

13th Amendment Recommended Reading:

Elementary School

Cooper, Floyd. Juneteenth for Mazie. Holland, OH: Dreamscape Media, LLC, 2021.

Mazie is ready to celebrate liberty. She is ready to celebrate freedom. She is ready to celebrate a great day in American history: the day her ancestors were no longer slaves. Mazie remembers the struggles and the triumph as she gets ready to celebrate Juneteenth.

Johnson, Angela. All Different Now: Juneteenth, the First Day of Freedom. New York: Simon & Schuster, 2014.

Johnson imagines what it would be like to be a slave one minute and a free person the next. Spare text, structured as free verse, hones in on the smell of honeysuckle and breakfast routines as the day begins, like any other. The titular phrase appears three times: first to build suspense, then to indicate the earthshaking import of the message spreading from the port, and, finally, to reflect on the consequences. Lewis paints details not mentioned. A timeline, glossary, overview, list of websites, and notes by author and illustrator provide deeper understanding.

Nelson, Vaunda Micheaux. Juneteenth. Minneapolis, MN: First Avenue Editions, 2006.

June 19th, 1865, began as another hot day in Texas. Enslaved African Americans worked in fields, in barns, and in the homes of the white people who owned them. Then a message arrived. Freedom! Slavery had ended! The Civil War had actually ended in April. It took two months for word to reach Texas. Still the joy of that amazing day has never been forgotten.

Robinet, Harriette Gillem. Forty Acres and Maybe a Mule. New York: The First Avenue Editions, Reprint edition (February 2000).

A 12-year-old orphaned slave leaves South Carolina in search of a Freedmen's Bureau during Reconstruction to claim the "40 acres and a mule" promised by General Sherman.

Older grades and ages

Crofts, Daniel W. Lincoln and the Politics of Slavery: The Other Thirteenth Amendment and the Struggle To Save the Union Civil War. Chapel Hill, NC: The University of North Carolina Press, 2016.

Crofts unearths the hidden history and political maneuvering behind the stillborn attempt to enact this amendment, the polar opposite of the actual Thirteenth Amendment of 1865 that ended slavery. This compelling book sheds light on an overlooked element of Lincoln's statecraft and presents a relentlessly honest portrayal of America's most admired president. Crofts rejects the view advanced by some Lincoln scholars that the wartime momentum toward emancipation originated well before the first shots were fired.

Reidy, Joseph P. Illusions of Emancipation: The Pursuit of Freedom and Equality in the Twilight of Slavery. Chapel Hill, NC: The University of North Carolina Press. 2019.

As students of the Civil War have long known, emancipation was not merely a product of Lincoln's proclamation or of Confederate defeat in April 1865. It was a process that required more than legal or military action. With enslaved people fully engaged as actors, emancipation necessitated a fundamental reordering of a way of life whose implications stretched well beyond the former slave states. Slavery did not die quietly or quickly, nor did freedom fulfill every dream of the enslaved or their allies. The process unfolded unevenly.

Richards, Leonard L. Who Freed the Slaves? The Fight Over the Thirteenth Amendment. Chicago, University of Chicago Press, 2015.

Who Freed the Slaves? is a masterwork of American history, presenting a surprising, nuanced portrayal of a crucial moment for the nation, one whose effects are still being felt today.

Samito, Christian. Lincoln and the Thirteenth Amendment. Carbondale, IL: Southern Illinois University Press, 2015.

"Christian Samito has written a fine study that explains how Lincoln came to support the Thirteenth Amendment and the intricate maneuvers needed to obtain its approval by Congress and ratification by the states. This is an essential account of Lincoln's developing views and his political strategy as he moved from opposing the spread of slavery to securing its complete abolition."—**George Rutherglen**, John Barbee Minor Distinguished Professor of Law at the University of Virginia

Tsesis, Alexander. The Thirteenth Amendment and American Freedom: A Legal History. New York: NYU Press, 2004.

Tsesis explains why the 13th Amendment is essential to contemporary America, offering a fresh analysis of the role the Amendment has played regarding civil rights legislation.

14th Amendment Recommended Reading

Elementary School

Macri, Giancarlo and Carolina Zanotti. The Wall: A Timeless Tale. A Picture Book about the Benefits of Diversity, How We Thrive When We Work Together, and the Damage That Can Be Done. by Barriers Between Us. East Petersburg, PA: Happy Fox Books, 2019.

It's important for children to appreciate people who might be different from them, but it can also be difficult for grownups to teach that lesson in a fun and memorable way. The Wall from Happy Fox Books is the perfect way to get a conversation about diversity started! This colorful children's picture book provides a positive view of a multicultural and thriving society, subtly suggesting all the wonderful kinds of people we might miss meeting when we don't practice tolerance and acceptance.

Older grades and ages

Barnett, Randy E., Evan D. Bernick. The Original Meaning of the Fourteenth Amendment: Its Letter and Spirit. Cambridge, MA: Belknap Press: An Imprint of Harvard University Press, 2021.

With evenhanded attention to primary sources, *The Original Meaning of the Fourteenth Amendment* shows how the principles of the Declaration eventually came to modify the Constitution and proposes workable doctrines for implementing the key provisions of Section One of the Fourteenth Amendment.

Curtis, Michael Kent. No State Shall Abridge: The Fourteenth Amendment and the Bill of Rights. Durham, NC: Duke University Press, 1990.

"Curtis effectively settles a serious legal debate: whether the framers of the 14th Amendment intended to incorporate the Bill of Rights guarantees and thereby inhibit state action. Taking on a formidable array of constitutional scholars, he rebuts their argument with vigor and effectiveness, conclusively demonstrating the legitimacy of the incorporation thesis. A bold, forcefully argued, important study."—*Library Journal*

Lash, Kurt L. The Fourteenth Amendment and the Privileges and Immunities of American Citizenship. Cambridge, England: Cambridge University Press, 2015.

This book presents the history behind a revolution in American liberty: the 1868 addition of the Privileges or Immunities Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment. This exhaustively researched book follows the evolution in public understanding of "the privileges and immunities of citizens of the United States," from the early years of the Constitution to the critical national election of 1866. For the first 92 years of our nation's history, nothing in the American Constitution prevented states from abridging freedom of speech, prohibiting the free exercise of religion, or denying the right of peaceful assembly. The suppression of freedom in the southern states convinced the Reconstruction Congress and the supporters of the Union to add an amendment forcing the states to respect the rights announced in the first eight amendments. But rather than eradicate state autonomy altogether, the people embraced the Fourteenth Amendment that expanded the protections of the Bill of Rights and preserved the Constitution's original commitment to federalism and the principle of limited national power.

Magliocca, Gerald N. American Founding Son: John Bingham and the Invention of the Fourteenth Amendment. New York: NYU Press, Reprint 2016.

John Bingham was the architect of the rebirth of the United States following the Civil War. A leading antislavery lawyer and congressman from Ohio, Bingham wrote the most important part of the Fourteenth Amendment to the Constitution, which guarantees fundamental rights and equality to all Americans. He was also at the center of two of the greatest trials in history, giving the closing argument in the military prosecution of John Wilkes Booth's co-conspirators for the assassination of Abraham Lincoln and in the impeachment of President Andrew Johnson. And more than any other man, Bingham played the key role in shaping the Union's policy towards the occupied ex-Confederate States, with consequences that still haunt our politics.

Ortiz, Paul. An African and Latinx History of the United States. New York: Beacon Press, 2018.

Incisive and timely, this bottom-up history, told from the interconnected vantage points of Latinx and African Americans, reveals the radically different ways that people of the diaspora have addressed issues still plaguing the United States today, and it offers a way forward in the continued struggle for universal civil rights.

Wurman, Ilan. The Second Founding: An Introduction to the Fourteenth Amendment. Amazon: Audible, 2021.

In *The Second Founding: An Introduction to the Fourteenth Amendment*, Ilan Wurman provides an illuminating introduction to the original meaning of the Fourteenth Amendment's famous provisions "due process of law", "equal protection of the laws", and the "privileges or immunities" of citizenship. He begins by exploring the antebellum legal meanings of these concepts, starting from Magna Carta, the Statutes of Edward III, and the Petition of Right to William Blackstone and antebellum state court cases.

The book then traces how these concepts solved historical problems confronting framers of the Fourteenth Amendment, including the comity rights of free blacks, private violence and the denial of the protection of the laws, and the notorious abridgment of freedmen's rights in the Black Codes. Wurman makes a compelling case that, if the modern originalist Supreme Court interpreted the Amendment in "the language of the law", it would lead to surprising and desirable results today.

15th Amendment Recommended Reading

Elementary School

Diesen, Deborah. Equality's Call: The Story of Voting Rights in America. San Diego, CA: Beach Lane Books, 2020.

The founders of the United States declared that consent of the governed was a key part of their plan for the new nation. But for many years, only white men of means were allowed to vote. This unflinching and inspiring history of voting rights looks back at the activists who answered equality's call, working tirelessly to secure the right for all to vote, and it also looks forward to the future and the work that still needs to be done.

Older grades and ages

Gillette, William. The Right to Vote: Politics and the Passage of the Fifteenth Amendment (The Johns Hopkins University Studies in Historical and Political Science) Kindle Edition. Baltimore, MD: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 2019.

Originally published in 1965. *The Right to Vote* covers the immediate background, passage, and ratification of the Fifteenth Amendment. Gillette contends that the Fifteenth Amendment was intended to give voting rights to African Americans in the north, sidelining those in the south. African American suffrage, in other words, had the pragmatic effect of bringing power to the Republicans of the north. In short, the Fifteenth Amendment was not a radical document but rather was pushed by Republican moderates in an effort to consolidate their power.

Holloway, Vanessa A. In Search of Federal Enforcement: The Moral Authority of the Fifteenth Amendment and the Integrity of the Black Ballot, 1870-1965. UPA, 2015.

In Search of Federal Enforcement is a call to investigate the history of federal oversight to secure and preserve black Americans' voting rights over a ninety-five-year interregnum. This book satiates the reader's harboring curiosity as to why the national government was culpably negligent in protecting the exercise of the franchise for black Americans until the 1965 Voting Rights Act. As Holloway explains, much of this problem stemmed from Southern Democrats operating in tandem with the power of private actors to circumvent the Fifteenth Amendment. This mutual-advantage partnership codified disfranchisement, safeguarded the interests of recalcitrant Southern states and localities, and defended local systems of privilege. In the pages of this timely study, Holloway lays bare the abject failure of the national government and critically evaluates how the Southern status quo stimulated chaos at the national level. Despite market paradigms, *In Search of Federal Enforcement* confronts this historical conundrum and offers keen observations about voting manipulations and electoral abuse by both incumbents and private actors.

19th Amendment Recommended Reading

Elementary School

Farrell, Kate. V Is for Voting. New York: Henry Holt and Co., 2020.

An engaging introduction to the tenets of democracy, *V Is for Voting* is a playful, poetic, and powerful primer about the importance of voting and activism. Featuring Kate Farrell's rhyming text and Caitlin Kuhwald's bold art, plus thoughtful back matter, the book is a gorgeous, and crucial, addition to every young reader's library.

Frazer, Coral Celeste. Vote!: Women's Fight for Access to the Ballot Box.

Minneapolis, MN: Twenty-First Century Books, 2019.

August 18, 2020, marks the 100th anniversary of the 19th Amendment to the US Constitution, which prohibited states and the US government from denying citizens the right to vote on the basis of sex. See how the 70-year-long fight for women's suffrage was hard won by leaders such as Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Susan B. Anthony, Alice Paul, Carrie Chapman Catt and others. Learn how their success led into the civil rights and feminist movements of the mid- and late twentieth century, as well as today's #MeToo, #YesAllWomen, and Black Lives Matter movements. In the face of voter ID laws, voter purges, gerrymandering, and other restrictions, Americans continue to fight for equality in voting rights.

Older grades and ages

Tarter, Brent and Marianne E. Julienne. The Campaign for Woman Suffrage in Virginia (American Heritage). Richmond, VA: History Press Library Editions, 2020.

In 1920, Virginia's General Assembly refused to ratify the Nineteenth Amendment of the United States Constitution to grant women the vote. Virginia's Suffragists lost. Or do they? When the thirty-sixth state ratified the amendment, women gained voting rights across the nation. Virginia suffragists were a part of that victory, although their role has been nearly forgotten. They marched in parades, rallied at the state capitol, spoke to crowds on street corners, staffed booths at fairs, lobbied legislators, picketed the White House and even went to jail. The Campaign for Women Suffrage in Virginia reveals how women created two statewide organizations to win the right to vote. At the centenary of the movement, these remarkable women can at last be recognized for their important contributions.

Reconstruction Recommended Reading

Elementary School

Boyd, Bentley. Reconstruction Junction. Mount Vernon, OH: Chester Comix, 2nd edition, 2010.

The end of the American Civil War is not the end of the conflict between Northern states and Southern states. The battlefield shooting is over, but the political arguments over civil rights go on, sometimes with new violence between whites and black citizens. It is a confusing and dark time as Americans try to put their broken nation back together. The lessons learned (and missed) in the Reconstruction Era will affect American history for another 100 years. This colorful graphic novel will excite reluctant readers, prepare students for standardized tests in history and help homeschooling parents!

Cocca, Lisa Colozza. Reconstruction and the Aftermath. Boston: Crabtree Publishing Company, 2011.

President Lincoln began planning "reconstruction" for the defeated South before the end of the war: how to integrate former slaves into their society, how to bring former Confederates back into the Union fold, and the process by which the ravaged South would be re-built. The era of Reconstruction ended up lasting 3 times longer than the actual war.

Gates Jr., Henry Louis. Dark Sky Rising: Reconstruction and the Dawn of Jim Crow. Scholastic Focus, reprint 2020.

This is a story about America during and after Reconstruction, one of history's most pivotal and misunderstood chapters. In a stirring account of emancipation, the struggle for citizenship and national reunion, and the advent of racial segregation, the renowned Harvard scholar delivers a book that is illuminating and timely. Real-life accounts drive the narrative, spanning the half century between the Civil War and *Birth of a Nation*. Here, you will come face-to-face with the people and events of Reconstruction's noble democratic experiment, its tragic undermining, and the drawing of a new "color line" in the long Jim Crow era that followed. In introducing young readers to them, and to the resiliency of the African American people at times of progress and betrayal, Professor Gates shares a history that remains vitally relevant today.

Older grades and ages

Avins, Alfred. The Reconstruction Amendments' Debate: The Legislative History and Contemporary Debates in Congress on the 13th, 14th, and 15th Amendments. Richmond, VA: 1967.

Ratified in the years immediately following the American Civil War, the Thirteenth, Fourteenth, and Fifteenth Amendments to the U.S. Constitution—together known as the Reconstruction Amendments—abolished slavery, safeguarded a set of basic national liberties, and expanded the right to vote, respectively. This two-volume work presents the key speeches, debates, and public dialogues that surrounded the adoption of the three amendments, allowing us to more fully experience how they reshaped the nature of American life and freedom.

Brotherhood of Liberty. Justice and Jurisprudence: An Inquiry Concerning the Constitutional Limitations of the Thirteenth, Fourteenth, and Fifteenth Amendments. Amazon Affiliate: Wentworth Press, 2015.

This work has been selected by scholars as being culturally important and is part of the knowledge base of civilization as we know it. This work was reproduced from the original artifact and remains as true to the original work as possible. Therefore, you will see the original copyright references, library stamps (as most of these works have been housed in our most important libraries around the world), and other notations in the work.

DuBois, W.E. Burghart. Black Reconstruction in America, 1860-1880. Detroit: Free Press, 1998.

This pioneering work was the first full-length study of the role black Americans played in the crucial period after the Civil War, when the slaves had been freed and the attempt was made to reconstruct American society. Hailed at the time, *Black Reconstruction in America 1860–1880* has justly been called a classic.

Dunbar-Ortiz, Roxanne. An Indigenous Peoples' History of the United States. New York: Beacon Press, 2015.

Spanning more than four hundred years, this classic bottom-up peoples' history radically reframes US history and explodes the silences that have haunted our national narrative.

Foner, Eric. The Second Foundation: How the Civil War and Reconstruction Remade the Constitution. New York: W. W. Norton & Company, 2020.

An authoritative history by the preeminent scholar of the Civil War era, *The Second Founding* traces the arc of the three foundational Reconstruction amendments from their origins in antebellum activism and adoption amidst intense postwar politics to their virtual nullification by narrow Supreme Court decisions and Jim Crow state laws. Today these amendments remain strong tools for achieving the American ideal of equality, if only we will take them up.

Foner, Eric. Reconstruction Updated Revolution, 1863-1877 (Harper Perennial Modern Classics). New York: Harper Perennial Modern Classics, 2014.

Reconstruction chronicles the way in which Americans—black and white—responded to the unprecedented changes unleashed by the war and the end of slavery. It addresses the ways in which the emancipated slaves' quest for economic autonomy and equal citizenship shaped the political agenda of Reconstruction; the remodeling of Southern society and the place of planters, merchants, and small farmers within it; the evolution of racial attitudes and patterns of race relations; and the emergence of a national state possessing vastly expanded authority and committed, for a time, to the principle of equal rights for all Americans.

Gordon-Reed, Annette. On Juneteenth. Washington, DC: Liveright, 2021.

Weaving together American history, dramatic family chronicle, and searing episodes of memoir, Annette Gordon-Reed's *On Juneteenth* provides a historian's view of the country's long road to Juneteenth, recounting both its origins in Texas and the enormous hardships that African-Americans have endured in the century since, from Reconstruction through Jim Crow and beyond. All too aware of the stories of cowboys, ranchers, and oilmen that have long dominated the lore of the Lone Star State, Gordon-Reed—herself a Texas native and the descendant of enslaved people brought to Texas as early as the 1820s—forges a new and profoundly truthful narrative of her home state, with implications for us all.

Equal Rights and Government Topics Recommended Reading

Preschool

Bush, Zach and Laurie Friedman. The Little Book of Government (Children’s Book about Government, Introduction to Government and How It Works). Publishing Power, LLC, 2020.

This book for children provides a basic and easy-to-understand introduction to government and the role it plays in our society. Important concepts like democracy, freedom, and lawmaking are explained, along with an introduction to the role the Constitution plays in our government as well as our nation’s three branches of government.

Elementary School

Foster, Jeff. Foreword by Yolanda Renee King. For Which We Stand: How Our Government Works and Why It Matters. New York: Scholastic Inc., 2020.

Now more than ever, it’s so important for *everyone* to understand our government: where it came from, how it works, and how we can bring about change. And, after all, in the words of author and government teacher Jeff Foster, “If you don’t participate, you can’t complain.” This book is a comprehensive and entertaining guide that answers questions like: What is the Constitution? What are the branches of the government? What is the Electoral College? What are the political parties? What are the different responsibilities of the city, state, and federal governments?

Freeman, Martha. If You’re Going to a March. New York: Sterling Children’s Books, 2018.

As more and more children attend the growing number of marches across the country, this cheerful guide serves as a great reference tool and conversation starter for youthful participants. Inspired by author Martha Freeman’s own experiences, this picture book addresses many of the questions kids might have: What should I wear? How will I get there? Where will I be able to go to the bathroom? Is it okay to dance? (Yes, it is!). All the while the text stays focused on the fact that the right to assemble is a Constitutional part of our life as Americans . . . whatever our political point of view.

Ramsey, Calvin Alexander. Belle, The Last Mule at Gee’s Bend: A Civil Rights Story. Somerville, MA: Candlewick, 2016.

When Alex spies a mule chomping on greens in a nearby garden, he can’t help but ask about it. “Ol’ Belle?” says Miz Pettway. “She can have all the collards she wants. She’s earned it.” And so begins the tale of an ordinary mule in Gee’s Bend, Alabama, that played a singular part in the civil rights movement of the 1960s. When African-Americans in a poor community — inspired by a visit from Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. — defied local authorities who were trying to stop them from registering to vote, many got around a long, imposed detour on mule-drawn wagons. As Alex looks into the eyes of gentle Belle, he begins to understand a significant time in history in a very personal way.

Sanders, Rob and Jared Andrew Schorr. Peaceful Fights for Equal Rights. New York: Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, 2018.

Protesting. Standing up for what’s right. Uniting around the common good—kids have questions about all of these things they see and hear about each day. Through sparse and lyrical writing, Rob Sanders introduces abstract concepts like “fighting for what you believe in” and turns them into something actionable. Jared Schorr’s bold, bright illustrations brings the resistance to life making it clear that one person can make a difference. And together, we can accomplish anything.

Tonatiuh, Duncan. Separate Is Never Equal: Sylvia Mendez and Her Family's Fight for Desegregation. New York: Harry N. Abrams, 2014.

Seven years before *Brown v. Board of Education*, the Mendez family fought to end segregation in California schools. Discover their incredible story in this picture book from award-winning creator Duncan Tonatiuh.

Online Resources for Liberty Amendments Topics:

Britannica.com: Definition, significance and facts; full texts of Emancipation Proclamation, the Thirteenth Amendment with links for related articles.

History.com: Founding Fathers and Slavery; Emancipation Proclamation; Battle Over the 13th Amendment; Hampton Roads Conference; 13th Amendment Passes; Black Codes; Sources.

Loc.gov: 13th, 14th, 15th Amendment resources and Reconstruction: Timelines, overviews, pictures, teachers' materials, speakers, primary sources, Abraham Lincoln correspondences, 19th Amendment blogs, films, research guides, interviews, images (several in Public Domain).

Loc.gov: 19th Amendment: Topics in Chronicling America:

On August 20, 1920, the 19th amendment to the U.S. Constitution gave women the right to vote. This guide provides access to materials related to the "19th Amendment" in the Chronicling America digital collection of historic newspapers.

https://learninglab.si.edu: American Reconstruction Era: This collection highlights artifacts and secondary sources to help students and adults explore the history of the American Reconstruction Era. Specific topics referenced in this collection include the end of the Civil War, legislative changes and leading historic figures.

Americanhistory.si.edu: Creating Icons: How We Remember Woman Suffrage:

Spanning the early days of the woman suffrage movement through to the present-day fights for women's rights, *Creating Icons: How We Remember Woman Suffrage* shares stories of the fight to get women the vote. Some of the activists highlighted here were upheld in the history of the movement; others were excluded. Together their stories reveal a history that goes beyond who can cast a ballot to examine the impact of who we uplift as icons and how we remember as a nation.