



# Robert Smalls

## Fearless Defender of Black America

### Standards & Learning Objectives

#### AP US HISTORY

**Theme 1: American and National Identity NAT**

**Theme 5: Politics and Power PCE**

**Theme 7: American and Regional Culture ARC**

**Theme 8: Social Structures SOC**

#### KC-5.1.II

In the 1840s and 1850s, Americans continued to debate questions about rights and citizenship for various groups of U.S. inhabitants.

#### KC-5.3

The Union victory in the Civil War and the contested reconstruction of the South settled the issues of slavery and secession, but left unresolved many questions about the power of the federal government and citizenship rights.

#### KC-5.3.I

The North's greater manpower and industrial resources, the leadership of Abraham Lincoln and others, and the decision to emancipate slaves eventually led to the Union military victory over the Confederacy in the devastating Civil War.

#### KC-5.3.II.i

Reconstruction and the Civil War ended slavery, altered relationships between the states and the federal government, and led to debates over new definitions of citizenship, particularly regarding the rights of African Americans, women, and other minorities.

#### KC-5.3.IA

Both the Union and the Confederacy mobilized their economies and societies to wage the war even while facing considerable home front opposition.



### **KC-5.3.I.D**

Although the Confederacy showed military initiative and daring early in the war, the Union ultimately succeeded due to improvements in leadership and strategy, key victories, greater resources, and the wartime destruction of the South's infrastructure.

### **KC-5.3.I.B**

Lincoln and most Union supporters began the Civil War to preserve the Union, but Lincoln's decision to issue the Emancipation Proclamation reframed the purpose of the war and helped prevent the Confederacy from gaining full diplomatic support from European powers. Many African Americans fled southern plantations and enlisted in the Union Army, helping to undermine the Confederacy.

### **KC-5.3.II.ii**

Reconstruction altered relationships between the states and the federal government and led to debates over new definitions of citizenship, particularly regarding the rights of African Americans, women, and other minorities.

### **KC-5.3.II.A**

The 13th Amendment abolished slavery, while the 14th and 15th amendments granted African Americans citizenship, equal protection under the laws, and voting rights.

### **KC-5.3.II.C**

Efforts by radical and moderate Republicans to change the balance of power between Congress and the presidency and to reorder race relations in the defeated South yielded some short-term successes. Reconstruction opened up political opportunities and other leadership roles to former slaves, but it ultimately failed, due both to determined Southern resistance and the North's waning resolve.

### **KC-5.3.II.E**

Segregation, violence, Supreme Court decisions, and local political tactics progressively stripped away African American rights, but the 14th and 15th amendments eventually became the basis for court decisions upholding civil rights in the 20th century.

### **KC-6.3.II.C**

The Supreme Court decision in *Plessy v. Ferguson* that upheld racial segregation helped to mark the end of most of the political gains African Americans made during Reconstruction. Facing increased violence, discrimination, and scientific theories of race, African American reformers continued to fight for political and social equality.



## Learning Objectives

At the end of this lessons, students will be able to describe the:

- Role of Black Americans during the Civil War
- Role of Black Americans in politics during Reconstruction
- Commandeering of the steamer the *Planter*
- Challenges Robert Smalls had to overcome to become a statesman;
- Role of Red Shirts and Redeemers in disenfranchising Black Americans in the South

**Students will define vocabulary words listed as follows:**

Appomattox

*carte de visite*

commandeer

conscripted

contraband

*coup d'état*

Creole

dialect

diaspora

disenfranchise

Lowcountry

Pinkertons

Reconstruction

statesman

stevedore