

Discover America

Course 14 - Teacher Guide



The End of Slavery

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3rd Grade

Teacher Guide



Key Themes

- Freedom
- Dignity
- Self-determination

Core Values

- Faith
- Liberty
- Community
- Life

Learning Objectives

Students will be able to:

- Name the three branches of government and briefly explain their respective roles
- Describe the struggles and successes of the 13th Amendment ratification process
- Explain Abraham Lincoln's role in the ratification process of the 13th Amendment and ultimately the ending of slavery in America



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Introduction

ASK Students

Before we dive into the lesson, think of a time when you were unsure about something. Maybe you had to take a spelling test and did not know exactly what would be on it. Maybe you went on a scavenger hunt with your friends and did not know where it would lead. Or maybe you picked up a new book and did not know how it would end. How did you respond to the uncertain situation?

(allow students to respond)

TELL Students

During the past two lessons, we have talked quite a bit about slavery and the heroes who fought against it. Recall that President Abraham Lincoln was the Republican leader of the Union, who fought to preserve the Union and abolish slavery. You will also remember the states who opposed abolishing slavery, the Confederate states. There were also states who did not claim either side called border states. Lincoln did not know how he was going to unite everyone to support the ending of slavery in America. Thankfully he was not fighting this battle alone.

WATCH

Learn More with Liberty



Episode 14 Cartoon

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Key Terms

- 01 **Congress** - made up of the House of Representatives and the Senate
- 02 **Amendment** - a change or an update made to the Constitution
- 03 **House of Representatives** - made up of 435 elected members, divided among the 50 states in proportion to their total population
- 04 **U.S. Constitution** - outlines the laws everyone in America must follow, including government
- 05 **Senate** - composed of 100 Senators, 2 for each state, elected by voters in each state
- 06 **Ratified** - approved
- 07 **Prejudice** - thinking another person is “less than” because of a certain quality or characteristic, such as skin color, religious beliefs, or gender
- 08 **13th Amendment** - states that no form of slavery shall exist within the United States
- 09 **Abolitionist** - a person who supports the ending of slavery
- 10 **Three Branches of Government** - legislative (Congress), executive (president and his cabinet members), and judicial (Supreme Court) branches all work together to make and enforce laws
- 11 **Checks and Balances** - divides power between three branches of government so that no one branch has all the power to make and enforce laws
- 12 **Emancipation Proclamation** - a speech made by President Abraham Lincoln declaring that all slaves were now free

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Lesson Guide

TELL Students

While many on both sides recognized the gruesome evils of slavery, there were also people throughout America who were prejudiced toward Blacks. Prejudice is a word that means someone thought another person was “less than” because of a certain quality or characteristic, such as skin color, religious beliefs, or gender. Faced with these challenges, abolitionists in the Union recognized that a permanent solution was needed to end slavery in America.

Because America has three branches of government, and a system of checks and balances that limits the powers of each branch, the president had done all he could do. So, the responsibility to find a permanent fix fell to Republicans in Congress. Lincoln’s Emancipation Proclamation planted the flag that encouraged them to get started.

Members of Congress decided that they needed to propose an amendment — also known as a change or an update — to the U.S. Constitution. To do so, the proposed amendment must be passed by both the House of Representatives and the Senate and then ratified (or approved) by the states. (Technically, the states can also ask Congress to call a Constitutional Convention. But that’s not what happened here.)

WATCH

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Constitutional
Amendments

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Lesson Guide

TELL Students

The Congressman from Ohio, Republican James Ashley, introduced the first amendment to abolish slavery on December 14, 1863. What followed was a legislative battle in Congress that included more options for an amendment in the House and the Senate being introduced. After months of debate in Congress, the Senate Judiciary Committee passed the 13th Amendment on February 10, 1864. It advanced to the full Senate for a vote and passed 38-6 on April 8, 1864.

While the 13th Amendment sped forward to victory in the Senate, the same was not true in the House. Anti-slavery representatives failed twice – first in February and again in June – to get the two-thirds majority support that was required for the amendment to pass.

Although Lincoln supported an amendment to abolish slavery behind the scenes, he kept his opinions out of the public square (until late 1864) and let Congress do the job given to them by the people to advance the best version. But the presidential election of 1864 was underway and there was a real possibility that the elimination of slavery – a cause which thousands had given their lives fighting for – would not happen.

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Lesson Guide

TELL Students

Republicans took the risk to make support for the 13th Amendment central to the 1864 campaign. The 1864 Republican Party platform said that “slavery was the cause” of the Civil War and that Republicans supported a Constitutional amendment that would “terminate and forever prohibit” slavery in the United States.

It was with this vision for the future of the country that Lincoln, the Republican candidate, won the 1864 election. It was clear that the majority of voters wanted to abolish slavery in the United States once and for all. Abolitionists viewed this as a mandate from the people and pressured the House to pass the 13th Amendment. Lincoln’s efforts convinced eight Democrats to switch their votes from no to yes and secured the support of other members of Congress who had previously not voted.

On January 31, 1865, these efforts succeeded, and the 13th Amendment was passed. Lincoln added his signature to the amendment – although this was not required. (Today, it is the only ratified amendment to the Constitution with a signature from the president.)

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Flash Cards



**EMANCIPATION
PROCLAMATION**

a speech made by
President Abraham
Lincoln declaring
that all slaves were
now free

RATIFIED

approved

**CONFEDERATE
STATES**

11 southern states that
were in favor of slavery

**THREE
BRANCHES OF
GOVERNMENT**

legislative (Congress),
executive (president and
his cabinet members), and
judicial (Supreme Court)
branches all work together
to make and enforce laws

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Flash Cards



**U.S.
CONSTITUTION**

outlines the laws
everyone in
America must
follow, including the
government

**HOUSE OF
REPRESENTATIVES**

made up of 435
elected members,
divided among the
50 states in
proportion to their
total population

SENATE

composed of 100
Senators, 2 for each
state, elected by voters
in each state

**13TH
AMENDMENT**

states that no form
of slavery shall
exist within the
United States

The End of Slavery - 3rd Grade

Flash Cards



AMENDMENT

a change or an update made to the Constitution

CONGRESS

made up of the House of Representatives and the Senate

CHECKS AND BALANCES

divides power between three branches of government so that no one branch has all the power to make and enforce laws

ABOLITIONIST

a person who supports the ending of slavery

The Three Branches of the United States Government

Complete the graphic organizer below to identify what each branch of government is responsible for and what parties are included in each branch.

Executive Branch

Includes:

Responsible For:



Legislative Branch

Includes:

Responsible For:



Judicial Branch

Includes:

Responsible For:



The Three Branches of the United States Government

Complete the graphic organizer below to identify what each branch of government is responsible for and what parties are included in each branch.

Executive Branch

Includes:

President, Vice President,
and Cabinet members

Responsible For:

Carrying Out the Laws



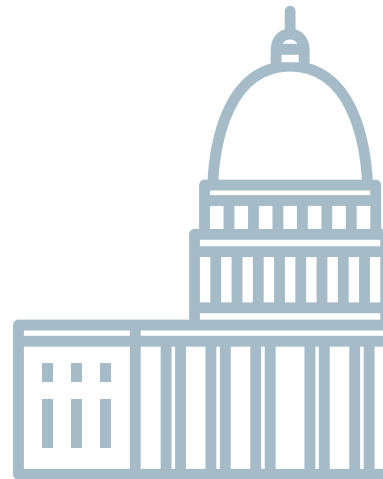
Legislative Branch

Includes:

Congress which is made up of the
House of Representatives and the Senate

Responsible For:

Making Laws



Judicial Branch

Includes:

Supreme Court and other federal courts

Responsible For:

Evaluating the Laws



The End of Slavery - 3rd Grade

Assessment

1. How many branches is the United States government split into?

- a. 1
- b. 2
- c. 3
- d. 4

2. What is the system that limits the power of each branch of government called?

- a. Checks and balances
- b. Balanced powers
- c. Triple branch power
- d. Government checks

3. What did Congress propose to help update the U.S. Constitution regarding slavery?

- a. To remove it
- b. To make an amendment
- c. To sign it
- d. To read it

4. What amendment to the U.S. Constitution abolishes any and all kinds of slavery in America?

- a. 11th
- b. 13th
- c. 14th
- d. 15th

5. Anti-slavery representatives failed twice to get the necessary support from which part of Congress?

- a. House of Representatives
- b. Senate
- c. President
- d. Vice President

6. What fraction of the vote must be the majority in order for an amendment to pass?

- a. One half
- b. Two thirds
- c. One third
- d. Three fourths

7. What issue did the Republican Party platform say was the cause of the Civil War during their 1864 campaign?

- a. Amendments
- b. The Constitution
- c. Emancipation Proclamation
- d. Slavery

8. Who won the 1864 presidential election?

- a. James Ashley
- b. Andrew Johnson
- c. Abraham Lincoln
- d. George Washington

9. When did the 13th Amendment pass?

- a. June 1863
- b. January 1865
- c. January 1863
- d. July 1865

10. Which word means another person was considered “less than” because of a certain quality or characteristic, such as skin color, religious beliefs, or gender?

- a. Abolish
- b. Emancipation
- c. Ratified
- d. Prejudice

The End of Slavery - 3rd Grade Assessment Key

1. How many branches is the United States government split into?

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- c. **3**
- d. 4

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- c. Ratified
- d. **Prejudice**

The End of Slavery

Resource List

- 01 <https://www.nps.gov/inde/learn/historyculture/stories-libertybell.htm>
- 02 <https://librarycompany.org/geniusoffreedom/northern-blacks-and-the-reconstruction-amendments/>
- 03 <https://www.whitehouse.gov/about-the-white-house/our-government/the-legislative-branch/>
- 04 <https://bensguide.gpo.gov/j-ways-to-amend-constitution>
- 05 <https://nmaahc.si.edu/explore/stories/13th-amendment-constitution-united-states>
- 06 <https://www.presidency.ucsb.edu/documents/republican-party-platform-1864>
- 07 <https://nmaahc.si.edu/explore/stories/13th-amendment-constitution-united-states>
- 08 <https://bible.org/seriespage/5-moses-leads-people-out-egypt-exodus-14>
- 09 https://www.senate.gov/civics/constitution_item/constitution.htm
- 10 <https://www.khanacademy.org/humanities/us-history/civil-war-era/slavery-and-the-civil-war/a/the-emancipation-proclamation>
- 11 <https://www.gilderlehrman.org/history-resources/spotlight-primary-source/ratifying-thirteenth-amendment-1866>
- 12 https://www.archives.gov/exhibits/american_originals_iv/sections/preliminary_emancipation_proclamation.html
- 13 <https://www.senate.gov/about/origins-foundations/senate-and-constitution/senate-passes-the-thirteenth-amendment.htm>

