

Name _____

Date _____

Plessy v. Ferguson - Answer Key

Read each question and circle the correct answer.

1. During the Reconstruction era, the federal government made an effort to { }.

- A. reinstitute pre-Civil War norms in the South
- B. lower taxes for both northern and southern states
- ☒ C. improve the legal and social status of Black people
- D. lessen the impact of regulations on businesses

2. Reconstruction came to an end when { }.

- ☒ A. federal troops left the South
- B. Black men received the right to vote
- C. Nebraska became a US state
- D. Andrew Johnson became president

3. True or False: The end of Reconstruction opened the door for Northern Republicans to reverse progress made on racial equality.

- A. True
- ☒ B. False

4. Homer Plessy and the { } aimed to challenge the Separate Car Act.

- A. Democratic Party
- B. state of Louisiana
- C. NAACP
- ☒ D. Citizens' Committee

5. Plessy was arrested for sitting in a Whites-only { }.

- A. bus section
- ☒ B. train car
- C. public park
- D. restaurant

6. Why was Plessy selected as a plaintiff?

- ☒ A. He had light skin and could pass as White.
- B. He was a lawyer who understood his rights.
- C. He worked for the government.
- D. He was from out of town, and nobody would recognize him.

7. Plessy's lawyers argued that the Separate Car Act violated Plessy's { } rights.

- A. domestic
- ☒ C. constitutional
- B. transportation
- D. economic

8. Which of the following best describes the Supreme Court's Plessy v. Ferguson decision?

- A. Racial segregation in schools is unconstitutional, but transportation must remain segregated.
- ☒ B. As long as states maintain separate but equal facilities, racial segregation does not violate the Constitution.
- C. Separate but equal facilities are unconstitutional, but the federal government has no ability to intervene.
- D. The Separate Car Act violates the 14th Amendment. Therefore racial segregation is unconstitutional in all forms.

9. The Supreme Court's Plessy v. Ferguson decision laid the groundwork for { }.

- A. the end of the Jim Crow era
- ☒ C. decades of legal segregation
- B. a railroad boycott
- D. Homer Plessy's congressional campaign

10. Which Supreme Court case overturned the Plessy v. Ferguson decision?

- A. Gideon v. Wainwright
- ☒ D. Brown v. Board of Education
- B. Marbury v. Madison
- C. Dred Scott v. Sandford