

After the war

Many soldiers on both sides died during the war. Most of the war was fought in the South. Many railroads, farms, houses, and other places were destroyed, and most people there became very poor. The period after the war, called Reconstruction, lasted from the end of the war until 1877. The Union Army stayed in some Southern states, making them occupied territory. Three important amendments were added to the United States Constitution.



The amendments were proposed (or suggested) by the U.S. government. Although not every American supported them, the amendments got enough support to pass:

- The 13th Amendment said that slavery is not allowed anywhere in the United States. This completed the work of the Emancipation Proclamation.
- The 14th Amendment made it clear that all people born in the United States were citizens with equal rights.
- The 15th Amendment said that people in the United States could not be kept from voting because of their race.

After the war, some of the Union Army's leaders went into politics. Generals Grant, Hayes, Garfield, Harrison, and McKinley became presidents. Other veterans were elected to other offices.

The Amnesty Act of 1872 restored the rights to vote and to hold political office for most of the former members of the Confederacy. Some of them also became politicians.

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Reading activity

Now, look at the sentences. Rewrite them to make them true.

1.- There weren't many diseases during the American Civil War.



2.- The reconstruction lasted from 1864 to 1876. During this period the Union did not try to help the Southern states.



3.- Every American supported the proposed amendments. However, they were not approved.



4.- After the war, some of the Union Army's leaders didn't went into politics. They keep a low profile life.



The amendments

Now, choose the match the amendments with their correct description.

The 13th Amendment

The 14th Amendment

The 15th Amendment

It stated that people born in the United States were citizens with equal rights.

It established that people in the United States were allowed to vote no matter their race.

It abolished slavery all over United States.