

LOST FRIENDS

President, Lieut

40 Acres and a Mule.

Judas Moses, who raised the Confederate flag on Fort Sumter!!

Est. Time: 45-60 minutes
Subjects: ELA, Social Studies/History
Age Range: Middle & High School
See the full lesson [here!](#)

★ *TEACHROCK* ★



How did slavery separate loved ones, and how did free people locate one another during Reconstruction?

In this lesson, you will:

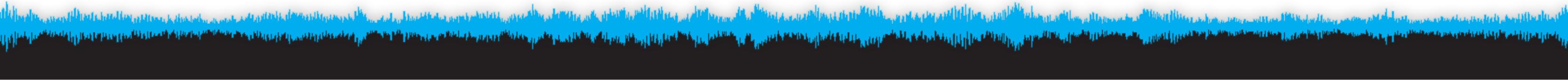
- Learn about Reconstruction, the era immediately following the U.S. Civil War
 - Read letters written by emancipated Black Americans seeking loved ones
 - Explore the geography and distances traveled by Black Americans
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Between 1525 and 1866, 12.5 million Africans were taken against their will across the Atlantic Ocean to the Americas.

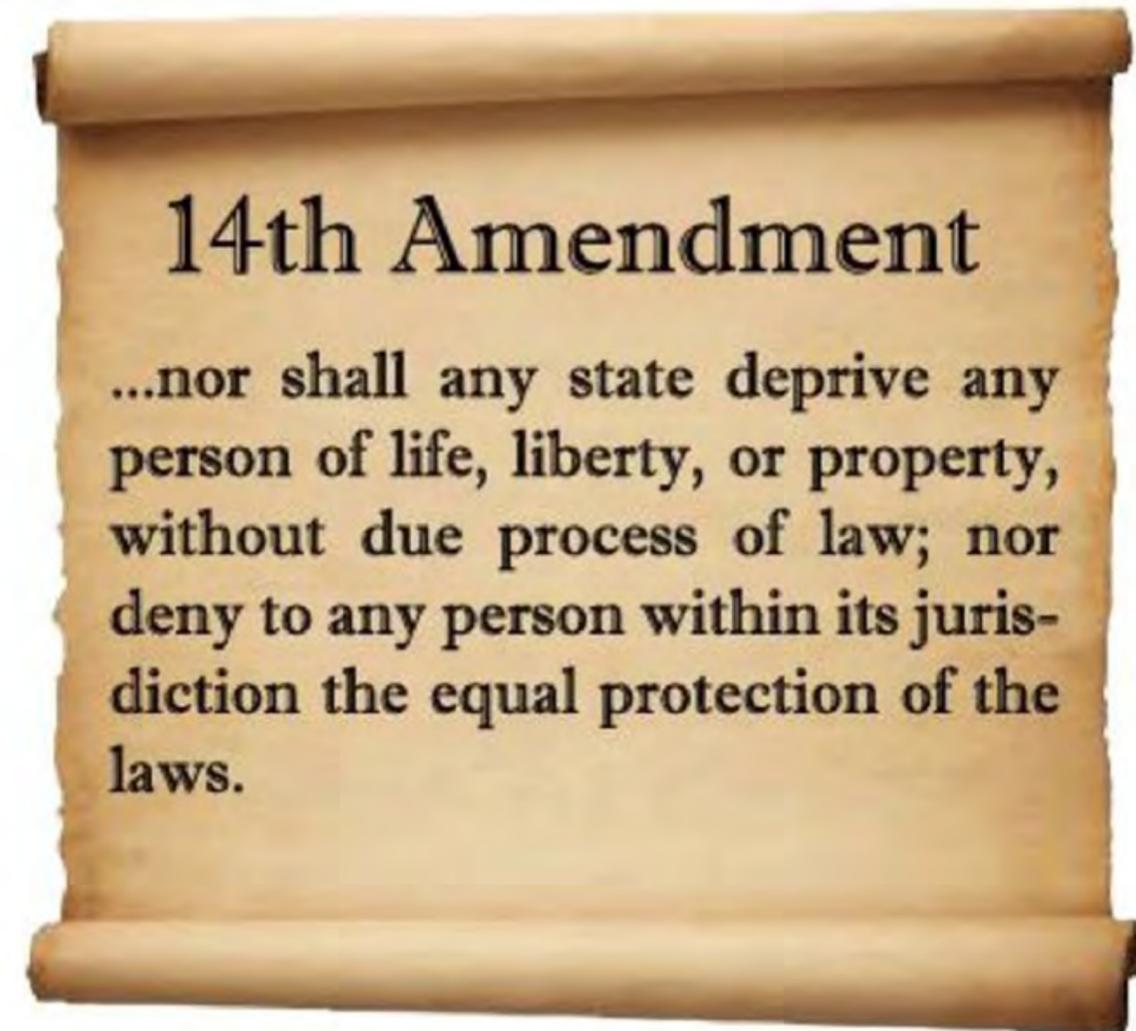
10.7 million survived the dreaded Middle Passage, to be sold into slavery in North America, the Caribbean and South America.

The institution of slavery was an essential building block of the political and economic systems of the United States. Slavery began in 1619 and was brought to end gradually with legislation that culminated in the ratification of the 14th Amendment.



A total of 3.9 million African-Americans were enslaved in 1860, while there were 400,000 free people. In 1868, the 14th Amendment to the Constitution granted U.S. citizenship to free people, formerly enslaved African Americans. Native Americans were not mentioned in the 14th Amendment and interpretation of the amendment excluded them from the rights the amendment granted to African Americans.

Read an excerpt from the 14th Amendment [here](#).





Consider or ask a friend:

- What rights did the 14th amendment offer free people for the first time?
 - What does it mean to be a citizen?
 - What are the benefits of citizenship?
 - Can you think of any citizens who do not have the full benefits of citizenship?
- 



The trans-Atlantic slave trade -comprising of the abduction, sale and purchase of Africans- spanned centuries.

The 14th Amendment conferred full citizenship on nearly 4 million newly emancipated African Americans. But free people faced the challenge of locating loved ones who had been sold away from them during slavery.

They sought one another by placing Lost Friends ads in the Southwestern Christian Advocate, a newspaper published in New Orleans and widely distributed to a network of five hundred preachers, eight hundred post offices and more than four thousand subscribers.





Lost Friends Ads

Examine some examples of Lost Friends ads appearing in the Southwestern Christian Advocate [here](#).



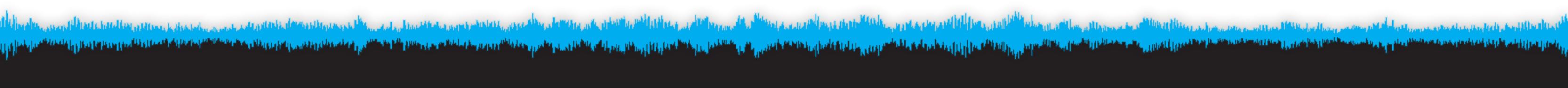


Consider or ask a friend:

- What do you observe about the names of the seekers and their loved ones?
 - What challenges might their names present?
- 



Using **this worksheet** with the **lost friends ads**, answer the following questions:

- Who on the chart traveled the farthest?
 - How many miles did they travel?
 - A healthy person can travel 20-30 miles a day on foot, but these people were carrying all of their belongings, so 20 miles might be the maximum possible on any given day. How many days might their trip have taken?
 - What might it have been like for free people, for whom reading and writing were illegal, to seek their lost friends with newspaper ads like this and word of mouth as the only means of communication?
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SUMMARY

- The 14th Amendment expanded the definition of citizenship to encompass those born in the United States, including African Americans
- African Americans who had been born with slave status attained freedom gradually during Reconstruction, as federal legislation and enforcement of that legislation varied widely by geographical area
- As Black citizens became free during the Civil War and Reconstruction, they began to search for loved ones from whom they had been separated during slavery

BE CREATIVE

It is easy to lose contact. Take a moment to think of someone with whom you have not been in touch and reconnect. It can be a neighbor, a classmate, a family member, or someone you are missing today. Be imaginative and create something that will speak to the person to whom you are sending it.



BE CREATIVE

- Make a video
- Make an audio recording of you speaking, singing or playing an instrument
- Make and share a playlist
- Create a visual or graphic- a photo, slideshow, drawing, comic strip, or timeline- that tells the story of your experience since you were last in touch



CONNECT

Share it with us! Either you or an adult in your life can share your work with TeachRock on **Instagram** or **Facebook**, email to **info@teachrock.org**, or Tweet it to **@TeachRock**





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