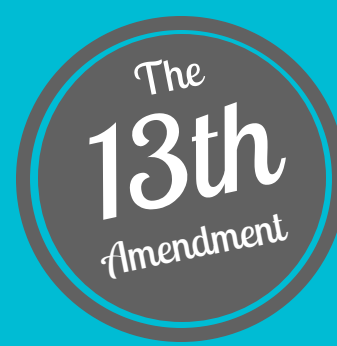


U.S. Constitutional Amendments



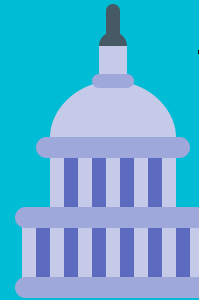
FAST FACTS

The Emancipation Proclamation

On January 1, 1863, during the Civil War, President Lincoln said enslaved people in seceded states were free.



However, it did not bring about freedom for enslaved people. Lincoln knew it could only be enforced if it was to become law through the amendment process.



Passed by Congress:

January 31, 1865

Ratified:

December 6, 1865



Sections

#1



"Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for crime whereof the party shall have been duly convicted, shall exist within the United States, or any place subject to their jurisdiction."

The 13th Amendment abolished institutional enslavement in the United States of America.

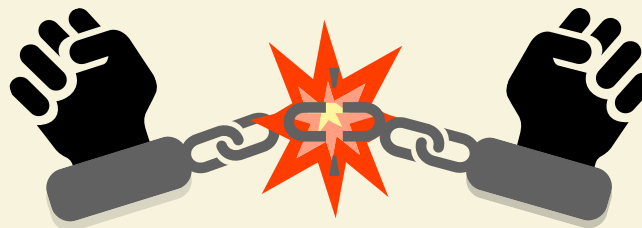
"Punishment for Crime"



Formerly enslaved people could be re-enslaved as punishment for a crime. Sometimes the newly freed person was wrongly accused of a crime so others could legally enslave them.

#2

Congress has the power to enforce this amendment by law.



1865
—
1619
246 YEARS

From 1619, when the first kidnapped, enslaved people arrived in Colonial America to 1865, enslaved people survived unbelievable torture and abuse. The 13th Amendment was the beginning of a long road toward equal rights for African Americans.

