***Constitution USA: Created Equal*** Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

In this episode of Constitution USA, Peter Sagal explores the high ideals of the Declaration of Independence that “all men are created equal,” endowed with “unalienable rights,” that didn’t make it into the Constitution in 1787. It took three-quarters of a century, and a bloody civil war, before the Fourteenth Amendment of 1868 made equality a constitutional right, and gave the federal government the power to enforce it. The far-reaching changes created by that amendment established new notions of citizenship, equal protection, due process, and personal liberty and today those notions are being used to fight for same sex marriage, voting rights, affirmative action, and immigration reform. Let’s take a closer look and see how equality is defined in this episode.

1. The phrase “…all men are created equal…” is not present in the original Constitution. Why was this very notable section of the Declaration of Independence left out of the Constitution?
2. Akhil Amar believes that the 14th Amendment does what for our country?
3. Who brought about the 14th Amendment? What was its goal and when was it established?
4. Who did not gain rights they were fighting for via the 14th Amendment?
5. Do you agree with Chris’s statement that the majority should not have the ability to make decisions about another group’s right simply because there are more of them? Why or why not?
6. What does the equal protection clause in the Constitution say? In Loving V. Virginia in 1967, what did the court base their ruling on?
7. What was the purpose of the Fourteenth Amendment and exactly what does it mean? Does it say you have to be equal with all people?
8. What laws prohibited the rights of African Americans for years after the 14th Amendment?
9. Today there are still lots of people who cannot vote. Why not?
10. What extra work does a firefighter need to do to score well in the test? Where do you side on the lawsuit—is it equal treatment?
11. What part of the Fourteenth Amendment was used in this court decision to rule the law was unconstitutional? Do you agree with the court’s interpretation of the Fourteenth Amendment?
12. The Reconstruction Amendments, 13th, 14th, and 15th, protect the people from which level of government? Why is this important?
13. In what case did the Supreme Court legalize abortions? How did they explain their decision?
14. Do you think expansions of liberty through judicial review can be a bad thing? Explain why or why not.
15. What is the great gift of the 14th Amendment? What other county offers this?