

What were the consequences of the abolition of slavery?

Tasks

1. Group the following statements into the categories on p.3.
2. Use this information to conduct a SWOT (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, threats) analysis of the position of Black Americans after the 13th Amendment.

1. Freedom was guaranteed by presidential proclamation, by law and constitutional amendments.	2. The traditional attitude of many Southern whites remained that black people were inferior and always would be.	3. Slaves had been refused education by most of their owners before emancipation and were consequently still disadvantaged.
4. Ex-slaves gained the right to travel and to find and choose work.	5. There was no redistribution of confiscated Southern lands so most freedmen had no economic autonomy, and many could only work as paid labourers or sharecroppers.	6. Ex-slaves acquired legal rights as equal citizens.
7. There was increasing competition for unskilled work between freedmen and white labourers.	8. Ex-slaves gained the benefits of work, including being paid and using the money earned freely.	9. Violence and intimidation through groups like the KKK remained or increased.



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10. Abolition was thought to be morally right by most of the USA.	11. The implementation of new laws was difficult for the small, federal government bureaucracy.	12. The traumatic experience of Civil War and the speed of abolition hampered the development of equality.
13. The social structure in the South still valued land ownership above the artisan, the entrepreneur and the industrialist.	14. The Christian Church continued to be a source of strength for black communities.	15. The solidarity of Afro-American culture, through the blending of different African ethnic groups and languages, continued after emancipation.
16. Marriages between freed people allowed the creation of socially acceptable family groups with, for the first time, their own surnames and identity.	17. Entrenched attitudes about white supremacy and stereotypical images of lazy, 'childlike' blacks prevented the value of black Americans being recognised	18. Due to economic recession, people in the North were more focused on their immediate problems than the racial integration problems of the South.
19. Political power through suffrage resulted in large numbers of black people in some Southern states being willing to elect black congressmen and senators.	20. Military rule was necessary in the rebel Southern states.	21. The Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen and Abandoned Lands provided support by setting up schools, supplying work, clothes and food.



Political

Social/cultural

Religious

Economic

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Strengths	Opportunities
Weaknesses	Threats