

Southern Black Codes

Directions: With a partner, read the following examples of black codes that were used in southern states to restrict the rights of freed slaves. Answer the discussion questions.

1. Prohibited marriages between whites and freedmen.
2. Segregation in public facilities, cemeteries, schools, and any form of transportation.
3. Racial segregation in public cemeteries.
4. Freedmen over the age of 18 were required to have a job or could be fined and put in prison.
5. Freedmen could not assemble together without the presence of a white person.
6. Illegal to teach freedmen to read or write
7. Freedmen could not own guns or any other forms of weapons.
8. Freedmen couldn't obtain certain jobs (shopkeeper, artisan, mechanic) unless they paid for a license.
9. Prohibited from voting.
10. Prohibited from owning property.

Name _____ Date _____

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Directions: Discuss the examples of black codes provided and answer the following questions with a partner.

1. How did the black codes affect life for newly freed slaves.
2. Why do you think the southern elite decided to pass black codes?
3. Of the black codes provided, which do you think had the most impact on the freedmen? Why?
4. How does a society with black codes compare to one with slavery?