

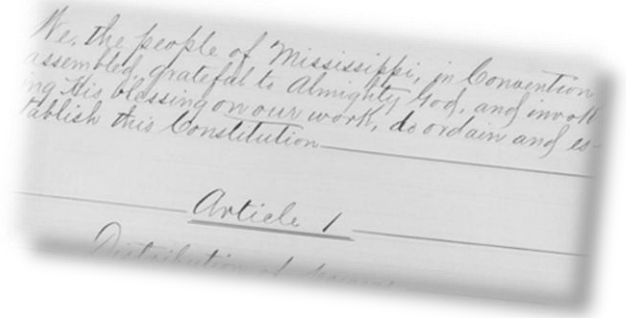


Name: _____ Date: _____ Class: _____

A Place Called Mississippi

Chapter 7: The Bourbon Era, 1876-1900 Internet Activity

The adoption of the 1890 Constitution of Mississippi was one of the most important events in the state. After its adoption, most adults in the state were left out of the voting process. Government power rested with a minority of citizens. In this lesson, you will analyze documents related to the adoption of the 1890 constitution.



Instructions: Use the links to find information to complete each item.

Click here to view the [1890 Mississippi Constitution \(original\)](#). Take a few minutes to practice navigating the website. Zoom in and out, turn pages, and go to a specific page. Then, return to the first pages.

- 1. In your first look at the document, what are some things you have noticed (list four)?

- 2. What is the date of the document?

- 3. What is the first part of the document? What document in U.S. history begins in a similar way?

- 4. Why would the writers have chosen to imitate the style of another, important document in American history?

It is a bit of a challenge to read the handwriting here, so let's take a look at a different version of the same document: [1890 Mississippi Constitution \(text\)](#).

- 5. What is the title of each section of the document? _____

- 6. What evidence is there in Article 1 that the writers wanted to keep one person from getting too much power in government? (list two things)



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7. Read through Article 3. What is the purpose of this section?

8. What evidence is there that some of the issues from the Civil War are being addressed in this Constitution? (identify two, and be specific)

9. What is forbidden in Article 3, Sections 18 and 19?

Article 12 deals with “franchise” or the right to vote. This section is very important because it had great impact on the people of Mississippi. Read this section then complete the next items.

10. What evidence can you find that voting rights were to be very limited? (list two along with the section).

11. Who would have had their rights limited by the provisions of Section 243?

12. How did Section 244 keep blacks from voting?

Finished Early? There was much tension over the franchise portions of the Constitution. Twelve years later, a Mississippi historian wrote a booklet describing the events. For his point of view, [click here](#). You might begin on page 11.