

TASK – Create a storybook showing the life of a famous African-American politician during Reconstruction.

PAGE 1

Give the reader information about this person's childhood and early life.

PAGE 2

Give the reader information about what this person did during and after the Civil War.

PAGE 3

Give the reader information about what political office or offices this person held as well as what they did to try to help their states or people.

PAGE 4

Continue telling readers about what this person did while in office.

Give the reader information about what this person did towards the end of their life

AFRICAN-AMERICAN POLITICIANS

You can pick any African-American politician you want from between the years 1860 to 1880 but the following below are the most famous.

SENATORS



Blanche K
Bruce

Senator from
Mississippi

First Senator
elected to serve
a full term



Hiram C
Revels

Senator from
Mississippi

First African-
American
Senator

MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES



John R
Lynch

Congressman
from Mississippi



Joseph Rainey

Congressman
from South
Carolina



James T
Rapier

Congressman
from Alabama



Robert
Smalls

Congressman
from South
Carolina



Josiah T
Walls

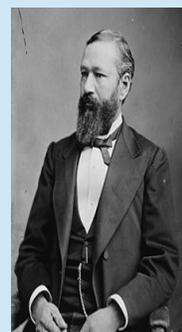
Congressman
from Florida

STATE POLITICIANS



Oscar J
Dunn

Lt Governor of
Louisiana



P B S
Pinchback

Governor of
Louisiana



Jonathan C
Gibbs

Secretary of
State of Florida

BLANCHE K BRUCE

Blanche K Bruce was born in 1841 to Pettis Perkinson, a white plantation owner, and Polly Bruce, a house slave. His father had him educated, against the law at the time, and then officially freed his son at the age of 9. Bruce then travelled to Missouri to become a printers apprentice.

At the start of the Civil War Bruce applied to join the Union Army but his application was rejected. He then became a teacher and attended college. He then found work as a porter on a Mississippi River steamboat. By 1864 he decided to move to the town of Hannibal Missouri to open a school for African-Americans.

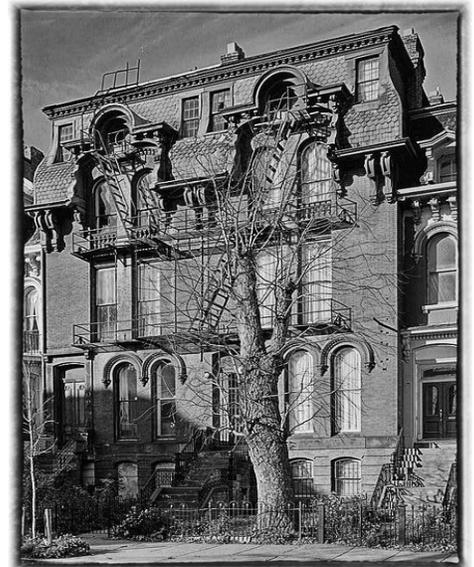


During Reconstruction Bruce became a wealthy landowner in the Mississippi Delta. He was elected to many local offices including tax collector and inspector of education. He also found the time to edit a local newspaper.

In February of 1874 Bruce was elected by the Mississippi Legislature to serve as one of their U.S. Senators. In the senate Bruce served on three important committees: Pensions; Manufactures; and Education and Labor. He worked to increase land grants for African-Americans in the west, for improvements to canals and levees, and for the desegregation of the U.S. Army. In February of 1879 he became the first African-American to preside over a Senate debate.

At the 1880 Republican National Convention Bruce became the first African-American to receive any votes to run for Vice-President. In 1881 he was appointed by President Garfield as the Register of the Treasury, a job that meant that his signature was represented on all U.S. Money. He was appointed to the same job by President McKinley in 1897.

Blanche K Bruce married Josephine Beale Wilson in 1878 and had one son, Roscoe Conklin Bruce. Blanche K Bruce died in 1898 at the age of 57



Bruce's House in Washington D.C.

HIRAM C REVELS

Hiram C Revels was born a freeman in North Carolina in 1827. He was tutored at an early age before moving in with his brother who trained him in how to become a barber.

Revels decided to enter the ministry and attended Quaker seminaries in Indiana and Ohio. In 1845 he was ordained as a minister in the African Methodist Episcopal Church. He then preached through the Midwest. At one point, in 1854, he was imprisoned in Missouri for preaching to African Americans. In 1856 he became a minister in Baltimore where he was also the principle of a black high school.



During the Civil War Revels acted as the chaplain of two black Union regiments in Maryland and Missouri. He was also present at the Battle of Vicksburg in Mississippi.

In 1866 Revels became the minister of a church in Natchez, Mississippi. He was elected to several local offices and also the state senate. In 1870 Revels was chosen by the Mississippi State Senate to finish the term of a senator who had resigned their seat.

Democrats in the Senate initially refused to seat Revels but he ultimately took his seat in February of 1870. During his time in Washington Revels and his wife were snubbed by other senators and were excluded from many social functions. Revels worked in the Senate to promote equality and to support African-American workers. Revels also presented bills to support farming and the construction of railways in Mississippi.

After leaving the Senate Revels became the president of Alcorn Agricultural College in Mississippi. Revels also remained active in the ministry and served as editor of the Southwestern Christian Advocate – a newspaper of the Methodist Church.

Revels married Phoebe A Bass and went on to have 5 children. He died in 1901.

JOHN R LYNCH

John R Lynch was born into slavery in Louisiana in 1847. His father, Patrick Lynch, was an Irish plantation owner while his mother, Catherine White was a slave. Lynch's father had planned to free him and his mother but he died before he could carry out his plan. A friend of Lynch's father had taken over control of Lynch and his mother and then sold them to a plantation in Mississippi where they were held in slavery until 1863 when the Union army captured Louisiana and freed them.



After the Civil War Lynch learned the photography trade and established a successful business. Lynch educated himself by reading books and newspapers and also eavesdropping on lessons in a white-only school.

In 1869 Lynch was made a Justice of the Peace and was elected to the Mississippi State House. He served until 1873 and was appointed the first Speaker of the House. In April of 1873 he was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives. In Congress Lynch introduced many bills supporting civil rights and equality in an effort to ban discrimination in public places.

Lynch lost his seat in 1876 after southern Democrats began intimidating African-American voters. He won his seat back in 1882 only to lose it the same year. Lynch then served as a member of the Republican National Committee for Mississippi.

Lynch was appointed as Treasury Auditor for the Navy Department from 1889 to 1893. He then returned to Mississippi where he studied the law and passed the bar exam. In 1898 President McKinley appointed him as a major and paymaster in the army. He went on to serve in Cuba and the Phillipines before retiring in 1911, moving to Chicago, and returning to practice the law.

Lynch married twice and had one daughter. He died in 1939 at the age of 92 and was buried at Arlington National Cemetery with full military honors.

JOSEPH RAINEY

Joseph Rainey was born into slavery in 1832. His father, Edward Rainey, was a skilled slave who had been allowed by his owner to start his own barber business. Edward Rainey managed to save up enough money to buy his and his families freedom in 1840. Joseph followed in his father's footsteps by becoming a barber himself.



In 1861 Rainey was drafted by the Confederate government to work on fortifications for Charleston harbor. He was also forced to work as a cook and laborer on Confederate blockade runner ships.

In 1862 Rainey and his family escaped to Bermuda where he resumed his previous occupation as a barber while his wife ran a dressmaking shop. Rainey managed to become very wealthy due to the success of these businesses.

In 1866 Rainey returned to South Carolina where he quickly became involved in local Republican politics. In 1870 he became the first African-American elected to the House of Representatives where he would serve for another 10 years.

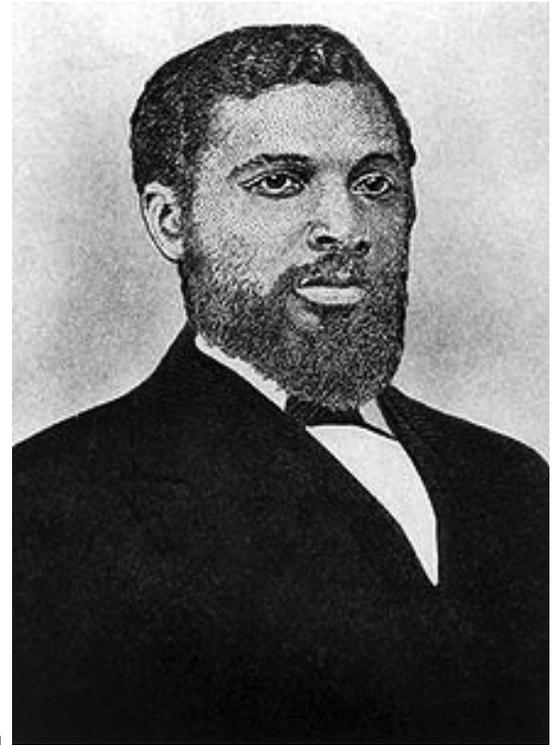
During his time in Congress he worked to promote civil rights legislation as well as economic improvements in the south including the building of new railways, roads, and canals. In May of 1874 he became the first African-American to preside over a session of the House of Representatives. Rainey was defeated in the Congressional elections of 1878 due to the efforts of Democrats and their supporters to suppress the African-American vote.

After leaving Congress, Joseph Rainey was appointed as an agent of the US Treasury Department for internal revenue in South Carolina. He held this position for two years, after which he began a career in private business. He worked in brokerage and banking in Washington, DC for five years.

Rainey retired in 1886 and returned to South Carolina where he died in 1887.

JAMES T RAPIER

James Rapier was born in Alabama in 1837 to a free African-American father who had created a successful barbering business. As a young boy he moved to Tennessee where he was raised by his grandmother. In 1856 he moved to Canada to live in an African-American community made up of escaped slaves. He attended college in the city of Montreal, studied law, and became a successful lawyer.



In 1865 Rapier moved to Tennessee where he wrote articles for a northern newspaper and became a cotton planter. In 1866 he moved further south back to Alabama where he continued to plant cotton and also become involved in local politics. In 1870 Rapier founded the Republican State Sentinel, the first black owned and operated newspaper in Alabama.

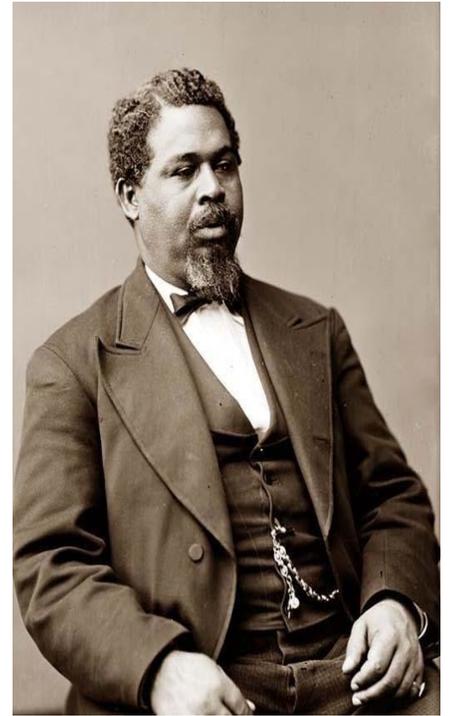
In 1872 Rapier was elected to the House of Representatives. While in Congress he proposed giving land in the west to African-Americans. He also sought to gain \$5 million to pay for schools in the south. Rapier believed that good relations between whites and blacks in the south were vital for its future prosperity. Unlike many Republicans of the time he opposed excessive punishment for former Confederates and land seizures in an effort to calm white southern fears.

Rapier lost his bid for reelection in 1874. He was appointed as a tax collector for the Internal Revenue Service and campaigned against the restrictions on African-American rights being imposed by southern Democrats.

Rapier died in Montgomery, Alabama in May of 1883.

ROBERT SMALLS

Robert Smalls was born into slavery in South Carolina in 1839. Throughout his youth he worked as a house slave and in 1851 moved to the city of Charleston. Smalls was then hired out by his owner on Charleston's waterfront where he worked as a lamp-lighter, foreman, sail maker, rigger, and sailor. In the course of these jobs he became an expert navigator of the waters around South Carolina and Georgia.



In 1856 Smalls married Hannah Jones, a slave who worked as a hotel maid. The couple had three children. Smalls and his wife did not live with their owners but were forced to send most of their earnings back to their masters.

During the Civil War Smalls was forced by the Confederacy to serve on an ammunition transport ship named the *Planter*. In May of 1862 Smalls and a small group of followers hijacked the ship and turned it over to the Union navy. This daring action made Smalls a celebrity in the north. For the rest of the war he acted as a spokesman for African American soldiers while also serving in the Union Navy as a pilot on troop transports and ironclads using his knowledge of the seas around South Carolina to great advantage.

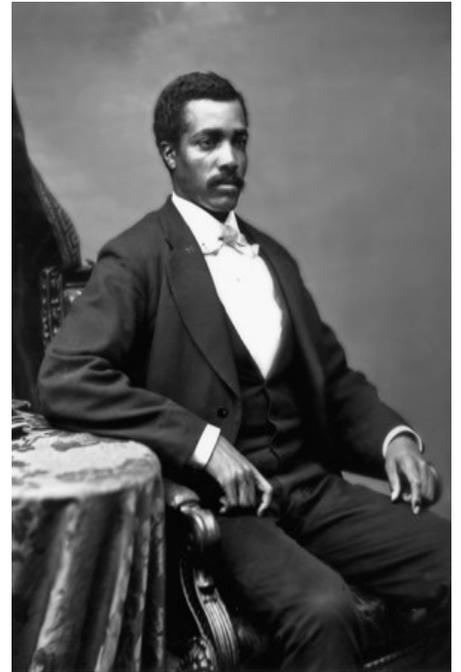
In 1864 Smalls became involved in politics for the first time. While in Philadelphia he was removed from an all-white streetcar. Subsequent protests and boycotts led to a new law in 1867 which integrated Philadelphia's streetcars.

At the end of the war Smalls returned to South Carolina and purchased the home of his former owners. He was also appointed as a brigadier general in the state militia. In 1867 he opened a store and a school for black children. In 1872 he also began publishing a newspaper, the *Southern Standard*.

In 1868 Smalls won election to the South Carolina State Legislature. In 1874 Smalls was elected to the House of Representatives with nearly 80% of the vote. In Congress Smalls fought for money to improve the harbors and ports

JOSIAH T WALLS

Josiah Walls was born into slavery in Virginia in 1842. His owner, Dr John Walls, was most likely his father who had a relationship with one of his slaves. When the Civil War broke out Walls was forced to become the servant of a Confederate officer. Walls was captured by Union soldiers in 1862 and was then granted his freedom following the Emancipation Proclamation. By July of 1863 Walls was serving in the Union army in the 3rd Infantry Regiment which was then transferred to Florida where Walls was promoted to 1st Sergeant and acted as an instructor. While in Florida Walls married Helen Fergusson with whom he had one daughter.



At the end of the war Walls decided to stay in Florida where he worked first in a saw mill and then later as a teacher for the Freedmen's Bureau. By 1868 Walls had saved up enough money to buy a 60-acre farm outside the city of Gainesville.

In 1868 Walls was elected to the Florida State Legislature as an assemblyman. In 1869 he was elected to the State Senate. In 1870 Walls was nominated by the Republican Party to stand for Florida's at-large seat in the House of Representatives (an at-large seat is a position that represents the whole state).

The election was incredibly violent with Wells' Democratic challenger inciting mobs throughout the state. Wells was almost killed by an assassins bullet at a rally in Gainesville. Walls won the election but only by a few hundred votes.

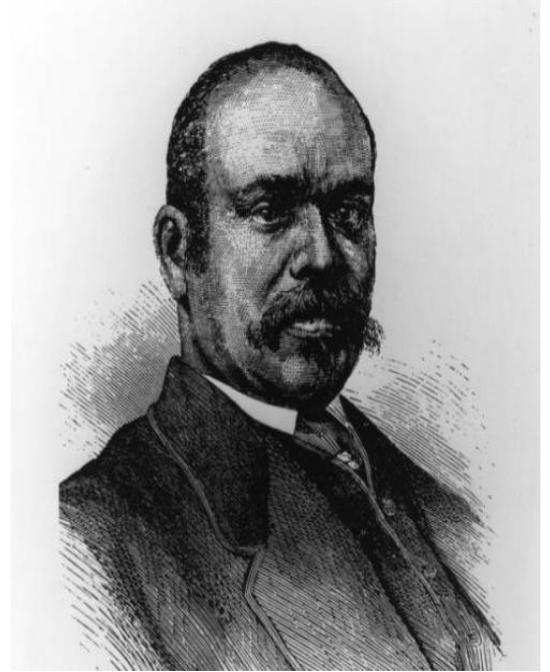
In Congress Walls served on the militia and navy committees. Walls sought funding for new telegraph lines as well as improvements to Florida's ports and harbors. He also tried to gain funding for new schools and colleges. While serving in Congress Walls managed to purchase a cotton plantation and a local newspaper which he used to campaigning for his reelection. In 1874 Walls won reelection but this result was contested and he ultimately lost his seat.

In November 1876, Walls won a seat in the Florida state senate but he resigned in 1879 increasing frustrated with his failure to gain funding for the, cause of compulsory public education.

In 1890, Walls lost another bid for the state senate. In 1885, his wife, Helen Fergueson Walls, died and Josiah Walls married her young cousin, Ella Angeline Gass. His successful farm was destroyed when his crops froze in February 1895. Walls subsequently took charge of the farm at Florida Normal College (now Florida A&M University), until his death in Tallahassee on May 15, 1905.

OSCAR J DUNN

Oscar J Dunn was born to free African-American parents in New Orleans in 1826. His father worked as a carpenter while his mother ran a boarding house for actors and actresses visiting the city. As a young man Dunn was apprenticed to a plasterer and painter. He also studied music and became a violin teacher.



During the Civil War, Dunn fought in the Union Army for the 1st Louisiana Native Guards, rising from Private to Captain. The Native Guards were one of the first all-black regiments to fight for the Union during the Civil War (1861-1865).

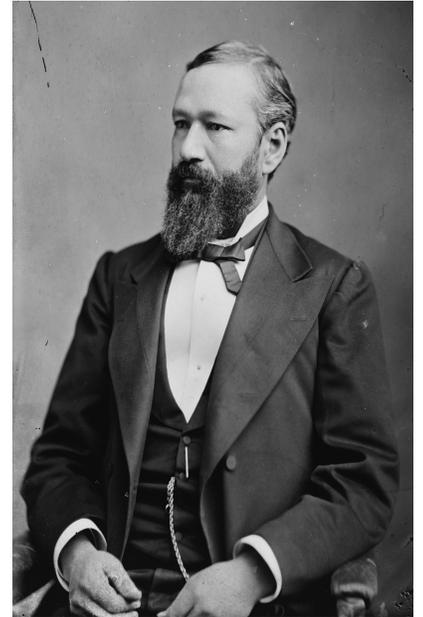
During Reconstruction, Dunn opened an employment agency that assisted in finding jobs for the freedmen. He actively promoted and supported the Universal Suffrage Movement; advocated land ownership for all blacks; taxpayer-funded education of all black children; and equal protection of the laws under the Fourteenth Amendment. He was Secretary of the Advisory Committee of the Freedmen's Savings and Trust Company of New Orleans, where he worked to insure that recently freed slave were treated fairly by former planters to who they were now contracted to perform the same duties they had once undertaken as slaves. In 1866, he organized the People's Bakery, an enterprise owned and operated by the Louisiana Association of Workingmen.

In 1868 Dunn was nominated by the Republican Party to stand for Lt Governor. He won election as was inaugurated in June of 1868. As Lt Governor he controlled the million dollar budgets of the Printing Committee and the Metropolitan Police.

Dunn died unexpectedly in November of 1871. His funeral was one of the largest ever seen in New Orleans as 50,000 people lined the streets of the city to watch his coffin go past.

P B S PINCHBACK

Pinckney Benton Stewart Pinchback was born in 1837 in Georgia to Eliza Stewart, a former slave, and William Pinchback, a plantation owner and Eliza's former owner. Although interracial marriage was illegal the couple lived together as husband and wife. In 1839 William Pinchback purchased a large plantation in Mississippi where he moved his entire family.



Pinckney was brought up in comfortable surroundings and was sent to private schools in Ohio for his education. In 1848 his father died and his relatives tried to seize his property and disinherit Eliza. Fearful that her children might be sold into slavery Eliza fled with her children to Ohio. At the age of 11 Pinckney was forced to leave school and find work as a servant on canal boats and later in hotels. In 1862 Pinckney made his way to New Orleans where he began recruiting soldiers to serve in all-black regiments. He was made a Captain and was one of only a handful of African-American officers in the U.S. Army. Despite his education and skills he was discriminated against by white officers and resigned his post in 1863.

In 1868 Pinckney became involved in local New Orleans politics organizing Republican clubs in the city. In the same year he was elected to the State Senate and in 1871 was made Lt Governor following the death of Oscar J Dunn. In 1872 the Governor, Henry Clay Warmoth, was forced to step down following accusations of corruption. Pinckney, as Lt Governor, took his place becoming the nation's first African-American Governor in which capacity he served for 39 days.

Following the end of his governorship Pinckney then served on the Louisiana Board of Education where he succeeded in establishing Southern University. In 1885 he studied the law and began his own practice. In the 1890s he and his family moved to New York to escape growing discrimination in the South where he worked as a Marshall for the Federal government. Finally he moved to Washington D.C. where he resumed his legal practice become part of the city's mixed-race elite until his death in 1921.

JONATHAN C GIBBS

Jonathan C Gibbs was born free in Philadelphia in 1821 to a Methodist Minister father. As a young boy Gibbs attended the Philadelphia Free School. In 1831 Gibbs' father died and he was forced to find work to help support his mother. Gibbs became a carpenter and also joined the Presbyterian Assembly Church who were so impressed by his intelligence and character that they paid for him to attend Kimball Union Academy in New Hampshire. Gibbs graduated from Kimball in 1848 and went on to Dartmouth College from which he was only the 3rd African-American to graduate.



From 1853 to 1854 Gibbs attended the Princeton Theological Seminary. In 1856 he was ordained as a minister and took charge of Liberty Street Presbyterian Church in New York. Gibbs then married Anna Amelia Harris, the daughter of a wealthy black merchant, who had 3 children with him. Gibbs became active in the movement to abolish slavery. Increasingly separated from his wife – who was used to a much higher standard of living – Gibbs and Anna divorced in 1862. Gibbs moved to Philadelphia where he became Pastor of the African Presbyterian Church.

In December 1864 Gibbs moved to South Carolina to work assisting newly freed slaves. He settled in Charleston where he established his own church and began a school. Gibbs also worked to ensure the right to vote for educated African-Americans as he did not believe that uneducated people of any race should be able to vote. In 1867 Gibbs moved to Florida where he opened up another school. His involvement in politics resulted in his appointment as Florida's Secretary of State from 1868 to 1872. Gibbs used his position to investigate Klan activities and electoral fraud/violence and also directed the efforts of the Board of Education.

After the end of his term of office Gibbs was appointed Superintendent of Public Instruction in charge of Florida's schools. He was also made a Lt Colonel in the Florida State Militia. Gibbs died of a stroke in 1874.

My African-American Politician is _____

He was born in...	
During his childhood/young adulthood he...	
During the Civil War he...	
After the Civil War he...	
His elected position was...	
While in office he...	
In later life he...	