

14th Amendment

At the end of the Civil War in 1865, during a period called Reconstruction, Congress passed the 13th Amendment, which abolished slavery once and for all, but it did not carve out specific rights for the newly freed men and women. Many questions remained about whether they were

citizens, could vote, or if they could own land. Even though they were now free, what would protect them and make sure they were treated fairly? The first Civil Rights Act was passed in 1866, over President Andrew Johnson's veto, and defined citizenship and the idea of equal protection. To make sure that no one could argue whether Congress had the power to pass the act, Congress adopted the 14th Amendment in 1868. The first state to ratify the 14th Amendment was Connecticut on June 30, 1866, and 35 more states would follow.



SEND US A VIDEO!

With the help of your classmates, write a song, poem or a play that answers one of the following questions (send us a video 1 to 4 minutes of you performing your song or play):

1st Graders: How have past American leaders made sure that people were treated fairly and equally?

2nd Graders: What can citizens do to make sure that people are treated fairly by the government?

3rd Graders: How has Oklahoma's government put fairness and equality into practice?

4th Graders: How did slavery and forced settlement impact the need to ensure equal treatment for people of different races?

5th Graders: Describe what features of the Constitution embody equality and fairness.

Submit your entry into this year's Law Day Contest by visiting:
www.okbar.org/public/Outreach/LawDay/contest

Here you will find contest rules & prizes as well as a list of writing prompts and grading rubrics.