

Name _____

Helping Hands

Directions: Read the passage below. Then answer the questions using complete sentences.



After the Civil War ended, millions of formerly enslaved people needed help starting new lives. The United States government created the Freedmen's Bureau in 1865 to support them during Reconstruction. The Bureau helped people find food, clothing, and shelter, and it also opened schools so that children and adults could learn to read and write.

However, the Freedmen's Bureau faced many challenges. It did not always have enough money or workers to help everyone in need. Some white Southerners did not like the Bureau and tried to stop its work. Even though it only lasted a few years, the Freedmen's Bureau made a lasting difference by giving education and hope to many families.

Comprehension Questions:

1. Why was the Freedmen's Bureau created?
2. Name two kinds of support the Bureau provided to formerly enslaved people.
3. What was one challenge the Freedmen's Bureau faced?
4. How did the Freedmen's Bureau make a lasting difference?
5. In your own words, explain why the Freedmen's Bureau was important during Reconstruction.