



# THE FREEDMEN'S BUREAU

## Tell the Tale

Chapter One of this book describes General William T. Sherman's March to the Sea. Imagine you are traveling with his troops through Georgia. Write 200 words about what you might see on this trip. How do the troops treat the freed slaves?





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## Say What?

Studying the history and legacy of a government agency can mean learning a lot of new vocabulary. Find five words in this book that you've never heard before. Use a dictionary to find out what they mean. Then write the meanings in your own words, and use each word in a new sentence.





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## Dig Deeper

After reading this book, what questions do you still have about the Freedmen's Bureau? With an adult's help, find a few reliable sources that can help you answer your questions. Write a paragraph about what you learned.





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## Another View

This book explores how the Freedmen's Bureau both succeeded and failed to meet its goals.

As you know, every source is different. Ask a librarian to help you find another source about the Freedmen's Bureau. Write a short essay comparing and contrasting the new source's point of view with that of this book's authors. What is the point of view of each author? How are they similar and why? How are they different and why?





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## You Are There

Chapter Four discusses how the Freedmen's Bureau helped treat people during a cholera epidemic in Helena, Arkansas. Imagine you are a bureau doctor going to Helena to help treat the victims. Write a letter home telling your friends what you saw. Be sure to add plenty of detail to your letter.





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## Discussion Questions

- US Army soldiers filled many positions in the Freedmen's Bureau. Do you think this was the best solution? Or do you think other people should have been considered for these positions? Why or why not?
- What were the bureau's main goals? Do you think these goals were realistic? What obstacles got in the way of their goals?





- Do you think the bureau should have provided other types of aid and support to black people in the South? What types of aid and support do you think were most beneficial?
- What is the bureau's legacy? How might its legacy be visible in the South today?
- How do you think the story of the Freedmen's Bureau and its legacy could be taught in schools and communities today?

