announcement was called the Emancipation Proclamation. Emancipation means gaining freedom. Here is a part of Lincoln's declaration.

I do order and declare that all persons held as slaves ... shall be free. The Executive Government of the United States, including the military and naval authorities thereof, will recognize and maintain the freedom of said persons.

In the Emancipation Proclamation, Lincoln says that the Union Army will free and protect enslaved people. Northerners everywhere knew for sure that they were fighting the Civil War to free the enslaved people. The war was no longer just about the Union fighting to make the southern states come back to the Union. It was a war over slavery. Now if the southern states were to come back to the Union, there would be no more slavery.

The entire way of life in the South would have to change. White people could no longer sell Black people as if they were property. They could no longer run large plantations with enslaved Black people as workers. They could no longer force Black men and women to work all day in their cotton fields. When the North won the Civil War, life in the South did change.

Many enslaved Black people heard about the Emancipation Proclamation before the Union army arrived where they were. Enslaved people were very excited. Some ran away to meet the Union army as it fought. Many wanted to join the fight and help the Union beat the Confederacy. As the army marched south, all of the enslaved Black people were freed.

In the North, many abolitionists were happy. Abolitionists wanted enslaved Black people to be free. They spent their time convincing white people in the U.S. that Black men and women were no different than white men and women. They gave speeches about the horrible institution of slavery. Slavery, they said, did more than just chain Black men and women. It also was against the basic ideas of liberty and equality that were part of the founding of the United States. Slavery brought out the worst part of human nature. The Emancipation Proclamation was a big step to ending slavery completely in the U.S.

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

1. According to the text, what declared that all enslaved Black people in the rebellious states were free?
  - A. the Emancipation Proclamation
  - B. the U.S. Civil War
  - C. the Confederacy
  - D. abolitionists
  
2. What was the effect of the North winning the U.S. Civil War?
  - A. The South fought against the North.
  - B. The war was a war over slavery.
  - C. Life in the South changed.
  - D. Abolitionists wanted to free enslaved Black people.
  
3. There was more than one reason why the North and South were fighting in the U.S. Civil War.

What evidence from the text supports this conclusion?

- A. "During the U.S. Civil War, the rebellious states of the South were fighting against the North because they wanted to secede from the Union."
  - B. "Northerners everywhere knew for sure that they were fighting the Civil War to free the enslaved people."
  - C. "The war was no longer just about the Union fighting to make the southern states come back to the Union. It was a war over slavery."
  - D. "[Abolitionists] spent their time convincing white people in the U.S. that Black men and women were no different than white men and women."
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4. Based on the text, whom did life in the South change for after the U.S. Civil War?
    - A. Life in the South changed for white people, but not for Black people.
    - B. Life in the South changed for both white people and Black people.
    - C. Life in the South changed for Black people, but not for white people.
    - D. Life in the South was the same as before the Civil War.

5. What is this text mostly about?

- A. an announcement that ended slavery in a large part of the United States
- B. how slavery had become a big part of the United States before the U.S. Civil War
- C. how slavery in the South was different from slavery in the North
- D. President Lincoln's most famous speeches

6. Read these sentences from the text.

Abolitionists wanted enslaved Black people to be free. They spent their time convincing white people in the U.S. that Black men and women were no different than white men and women. **They** gave speeches about the horrible institution of slavery. Slavery, they said, did more than just chain Black men and women.

In the sentence, "**They** gave speeches about the horrible institution of slavery," what does the pronoun "**they**" refer to?

- A. Black men and women
- B. white people in the U.S.
- C. enslaved Black people
- D. abolitionists

7. Choose the answer that best completes the sentence.

All enslaved Black people in the rebellious states of the U.S. were freed \_\_\_\_\_ the Emancipation Proclamation.

- A. before
- B. in spite of
- C. suddenly
- D. as a result of

8. According to the text, what did some enslaved Black people do after they heard about the Emancipation Proclamation?

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9. Based on the text, why would the abolitionists be happy about the Emancipation Proclamation? Use evidence from the text to support your answer.

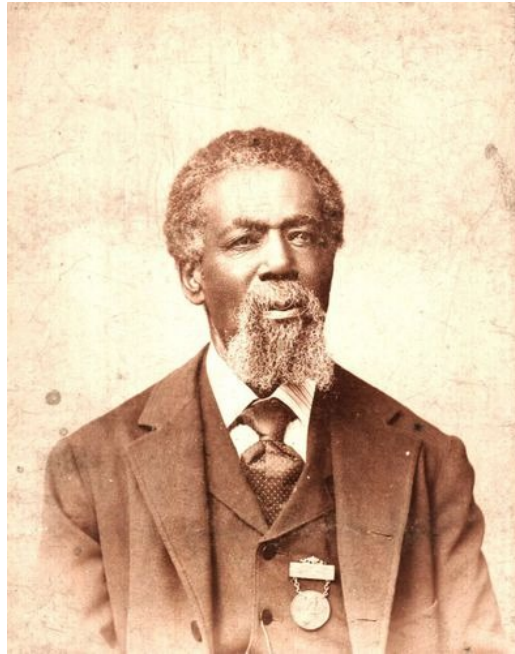
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# African American Men Get the Vote in 1870

by Judith Schiffer



Thomas Mundy Peterson, the first African American man to vote after the 15th Amendment was passed

The 13 British colonies got their freedom from England and became a separate nation after the Declaration of Independence was published on July 4, 1776, and the 13 colonies won the Revolutionary War against England in 1783. The United States Constitution was written four years later and became the "law of the land" in 1789. This document sets out the basic rules and principles by which the United States is governed. It tells the states what they are permitted to do, and also what they are not allowed to do.

The Constitution says that it can be changed by adding "amendments" to it. Over the next roughly 200 years, the original Constitution changed through the addition of 27 amendments to the document. The first 10 amendments are the "Bill of Rights," which were all added at one time in 1791. They give Constitutional protections to the nation's people for certain basic liberties, such as freedom of speech and freedom of religion, and they also put limits on federal and state governmental power over the people.

Each of the 11th through 27th Amendments were added one at a time, from 1795 to 1992. Three of these amendments gave the right to vote to people who did not have this right before they were passed. The right to vote is called "suffrage."

At first, although the Constitution itself does not say this, the only people who had suffrage in most of the states were white men who had property. This is because each state had the right to decide who is permitted to vote in that state, and almost every state gave the right to vote only to certain white men.

The first few amendments to the Constitution that changed this were the 13th, 14th, and 15th Amendments. They were known as the "Reconstruction Amendments" because all three of them were added in the Reconstruction period. This was the period of time after the Civil War was lost by the southern states and won by the northern states. The northern states wanted enslaved people to be freed, to be made citizens, and to be given the right to vote.

Although the slave trade ended in 1808, a lot of Africans were brought to America to work as enslaved people. After the slave trade ended, there were no new enslaved people brought to the United States. By 1865, the only new enslaved people were the children and grandchildren of the African slaves brought over by the slave trade.

A major outcome of the Civil War was that enslaved people were freed in 1865, with the addition of the 13th Amendment to the Constitution. It says that slavery is not allowed in the United States. Abraham Lincoln was the president when it passed in Congress, but he died before the amendment was ratified, or approved, by the states.

Enslaved people were freed, but they weren't United States citizens even though many of them were born in the United States. The Constitution says that only United States citizens may vote, so the 14th Amendment was added to make former enslaved people citizens. It was added to the Constitution in 1868. It says that any person born in the United States is a citizen of the United States and of the state in which he or she lives. It also says people who are naturalized are citizens. Naturalization is a process for a foreigner to become a citizen.

In 1870, the 15th Amendment to the Constitution was added. It gave suffrage to African American men, but not to women of any race. Women citizens did not get the vote for another 50 years. Although the 15th Amendment gave African American men suffrage, many people in some states, mostly in the south, did not want them to vote. So they passed state laws that made it difficult or sometimes impossible for them to vote. One of these laws required a voter to be able to read and write. Because formerly enslaved people had usually been forbidden by their owners to learn to read and write, many were disqualified from voting in some states. This was common in former "slave states" in the south.

It would take many years and many laws passed by Congress to prevent states from setting requirements for voting that interfered with the ability by African Americans to vote.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

1. What is the U.S. Constitution?

- A. the right for every single United States citizens to vote
- B. the period of time after the northern states won the Civil War
- C. the changes that are added one at a time to a document
- D. the document of laws that governs the United States

2. Which of the following shows the correct sequence of when the different parts of the U.S. Constitution that were described in the text were written?

- A. United States Constitution, Amendments 11 through 27, Bill of Rights
- B. Amendments 11 through 27, Bill of Rights, United States Constitution
- C. United States Constitution, Bill of Rights, Amendments 11 through 27
- D. Bill of Rights, Amendments 11 through 27, United States Constitution

3. Read the following sentences.

"A major outcome of the Civil War was that enslaved people were freed in 1865, with the addition of the 13th Amendment to the Constitution. It says that slavery is not allowed in the United States....The 14th Amendment was added to make formerly enslaved people....In 1870, the 15th Amendment to the Constitution was added. It gave suffrage to African American men."

What conclusion can you draw from this evidence about the Civil War and African American men's right to vote?

- A. A series of related amendments to the constitution were passed to eventually give African American men the right to vote.
- B. The 13th, 14th, and 15th Amendments may go in a numerical order but they are not related to each other.
- C. The outcome of the Civil War made a big difference for African American women in the United States.
- D. The 13th, 14th, and 15th Amendments were all passed at the same time so that African American men could vote.

4. How did states get in the way of African American men voting even after the 15th Amendment was passed?

- A. They immediately gave women the right to make voting more competitive.
- B. They passed unfair laws that made it difficult for African American men to vote.
- C. They petitioned to reverse the 13th, 14th, and 15th Amendments and won.
- D. They brought more Africans to the United States and forced them into slavery.

5. What is the main idea of this text?

- A. African American men got the right to vote after the northern states won the Civil War and President Abraham Lincoln decided to add the 13th, 14th, and 15th Amendments to the United States Constitution himself.
- B. African American men got the right to vote after the Civil War when the 13th, 14th, and 15th Amendments were added to the United States Constitution but they continued to face obstacles in voting for many years.
- C. African American men were given the right to vote with the amendments in the Bill of Rights soon after the slave trade ended in 1808 and no new people were enslaved and brought to the United States.
- D. African American men received no support when the 13th, 14th, and 15th Amendments were passed because it only granted white women who went to school in the United States the right to vote.

6. Read the following sentences.

"Although the 15th Amendment gave African American men suffrage, many people in some states, mostly in the south, did not want them to vote. So they passed state laws that made it difficult or sometimes impossible for them to vote....It would take many years and many laws passed by Congress to prevent states from setting requirements for voting that **interfered** with the ability by African Americans to vote."

As used in this excerpt, what does the word "**interfered**" most closely mean?

- A. improved
- B. emphasized
- C. communicated
- D. got in the way

7. Choose the answer that best completes the sentence below.

The 15th Amendment gave African American men the right to vote \_\_\_\_\_ there was still a lot of work to reach voting equality in the United States.

- A. like
- B. last
- C. but
- D. first

8. How did most southern states feel about the 15th Amendment?

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9. According to the text, what is one example of a law that prevented African American men from voting?

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**10.** The United States Constitution is law in the whole U.S., but people still have an important role in challenging laws and affecting social change. How can American citizens affect U.S. laws? Use evidence from the text to support your answer.

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