

Roots Of Change Answer Key

Student essays will vary. Strong essays should include:

- Reconstruction Amendments (13th, 14th, 15th) expanded rights and citizenship protections that later activists used to demand equality.
- The Freedmen's Bureau and new schools helped increase education and political participation for African Americans.
- Early Black political leaders (e.g., Hiram Revels, Blanche K. Bruce, Frederick Douglass) set examples for later activism.
- Resistance and backlash (e.g., emergence of Jim Crow laws) showed that continued struggle would be necessary, inspiring later movements.

Conclusion Expectations: Students should explain that Reconstruction started a long fight for equality that continued into the 20th century and beyond.

Teacher's Guide

- Review what a strong thesis statement looks like before writing.
- Provide a quick list of "evidence sentence starters" to support learners (For example: "One example of how Reconstruction helped...").
- Encourage peer discussion or brainstorming before drafting.

Differentiation

- **Support:** Offer a graphic organizer with paragraph frames.
- **Challenge:** Require an additional paragraph addressing how Reconstruction failed to meet its goals and how that influenced later activism.

Engagement Ideas

- Use primary source quotes from Civil Rights leaders referencing Reconstruction.
- Host a short "gallery walk" of students' thesis statements for feedback.

Extension Ideas

- Connect to the Civil Rights Act of 1964 or Voting Rights Act of 1965 to show legal continuity.
- Have students reflect: "What unfinished goals from Reconstruction still matter today?"