

Name _____



Equal Rights Promise

Directions: Read the primary source excerpt below from the Civil Rights Act of 1866. Then paraphrase the main idea in your own words and explain why it was important during Reconstruction.

Excerpt from the Civil Rights Act of 1866:

"All persons born in the United States...shall have the same right in every state and territory to make and enforce contracts, to sue, be parties, and give evidence... and to full and equal benefit of all laws and proceedings for the security of person and property."

1. Rewrite the excerpt in your own words. What is this law saying?

2. Explain why this law was an important step during Reconstruction.

3. Who was this law mostly created to protect after the Civil War?

4. Do you think all people were treated fairly even after this law was passed? Explain your reasoning.
