Beyond Emancipation: The Struggle for Civil Rights after Civil War

FOLLOWING THE CIVIL WAR, Congress faced the challenging process of integrating millions of formerly enslaved people—who never possessed legal rights of their own. To understand this critical moment of American history, teachers will take on the roles of members of Congress and have the opportunity to make their own decisions about the future of civil rights in the United States.

Teachers will...

• Consider the 19th century efforts for greater equality with the abolition of slavery at the end of the Civil War.

• Take on the role of a member of Congress serving on the Joint Committee on Reconstruction.

• Review actual witness testimony from hearings following the end of the Civil War.

• Examine primary sources and artifacts with the Clerk of the House’s Office of Art and Archives.

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