



CONSTITUTIONUS.COM

14TH AMENDMENT

Multiple Choice Quiz

ABOUT THIS QUIZ



14th Amendment

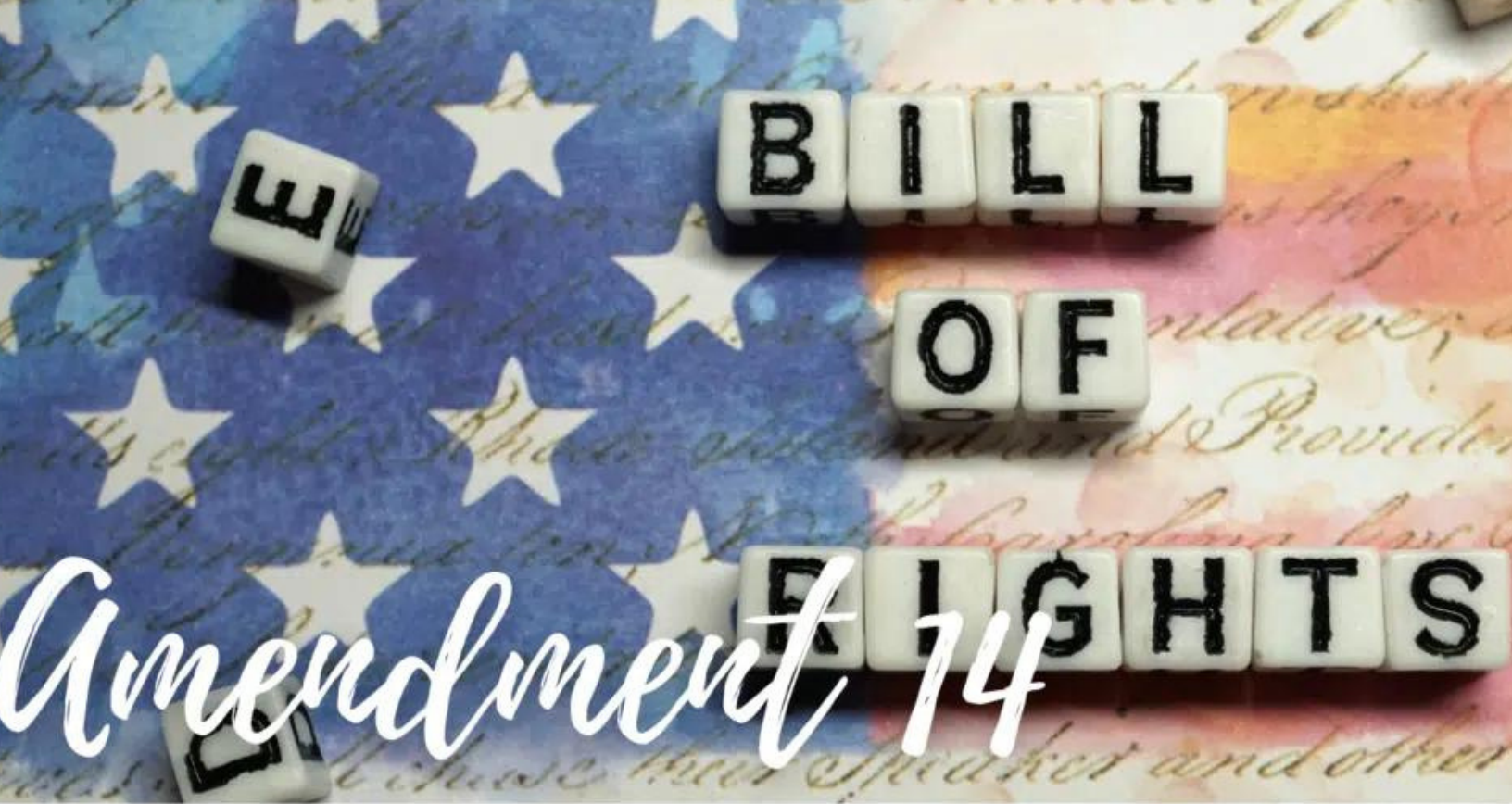
This quiz is about the 14th Amendment of the Constitution.

All questions have 4 possible answers of which only 1 is correct.

You may read the article over the next few pages to freshen up before taking the quiz!

At the back of the book, will be an answer sheet.

For more information, go to:
<https://constitutionus.com>



What is the 14th Amendment?

The Fourteenth Amendment is one of the three Reconstruction Amendments introduced after the Civil War. It was ratified and adopted on July 9th, 1868.

The Fourteenth Amendment sought to address the question of newly-freed slaves' status by providing that everyone born in the United States would automatically be granted citizenship, no matter their race.

Additionally, it echoed the language of the Fifth Amendment by mandating that none of the states could deprive citizens of "life, liberty, or property, without due process of law." It also provides "equal protection of the laws" to all citizens of the country. All of the above is covered by Section 1 of the 14th Amendment

Sections 2, 3, and 4 of the 14th Amendment are primarily relevant only in the context of the Civil War (specifically the reintegration of southern states). In contrast, Section 5 gives Congress the power to enforce the provisions of the 14th Amendment through legislation. Let's take a quick look at some of the main points of the Fourteenth Amendment.

Birthright Citizenship

Section 1 of the Fourteenth Amendment provides that everyone born in the United States or territories is a citizen. This concept is known as "birthright citizenship."

During and after the Civil War, some 4 million slaves were freed. Suddenly, there were 4 million people in the country whose legal position was unclear.

The 14th Amendment changed this by making it so that everyone born in the United States or its territories would automatically be citizens, regardless of race or their former status as slaves.

Today, the concept of birthright citizenship is brought up most often related to children of illegal immigrants.

Due Process and Equal Protection

The Due Process and Equal Protection Clauses of the Fourteenth Amendment are among the most influential sections of the entire Constitution.

First, the due process extends the states' federal protections in the Bill of Rights (the First Amendment to the Tenth Amendment).

The Equal Protection clause, which mandates the individual states must protect every group equally, has been relevant in many Supreme Court cases.

Some of these include *Loving v. Virginia* (1967), permitting people of different races to be married anywhere in the country; *Roe v. Wade* (1973), permitting a woman to have an abortion; and, more recently, *Obergefell v. Hodges* (2015), permitting people of the same sex to marry one another.

As mentioned earlier, the Due Process clause states that the States may not curtail "life, liberty, or property without Due Process of law."

What does this mean exactly?

Well, as one may guess through the many Supreme Court cases related to it, it's open to interpretation. But, in general, it means that a defendant in a criminal case can expect fair treatment.

Today, however, it's understood to mean a lot more than that. For example, life, liberty, and property are intangible things, such as the right to marry.

Overturing the Three-Fifths Clause

The amount of representatives a state has in the House of Representatives is determined based on population. According to the Great Compromise, every state has at least one representative, even with a tiny population. For example, today, California has 53 representatives, while Alaska has just one (along with six other states).

In the early days of the United States, slavery was prevalent in the south.

How were slaves – if at all – counted towards a state's population? How did this affect how many representatives a state had in Congress?

Of course, the states that had slaves wanted all their slaves to count to have more representatives and more voting power. But, on the other hand, the northern states weren't so keen to grant them so much power.

The Three-Fifths Clause was reached as a compromise. It established that 3/5 of slaves would count towards a state's population for purposes of representation in Congress.

The Fourteenth Amendment laid out, in no uncertain terms, that this would no longer be the case. Freed slaves really were citizens now and, as a result, would be 100% counted as part of a state's population.

It stipulated, however, that if black men over the age of 21 were denied the right to vote, the state's number of representatives would be reduced as punishment.

Unfortunately, this was not really enforced, and Jim Crow laws denying African-Americans the right to vote lasted until the 1960s.

Ex-Confederates in Office

After the Civil War, 11 states that had declared their intent to separate were reintegrated.

Naturally, after the war, the question arose whether or not those who had betrayed their oaths to the United States (such as former members of Congress or military officers) should be allowed to run for office in the US government. Section 3 of the 14th Amendment establishes that they can't unless Congress votes by a two-thirds majority to allow the person in question to run.

Confederate Debt

Section 4 of the 14th Amendment prohibits the payment of any debt owed to the Confederacy. It also negates the idea that the US government should pay former slave owners for their loss.

Multiple Choice Quiz

1. What era is the 14th Amendment associated with?

- A. Civil War
- B. Mexican-American War
- C. Reconstruction
- D. Gilded Age

2. What year was the 14th Amendment ratified?

- A. 1865
- B. 1868
- C. 1871
- D. 1876

3. What group of individuals did the 14th Amendment address?

- A. Freedman
- B. Union soldiers
- C. Confederate soldiers
- D. Confederate politicians

4. What other amendment is the 14th Amendment closely related to?

- A. 3rd Amendment
- B. 5th Amendment
- C. 8th Amendment
- D. 12th Amendment

5. What type of citizenship did the 14th Amendment firmly establish?

- A. Immigration
- B. Political
- C. Foreign-born
- D. Birthright

6. About how many slaves were freed as a result of the Civil War

- A. 2 million
- B. 3 million
- C. 4 million
- D. 5 million

7. What 2 clauses in the 14th Amendment are considered some of the most influential in the entire US Constitution?

- A. Due process and equal protection clauses
- B. Liberty and equality clauses
- C. Emancipation and freedom clauses
- D. Freedman and slavery clauses

8. Which of the following is not a major court case surrounding the interpretation of the Equal Protection Clause?

- A. Marbury v. Madison
- B. Loving v. Virginia
- C. Roe v. Wade
- D. Obergefell v. Hodges

9. What influential constitutional clause was overturned by the 14th Amendment?

- A. Commerce clause
- B. Three-Fifths clause
- C. Necessary and proper clause
- D. Elastic clause

10. How much did a slave count toward a state's population before the Civil War?

- A. One-fourth
- B. One-third
- C. One-half
- D. Three-Fifths

11. What area of the country was slavery most prevalent at the outset of the Civil War?

- A. South
- B. North
- C. West
- D. East

12. What laws often denied African Americans their voting rights even after the 14th Amendment?

- A. Anti-emancipation laws
- B. Jefferson Davis laws
- C. Anti-freedman laws
- D. Jim Crow laws

13. When were many of the legal obstacles surrounding voting rights for African Americans dissolved?

- A. 1940s
- B. 1950s
- C. 1960s
- D. 1970s

14. How many states seceded from the Union during the Civil War?

- A. 7
- B. 11
- C. 13
- D. 15

15. How could former Confederate officers or governmental officials run for office in the re-established United States?

- A. Two-thirds majority vote by both houses of Congress
- B. Two-thirds majority vote by the House of Representatives
- C. Two-thirds majority vote by the Senate
- D. Three-fourths majority vote by Congress

16. Which of the following was specifically prohibited by the 14th Amendment?

- A. The compensation of Union veterans
- B. The compensation of former slave owners for their emancipated slaves
- C. The compensation of border state congressmen
- D. The repatriation of Confederate soldiers

Multiple Choice Quiz Answers

1. C
2. B
3. A
4. B
5. D
6. C
7. A
8. A
9. B
10. D
11. A
12. D
13. C
14. B
15. A
16. B