

INTRODUCTION

The legislation required to establish the Bureau for the Relief of Freedmen and Refugees was enacted in March 1865. The objectives of what came to be known as the Freedmen's Bureau were to enforce the civil and legal rights of black Americans and of pro-Union southerners, to assist freed slaves in becoming educated, and to aid them in gaining a means of economic survival. One of the major efforts of the Freedmen's Bureau was the creation of schools at every level, from primary and secondary through vocational and industrial schools, to colleges, and universities for black Americans. The Freedmen's Bureau was also instrumental in the creation and implementation of the public school system in the United States, in encouraging legislation mandating compulsory education, and in promoting the funding and development of colleges and universities across America.

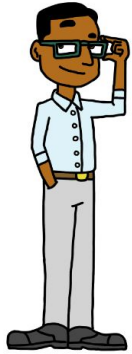


Starting Research

Name: _____

Date: _____

Topic: _____



Think about what you already know . . .	Brainstorm questions . . .	Identify keywords . . .