

Reconstruction Ripple Effects Answer Key

Responses will vary, but should include:

1. **Reconstruction Acts**

Cause: Congress aimed to rebuild the South and protect rights of freedmen.

Effect: Former Confederate states were required to follow new rules to rejoin the Union.

Extended Effect: More African Americans participated in politics and voting.

2. **Civil Rights Act of 1866**

Cause: Laws like Black Codes limited freedoms of formerly enslaved people.

Effect: Guaranteed citizenship and legal protection for African Americans.

Extended Effect: Helped support future civil rights laws.

3. **Military Districts**

Cause: Violence and resistance in Southern states affected the safety of freedmen.

Effect: U.S. troops enforced new rights and laws.

Extended Effect: Some stability improved, though many Southerners resented military control.

4. **14th Amendment**

Cause: Freedmen needed their rights clearly recognized by law.

Effect: African Americans became citizens with equal protection.

Extended Effect: Federal government had more power to stop discrimination.

5. **Enforcement Acts**

Cause: Groups like the KKK tried to scare African Americans away from voting.

Effect: Government punished those using violence to block civil rights.

Extended Effect: Temporarily reduced attacks and protected voting rights.