

Reconstruction Webquest

Directions:

You will work to complete the Reconstruction Webquest. You will use the websites provided (or reliable sites) to complete the sections.

Use the blue links below the red questions and it will take you to the links you will need to answer the questions above the links.

- I. Policies Regarding Reconstruction
- II. Struggles of the Freedmen
- III. Amendments 13, 14, & 15
- IV. The End
- V. Vocabulary

I. Policies Regarding Reconstruction

1. Describe Lincoln's plan for Reconstruction of the South.

Lincoln wanted to build a strong Republican Party in the South and wanted to end the bitterness that was caused by war. On December 8th, 1863 Lincoln issued a proclamation of amnesty (an official pardon) and reconstruction for those areas of the Confederacy occupied by Union armies. This would pardon (with exceptions) any Confederate who swore to support the Constitution and the Union. Also once a group in any conquered state grew to one-tenth of that state's population they would be granted government executive recognition.

2. What opposition did he face?

This led to an opposition of the radicals in Congress, who believed it would simply restore to power the old planter aristocracy (a group regarded as privileged or superior in a particular sphere). They passed (July 1864) the Wade-Davis Bill, which required 50% of a state's male voters to take an ironclad oath that they had never voluntarily supported the Confederacy. Lincoln's pocket veto kept the Wade-Davis Bill from becoming law, and he implemented his own plan (which did not go too well).

3. What happened to Lincoln?

John Wilkes Booth assassinated Lincoln.

<http://www.infoplease.com/ce6/history/A0860645.html>

4. In what way was Johnson's plan for Reconstruction different from Lincoln's and how were they the same?

Differences: For starters, Lincoln's plan was that high Confederate officials and military leaders would *temporarily* be excluded from the process, while Johnson's plan was that no pardons would be available to the high officials/military leaders if they had land worth over \$20,000.

Similar: Both plans required once confederates to take a loyalty oath to the United States

<http://www.u-s-history.com/pages/h126.html>

<http://www.infoplease.com/ce6/history/A0860645.html>

5. How did the Radical Republicans respond to Johnson's policies?

The Radical Republicans believed blacks were entitled to the same rights as white people. They vigorously opposed Andrew Johnson's policies. They then formed the Joint Committee on Reconstruction. They also passed the Tenure of Office Act which restricted the president's ability to remove civil officers.

6. Did Congress have a legitimate reason for impeaching Johnson?

No, the congress seemed to be fully in control after the first 2 years of the Congressional Reconstruction. There was only one thing in their way and that was president Johnson, so they impeached him.

<https://www.ushistory.org/us/35b.asp>

<https://www.britannica.com/topic/Radical-Republican>

<https://www.history.com/this-day-in-history/president-andrew-johnson-impeached>

7. What was the Freedmen's Bureau? What did it do?

The Freedmen's Bureau was run by the war department and its first (and most important) commissioner was O. O. Howard. This was made to help the Southerners transition from slavery to freedom. They introduced a system of free labor, secured justice for blacks in state courts, and much more.

http://www.pbs.org/wnet/jimcrow/stories_events_freed.html

[http://www.crf-usa.org/brown-v board-50th-anniversary/southern-black-codes.html](http://www.crf-usa.org/brown-v-board-50th-anniversary/southern-black-codes.html)

II. Struggles of the Freedmen

8. Once the slaves were free, what were some new freedoms they had and some of the problems they would be forced to face?

Some new freedoms they had were the rights to marry, own property, and sue in court. Some problems they would be forced to face were they that could not serve on juries, testify against whites, or serve in state militias.

<https://www.khanacademy.org/humanities/us-history/civil-war-era/reconstruction/a/life-after-slavery>

9. What were the Black Codes?

They were numerous laws enacted in the states of the former Confederacy after the American Civil War and intended to assure the continuance of white supremacy.

The Black Codes in South Carolina were:

- Civil Rights**
- Labor Contracts**
- Vagrancy**
- Apprenticeship**
- Courts, Crimes, and Punishments**

<http://www.crf-usa.org/brown-v-board-50th-anniversary/southern-black-codes.html>

<https://www.britannica.com/topic/black-code>

<https://www.history.com/topics/early-20th-century-us/jim-crow-laws>

10. What were the Jim Crow Laws?

The Jim Crow Laws were a collection of state and local statutes that legalized racial segregation.

D. Give some examples.

1. **Never assert or even intimate that a white person is lying.**
2. **Never impute dishonorable intentions to a white person.**
3. **Never suggest that a white person is from an inferior class.**
4. **Never lay claim to, or overly demonstrate, superior knowledge or intelligence.**
5. **Never curse a white person.**

<https://www.history.com/topics/early-20th-century-us/jim-crow-laws>

<https://www.ferris.edu/jimcrow/what.htm>

http://www.nps.gov/malu/learn/education/jim_crow_laws.htm

11. Why was the first Ku Klux Klan formed?

The Ku Klux Klan was formed to destroy Reconstruction by murdering black people.

12. In what ways did the members frighten and abuse African Americans?

Some ways the members would frighten and abuse African Americans was that they would burn churches, schools, and drive many people out of their homes.

<http://www.history.com/this-day-in-history/kkk-founded>

http://www.pbs.org/wnet/jimcrow/stories_org_kkk.html

<http://www.history.com/topics/ku-klux-klan>

III. Amendments 13, 14, & 15

13. What did the 13th Amendment state?

The 13th Amendment stated that there could not be any slavery or involuntary service, except if it is a punishment from crime, in the United States.

<http://www.usconstitution.net/const.html#Am13>

14. What did the 14th Amendment state? How did the 14th Amendment attempt to guarantee the freedoms of African Americans?

The 14th amendment states that anybody born and raised in the United States is a citizen of the US and no state should or is allowed to enforce any laws that deprive citizens of their rights. It states the equal protection of laws. The 14th Amendment attempted to guarantee the freedoms of African Americans by making them citizens and not allowing laws that may be used against non-citizens on them.

<https://www.usconstitution.net/const.html#Am14>

http://www.pbs.org/wnet/jimcrow/stories_events_14th.html

<http://www.ourdocuments.gov/doc.php?doc=43>

<http://www.history.com/this-day-in-history/14th-amendment-adopted>

15. What did the 15th Amendment state?

It states that the right to vote can not be denied by the United States based on color, race, or any previous condition of servitude. This means if you used to be a slave but are a US citizen you could vote.

16. How did states get around allowing African Americans to vote?

Steps were taken to to ensure subsequent “white supremacy.” Literacy tests for the vote and other devices to disenfranchise African Americans were written into the laws of former Confederate states.

<https://www.usconstitution.net/const.html#Am15>

<http://www.ourdocuments.gov/doc.php?doc=44>

[http://www.crf-usa.org/brown-v board-50th-anniversary/race-and-voting.html](http://www.crf-usa.org/brown-v-board-50th-anniversary/race-and-voting.html)

IV. The End

17. Why, when and how did Reconstruction end?

Hayes promised to remove federal troops from the south if he became president. In 1877 he became president and kept his promise. Thus ending the Reconstruction.

18. What were the successes of Reconstruction?

The successes were:

-The Union was restored

-The South's economy grew and new wealth was created in the North

-The fourteenth and Fifteenth Amendments guaranteed African Americans the rights of citizenship, equal protection under the law, and suffrage

-Freedmen's Bureau and other organizations help many black families obtain housing, jobs, and schooling.

-The southern States adopt a system of mandatory education.

19. What were the failures of Reconstruction?

-Many white Southerners remain bitter toward the federal government and republican party.

-The South is slow to industrialize.

-After federal troops are withdrawn, southern state governments and terrorist organizations effectively deny African Americans the right to vote.

-Many black and white Southerners remain caught in a cycle of poverty.

-Racist attitudes towards African Americans continue.

<http://www.historycentral.com/rec/EndofRec.html>

http://www.digitalhistory.uh.edu/exhibits/reconstruction/section5/section5_intro.html

USE YOUR TEXTBOOK FOR EASIER LISTING OF SUCCESSES AND FAILURES pg 445

V. Vocabulary

****Make sure to choose the definition that fits with the chapter of Reconstruction!**

20. **Reconstruction**

A program that was implemented by the federal government between 1865 and 1877 to repair the damage to the South caused by the civil war and restore the southern states to the Union.

21. **Scalawag**

A negative nickname for a white Southern Republican after the Civil War.

22. **Carpetbagger**

Negative nickname for a northern Republican who moved to the South after the Civil War.

23. **Pardon**

Official forgiveness of a crime.

24. **Impeach**

To charge a public official with wrongdoing in office.

25. **Sharecropper**

A farmer who tends some portion of a planter's land and receives a share of the crop at harvest time.

26. **Infrastructure**

The public property and services that a society uses.

27. **tenant farmer**

A person who rents land to farm from a planter.

28. **poll tax**

It is a special fee that must be paid before a person can vote.

29. **Segregation**

Forced separation, often by race.

30. **literacy test**

A test on a person's ability to read and write.

31. **grandfather clause**

A passage in a law that exempts a group of people from obeying the law if they had met certain conditions before the law was passed.

<https://www.dictionary.com/>

or use the textbook glossary, if the word is listed.

created in part by: www.farmingdaleschools.org/fps/files/recwebqu.pdf and myself.