

# Gateway to U.S. History

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The Bridge to Success on  
Florida's EOC Test

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Florida Transformative Education



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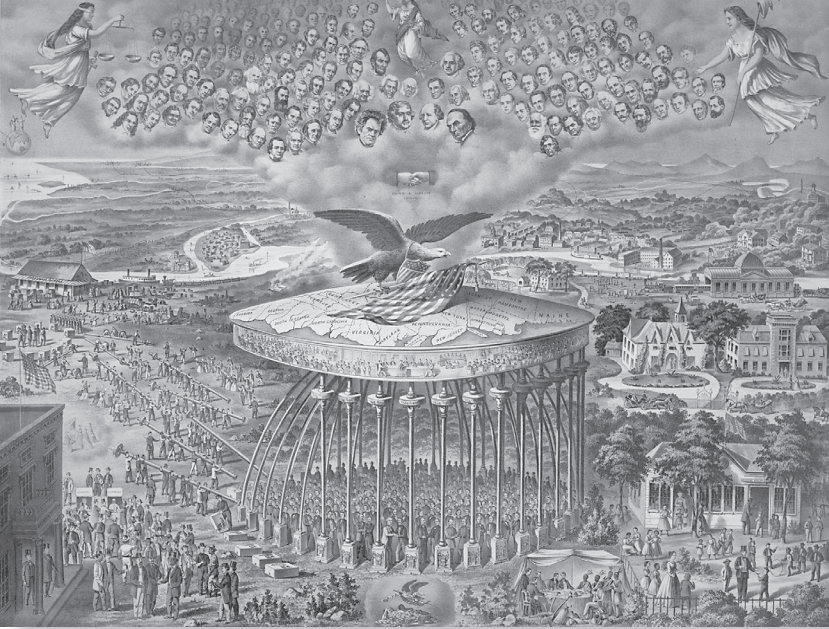
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# CHAPTER 4

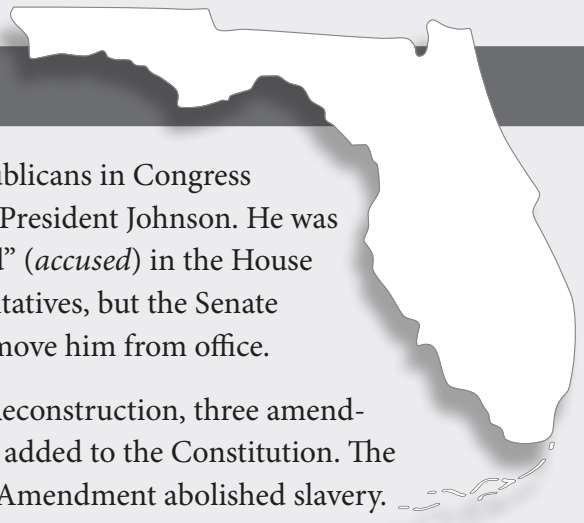
## Reconstruction: America’s “Unfinished Revolution”?

- SS.912.A.2.2** Assess the influence of significant people or groups on Reconstruction.
- SS.912.A.2.3** Describe the issues that divided Republicans during the early Reconstruction era.
- SS.912.A.2.4** Distinguish the freedoms guaranteed to African Americans and other groups with the 13th, 14th, and 15th Amendments to the Constitution.
- SS.912.A.2.5** Assess how Jim Crow Laws influenced life for African Americans and other racial/ethnic minority groups.
- SS.912.A.2.6** Compare the effects of the Black Codes and the Nadir on freed people, and analyze the sharecropping system and debt peonage as practiced in the United States.
- SS.912.A.3.13** Examine key events and peoples in Florida history as they relate to United States history.

### Names and Terms You Should Know

Reconstruction	Fourteenth Amendment	Debt peonage
Thirteenth Amendment	Due Process	Ku Klux Klan
Freedman	Equal Protection	Literacy tests
Freedmen’s Bureau	Fifteenth Amendment	“Grandfather clauses”
Andrew Johnson	Impeachment	Poll taxes
Presidential Reconstruction	Carpetbagger	Solid South
Radical Republicans	Scalawag	“Jim Crow” laws
“Black Codes”	Hiram Rhodes Revels	Segregation
Congressional Reconstruction	“New South”	<i>Plessy vs. Ferguson</i>
Civil Rights Bill	Sharecropping	African-American Migration

# Florida “Keys” to Learning



1. During Reconstruction, Southern states had to be readmitted into the Union, incorporate the emancipated freedmen into public life, and rebuild their war-torn economies.

2. Lincoln had proposed to treat the South leniently. When he was assassinated in April 1865, the next President, Andrew Johnson, at first seemed to be sterner on former Confederates. However, Johnson soon began pardoning almost all former Confederates.

3. One of the greatest issues facing the South was the fate of the freedmen. How would four million people, suddenly emancipated from slavery, enter into public life and the free market economy? There was a struggle over the control of Southern land and the labor of the freedmen. Despite several experiments and promises during the war, the freedmen were not given their own land. The federal government set up the Freedmen’s Bureau, with offices throughout the South, to help the freedmen adjust and to set up schools to educate them.

4. Southern state legislatures had to accept the end of slavery, but quickly passed “Black Codes,” based on older slave codes. These limited the civil rights and freedom of movement of the freedmen.

5. Northern Republicans in Congress were outraged by the election of former Confederates to Congress and by the passage of the Black Codes throughout the South. Republicans passed the Civil Rights Bill, granting freedmen their civil rights. This federal law later became the basis for the Fourteenth Amendment.

6. Congress also passed its own program for Reconstruction, dividing the South into five districts—each occupied by the Union army. Former Confederate leaders lost their political rights, while the freedmen were given the right to vote.

7. The Republicans in Congress impeached President Johnson. He was “impeached” (*accused*) in the House of Representatives, but the Senate failed to remove him from office.

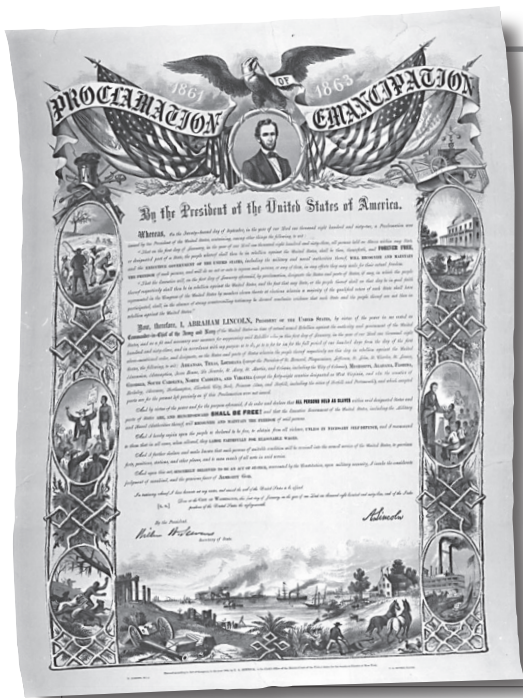
8. During Reconstruction, three amendments were added to the Constitution. The Thirteenth Amendment abolished slavery. The Fourteenth Amendment guaranteed all citizens the “equal protection of the laws” and “due process.” The Fifteenth Amendment prohibited any denial of voting rights on the basis of race.

9. During Reconstruction, freedmen, carpetbaggers, and scalawags held power in Southern governments. For the first time, African Americans were elected to government office. Hiram Rhodes Revels became the first African American elected to Congress.

10. Reconstruction governments built roads and schools and took steps towards racial equality. However, after Northern troops were withdrawn, Southern states started passing segregation laws in the late 1870s.

11. Southerners also developed a new economy during Reconstruction. Former slaveowners often did not have money to pay laborers. The emancipated slaves did not have land. Many former slaves became sharecroppers, giving a share of their crops to the landowner in exchange for use of the land. Other freedmen became tenants, and soon owed debts to their landlords (usually their former master under slavery).

12. After the end of Reconstruction, Southern state governments passed “Jim Crow” laws requiring racial segregation (separation of “white” and “colored”) in public places. These laws were upheld by the U. S. Supreme Court in *Plessy v. Ferguson* (1896). The Ku Klux Klan terrorized African Americans and prevented them from exercising their political rights.



## The Challenges of Reconstruction

By April 1865, when the Civil War ended, much of the South had been destroyed. Plantations, towns and farms were in ruins. Railway lines had been torn up by advancing Union armies. A large number of Southerners had fought for years in the Confederate army for a cause that had lost. President Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation had abolished slavery throughout the rebelling states. Escaping slaves had fled to the Union army. Some had been given plots of land from plantations abandoned by Confederate owners, in an experiment in the Sea Islands of South Carolina. Confederate paper money had lost all its value. There was no way for Southerners to return to the ways of the antebellum years.

To **“reconstruct”** means to rebuild. To rebuild the South, Americans had to overcome a series of major political, economic, and social hurdles:

1. How should the Southern states be re-admitted into the Union?
2. Was it the President or Congress that had the power to set conditions for their re-admission?
3. Should former Confederate leaders be permitted to participate in public life, or should they be excluded or otherwise punished?
4. What was to be the position of the millions of former slaves (known as *freedmen*) in Southern society? Most historians today consider this as the greatest challenge of Reconstruction.
5. How could the economy of the South be rebuilt?

Historians such as Eric Foner believe that the Reconstruction Era was one of great promise, but that America's leaders failed to seize the initiative

for fundamental change. Indeed, Foner considers Reconstruction to be America's great “Unfinished Revolution.”

## Early Plans for Reconstruction

Even before the end of the war, people started thinking about Reconstruction. A special “Freedmen's Bureau” was established by Congress in March 1865 to help the former slaves adjust to freedom. President Lincoln promised in his second Inaugural Address that he had lenient plans for Reconstruction “with malice toward none, with charity for all.” Once ten-percent of a state's voters pledged alle-

giance to the Union and accepted the Emancipation Proclamation, Lincoln planned to readmit that state back into the Union. Congress rejected Lincoln's **“Ten-Percent Plan”** and passed a more stringent bill for Reconstruction in July 1864, known as the Wade-Davis Bill, but Lincoln had refused to sign it. In April 1864, the U.S. Senate also proposed the **Thirteenth Amendment**, prohibiting slavery

throughout the United States. This passed the House in January 1865 and was ratified by the states by the end of the year. In the meantime, President Lincoln

had suddenly been assassinated in April 1865, only a few days after the South had finally surrendered.

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## The Politics of Reconstruction

### Presidential Reconstruction

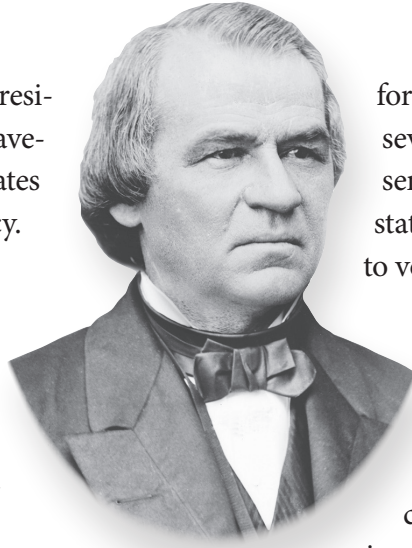
Lincoln's successor was his Vice President, **Andrew Johnson**, a former slaveholder from Tennessee, one of the states that had joined the Confederacy. In the months before the new Congress assembled, President Johnson enjoyed a relatively free hand over Reconstruction policy. Coming from a modest background, Johnson had resented wealthy slaveholders.

At first, it was believed that he would impose harsh conditions on the Southern Confederates. Indeed, he refused to issue a general pardon to former Confederate leaders. Each leader had to personally request amnesty. However, Johnson soon began issuing thousands of individual pardons, allowing former Confederates to regain their former properties as well as their rights of citizenship.

President Johnson did not consider African Americans to be on equal terms with whites. Instead, he hoped for reconciliation between Northern and Southern whites as quickly as possible, with as little actual change as possible in the South. Johnson even recognized the newly-formed Southern state governments, largely made up of former Confederate leaders. The President soon came under the suspicion of many Northerners, including many Congressmen, for being too sympathetic to the South.

### The Black Codes

Under these conditions, Southern whites became more daring. In new elections, Southern voters chose



former Confederate leaders, including several generals and colonels, to represent them in the new Congress. Southern states also took steps to withhold the right to vote from freedmen.

At the same time, they passed new **“Black Codes.”** These were in fact based on the slave codes of the past. Each Southern state wrote its own code, but they all had several features in common: they first defined the freedmen as “persons of color,” and then prevented such persons from voting, serving on juries, testifying in court against whites, holding office, or serving in the state militia. They also regulated freedmen’s marriages, and labor contracts between freedmen and whites. “Such persons are not entitled to social and political equality,” proclaimed the South Carolina Black Code of 1865, “with white persons.” Likewise in Florida, a law decreed that the “jurors of this state shall be white men.”

Most of all, the Black Codes made it illegal for freedmen to travel freely or to leave their jobs. Each freedmen had to show that he had work for the current year. This forced the former slaves to stay on plantations as workers. Black workers could also be whipped for showing disrespect to their employers—often their former masters. Black children were “apprenticed” to white employers, and black convicts were turned over to white employers for hard labor. The whole aim of the Black Codes was to preserve the structure of Southern society with as little disruption as possible, despite the abolition of slavery.

## Congressional Reconstruction

Public opinion in the North was outraged at the election of former rebel leaders by Southern states and by the enactment of the new Black Codes. The blood-stained victory of the Civil War itself seemed to be at stake. Congress refused to seat the newly-elected Southern members. Moderate Republicans joined hands with the “**Radical Republicans**,” a smaller group of Republicans who believed that the South should be punished and that African Americans should be granted full political and civil equality.

Republicans passed a “Civil Rights” bill and a bill to enlarge the Freedmen’s Bureau. President Johnson vetoed both bills, but the Republicans had enough votes to override his veto.

The new Civil Rights Act prohibited discrimination based on race, thus overturning the Black Codes. It made all persons born in the United States into citizens, including the freedmen, and guaranteed them the same rights as “white citizens.”

## The Fourteenth Amendment

To insure these rights against a challenge by the Supreme Court, Congress rewrote the terms of the Civil Rights Act into the **Fourteenth Amendment**. This amendment prevents states from denying African Americans or other minorities the rights and

privileges of citizens, including a fair trial and equal protection of the laws.

Although written to protect the rights of freedmen from the actions of Southern state governments, the Fourteenth Amendment actually guaranteed the same rights to all citizens. Based on this amendment, state governments as well as the federal government must now respect the rights listed in the Bill of Rights.

To be re-admitted into the Union, each Southern state was forced to ratify the Fourteenth Amendment, while former Confederate leaders were deprived of the right to hold elected office. The effect of these changes was to shift the balance of power in Southern governments.

## The Impeachment of President Andrew Johnson

President Johnson opposed the terms of “Congressional Reconstruction.” However, Northern voters in the 1866 mid-term Congressional elections supported the Radical Republicans.

After President Johnson failed to win support in these elections, the Radical Republicans became the dominant force in Congress. The continuing exclusion of representatives from the Southern states helped them to maintain their majority.

*All persons born or naturalized in the United States, and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United States and of the State wherein they reside. No State shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States; nor shall any State deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws.*

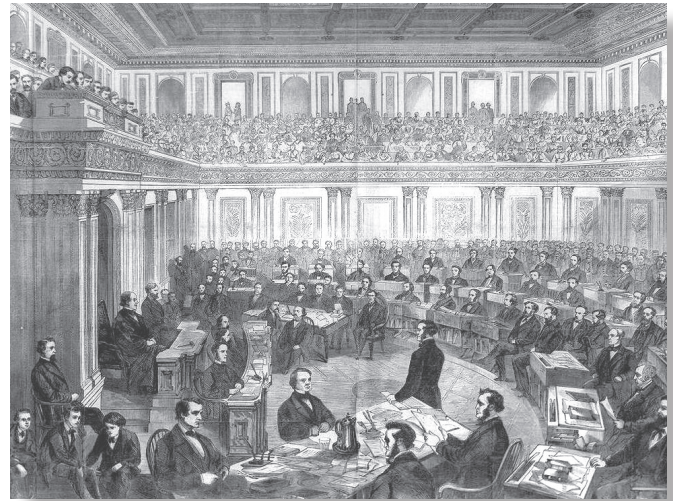
—An excerpt from the Fourteenth Amendment

- ▶ What is meant by “due process of law”?
- ▶ What is meant by the “equal protection of the laws”?
- ▶ How do these concepts differ?
- ▶ How did this amendment overturn the earlier *Dred Scott* decision?

The Radical Republicans passed their own bill for Reconstruction. They divided the South into five districts. Each district was occupied by a division of the Union army and placed under martial law.

To enforce its program, Congress also passed a law, known as the Tenure of Office Act. This act limited the President’s power to dismiss his own cabinet members. President Johnson refused to obey this law. When he dismissed the Secretary of War, Congressional leaders attempted to remove Johnson from the presidency through the process of **impeachment**. Johnson was successfully impeached by the House of Representatives in February 1868, but in the Senate three months later the Radical Republicans failed to remove him by only one vote. Johnson was the first President to have been impeached. Later that same year, Ulysses S. Grant was elected as the next President of the United States.

The **Fifteenth Amendment** was ratified in 1870. It prohibited states from denying any citizen the right to vote on the basis of race or previous “servitude” (*slavery*).



President Andrew Johnson’s impeachment hearing in the U.S. House of Representatives

The chart below summarizes the early plans for Reconstruction by President Johnson, the Southern States, and the Radical Republicans in Congress:

	President Johnson	Southern States	Radical Republicans
Who should control the readmission of Southern States?	The President		Congress
When should Southern States be readmitted?	Immediately, so long as they support the Union and the end of slavery.	Immediately, with each state in charge of its own affairs.	Only when most citizens in the state agree to support the Union and black citizens are given their full civil and political rights
Should Southern leaders be punished?	Almost all Southern rebels are individually pardoned by the President.	No punishment for former Confederate leaders.	Confederate leaders should be punished and all who served in the Confederacy should lose their political rights.
Should the freed slaves be entitled to vote?	Johnson recommends that state governments give the franchise to educated freedmen and black veterans, but refuses to use the federal government to force them to do so.	No.	Yes.





## The Historian's Apprentice

1. Imagine you are a U.S. Senator in 1864. Write a letter to a friend explaining how the Thirteenth Amendment differs from the Emancipation Proclamation.
2. Make an illustrated timeline showing the development of Presidential and Congressional policies for Reconstruction.
3. Pretend your class is the United States Senate in May 1868 deciding whether to remove President Andrew Johnson from office. One team should present the grounds for removal. A second team should defend his actions. Then put his impeachment and removal from office to a vote. Members of the "Senate" should write a paragraph explaining how they voted. Did President Johnson narrowly survive impeachment in your classroom, as he did in 1868?
4. Write a paragraph on whether you think President Johnson's impeachment was justified. Examine the grounds for impeachment in the U.S. Constitution. For what reasons do you believe a President should be impeached?
5. Reread the language of the 14th Amendment. Do you think this language entitled women to vote? Use the Internet to find out what happened when Susan B. Anthony voted on the basis of this amendment in 1872. Would you have agreed with the judge in this case? Give two reasons to support your answer.

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## The Reconstruction Governments in the South

The enfranchisement of the freedmen and the exclusion of former confederate leaders created new conditions in the South. New Southern governments were elected. They often fell under the control of new arrivals from the North, known as "**carpetbaggers**." This was a term of abuse applied by Southern newspapers. It meant that many of the new arrivals were poor whites, able to fit all of their belongings into a few bags made of carpet, who came to exploit the South. In fact, many of these Northerners came for an idealistic goal—to help the freedmen. Others came for new business opportunities. The new Reconstruction governments in the South also included "**scalawags**"—Southern whites who supported Reconstruction. Most of all, new African-American voters made up a large portion of the Southern electorate in the Reconstruction Era.

One of the most important aspects of Reconstruction was the active participation of African Americans in state and local governments across the

South. Over 600 served as state legislators. African Americans filled numerous posts in state governments, including Governor of Louisiana. In South Carolina, African Americans became a majority of the state legislature and chose an African-American Speaker of the House. **Hiram Rhodes Revels**, a Protestant minister, became the first African American to sit in Congress when he was elected as Senator from Mississippi in 1870. Fifteen other African Americans sat in Congress during Reconstruction.

Among the greatest areas of accomplishment of the Reconstruction governments were the creation of a system of public schools, laws banning racial discrimination, and the encouragement of investment in railroads. Reconstruction leaders generally favored modernization of the South. Nonetheless, Reconstruction governments faced great financial difficulties, were often guilty of the corruption that was widespread in that era, and never won the support of the majority of white Southerners. White

Southerners especially resented Northern interference and did not recognize their former slaves as social equals. Without changing white South-

ern attitudes, or giving African Americans greater resources, Reconstruction policies were ultimately doomed to fail once the North withdrew.



## The Historian's Apprentice

Imagine you are an African-American freedman, a Northern “carpetbagger,” or a white “scalawag” in a Southern state. Write a paragraph for an editorial in a local newspaper explaining your views on Reconstruction in your state.

## The Economics of Reconstruction: the “New South”

With the end of slavery and the widespread destruction of the Civil War, one of the major tasks of Reconstruction was to repair the economy of the South. Without slave labor, the old plantation system could not be restored. Some plantation owners were forced to sell off sections of their lands. For the most part, however, plantation owners entered into **sharecropping** arrangements with their former slaves, who had no resources of their own. The landowner provided a cabin, a mule, tools and a plot of land to the sharecropper. The sharecropper, in turn, gave a large share of his crop to the landowner. Most freedmen became sharecroppers, but others became **tenant farmers**. They rented land from the landowner but provided their own tools and provisions. Very few freedmen ever became landowners themselves.

If a sharecropper or tenant farmer owed any money at all to the landlord for cash loans or the use of tools, he or she could not leave until the debt was paid—in effect tying the freedman down in a system of **debt peonage**.

Some Southerners saw the end of slavery as a good thing for the South. They thought the South could develop a more diversified economy by growing many types of crops and carrying out its own

manufacturing. They called this the “**New South**.” After the war, new farming methods increased the yield per acre. The cultivation of new crops like fruits and vegetables was added to old staples like cotton, tobacco, rice and sugar. Most important of all, railroads, cotton mills and steel furnaces were built and more people moved into Southern cities. Although manufacturing in the South did not rival the North, it was much greater than in pre-Civil War times.



Sharecroppers planting sweet potatoes

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## Reconstruction Comes to an End

Reconstruction governments lasted different lengths of time in different states, but not more than ten years. In 1876, the outcome of the narrow Presidential election contest between Republican candidate Rutherford B. Hayes and Democrat Samuel Tilden was disputed. Tilden won the popular vote but did not have enough votes in the Electoral College.

The results were disputed in Oregon and three Southern states: Florida, Louisiana and South Carolina. If all 20 disputed votes were given to Hayes, he would win the election. There were accusations of fraud in all three states, including Florida. A special Congressional commission was formed to decide the disputed electoral votes. In the end a compromise was worked out. Under the “Compromise of 1877,” all the disputed electoral votes were given to Hayes, who agreed to withdraw Northern troops from the South and end Reconstruction.

By 1877, Northern troops left the South, and local governments entirely returned to local white Southern rule. Former Confederate leaders could now vote and state legislatures quickly moved to bar African Americans from voting or participating in the political process.

There were several reasons why Reconstruction failed to achieve complete equality for African Americans:

1. ***A Legacy of Racism***—White Americans, in the North as well as the South, were not ready to recognize African Americans as their social equals. In the South, Reconstruction was keenly resented because it placed blacks in the position of exercising authority over whites. The weight of centuries of prejudice prevented most white Americans from changing their attitudes.
2. ***The Economic Dependence of African Americans***—The failure to divide up the plantations and give the freedmen their own plots of land after the Civil War meant that Southern blacks remained dependent on their former masters for their livelihoods.
3. ***The Freedmen Lacked Education and Political Experience***—Most of the freedmen were uneducated, which further weakened their ability to compete with hostile whites.
4. ***White Terrorism***—Secret societies like the **Ku Klux Klan** terrorized those Southern blacks who attempted to assert their full political and social rights. This frightened many into submission.
5. ***Loss of Northern Interest in Southern Reconstruction***—The Reconstruction governments were established right after the Civil War, when Northern voters and politicians were anxious to assert supremacy after a hard-fought struggle. When Americans were hit by an economic depression in 1873, most Northerners lost interest in the South.

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## The Aftermath to Reconstruction: The Segregated South

The system that replaced Reconstruction in the South was one of racial segregation and white supremacy. African Americans were deprived of their basic political and civil rights until the Civil

Rights movement nearly a century later. Some historians refer to this period as the “Nadir,” or low point, of American race relations.



Freedmen voting

## African Americans in Southern States Lose the Right to Vote

The Fifteenth Amendment had guaranteed the right to vote to all adult males. However, in the ten years following Reconstruction, Southern state governments systematically stripped African Americans of this right. Southern blacks were economically dependent on white owners of land and businesses and were unlikely to challenge them politically. Moreover, African Americans were terrorized by the Ku Klux Klan, the “White League,” and other manifestations of white violence. Armed bands openly threatened African Americans who tried to vote. They especially targeted teachers and community leaders. Lynchings of African Americans became common. (A “lynching” is a public hanging by a local mob of an accused person without a trial.) Southern sheriffs and police were all white, as were Southern judges and juries, and they enforced laws selectively against blacks.

Finally, Southern legislators passed a series of laws in the 1890s specifically designed to prevent African Americans from voting without actually violating the 14th and 15th amendments.



**Literacy Tests**—A literacy test determines if someone can read. Literacy is not normally a requirement for voting, but it was not unconstitutional for a state to make it one. Literacy tests were made more difficult for black citizens, while white citizens were often exempted from this requirement.

**Poll Taxes**—These were special registration fees for voting. They were not only burdensome to the poor, but usually had to be paid long in advance and could not be paid on the day of the election.

**“Grandfather Clauses”**—These laws allowed people who had been qualified to vote at the beginning of 1867, their descendants, and relatives to vote without passing a literacy test or paying a poll tax. In effect, this exempted “poor whites” from these requirements but not poor blacks, since few African Americans had been qualified to vote in the South in January 1867. “Grandfather clauses” were declared unconstitutional by the Supreme Court in 1915, but the other requirements, like poll taxes, were upheld.

As a result of these measures, whites regained control of their state governments and representation in the Congress. Thus, even though a majority of citizens in Louisiana, Mississippi, and South Carolina were African Americans, few could vote. Resentful of Republican reconstruction, for next hundred years white Southerners consistently voted for the Democratic Party. For this reason, they became known as the “Solid South” in national elections.

## The System of Racial Segregation: the Reign of “Jim Crow”

The new white state legislatures quickly passed a series of laws *segregating* (or separating) blacks from whites. By state law, whites and blacks attended different schools, rode in separate railway cars, ate in different restaurants, used different

public toilets and water fountains, and sat on different public benches. The facilities given to African Americans were generally inferior.

The laws establishing racial segregation in the South, became known as the “Jim Crow” laws, named after a character in earlier song-and-dance shows. Segregation denied black citizens equal opportunities and rights, reinforced white racism and fear of blacks, and conveyed the message that whites were superior. Poor whites were especially afraid of competition from black workers and welcomed the “Jim Crow” laws for keeping blacks “in their place.” The purpose of these laws was to *circumvent*—or get around—the 13th, 14th, and 15th Amendments.

In 1890, Louisiana passed a “Jim Crow” law requiring railroad companies to “provide equal but separate” facilities to members of different races. Opponents of segregation persuaded Homer Plessy, who was one-eighth African American, to challenge this law. Plessy sat in a railroad car for whites, told the conductor of his mixed ancestry, and was arrested. He fought his case all the way up to the U.S. Supreme Court. In 1896, the Supreme Court upheld racial segregation in *Plessy v. Ferguson*.

The Court saw nothing in the Louisiana law itself that stated that some races were inferior to others:

*“We cannot say that a law which requires the separation of two races is unreasonable. We consider the [error] of [Plessy’s] argument to consist in the assumption that the enforced separation of the two races stamps the colored race with a badge of inferiority.”*

Segregation was also practiced in the North, but generally as a matter of custom rather than law. For example, riots took place in Chicago in 1919 when a black swimmer went ashore on a “white” beach and was murdered by white bathers.

### The African-American Response

African Americans responded to these adverse conditions in a variety of ways. A small trickle migrated northwards. From 1910 onwards, this trickle became a flood and close to 2 million African Americans migrated to Northern cities over the next two decades. Another way Southern blacks responded was by developing strong community and church ties. These became especially important during the later Civil Rights movement.

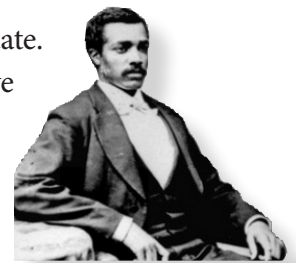
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## Focus on Florida

Florida was fortunate in suffering less damage than most Southern states during the Civil War. After 1865, growing cotton in Florida became secondary to a wide variety of other occupations, including growing citrus fruits and winter vegetables, raising cattle, cutting timber, and tourism. The state’s population nearly doubled in the two decades after 1860, reaching 270,000 inhabitants by 1880. Almost half of these were African Americans.

African Americans took a very active role in the government of Florida during Reconstruction. They made up 19 of the 53 members elected to the state legislature in 1868. **Jonathan C. Gibbs**, a preacher and graduate of Dartmouth

College, became Secretary of State. **Josiah T. Walls**, a former slave and Union veteran, was the first black Floridian elected to the U.S. House of Representatives, where he served three terms.



Josiah T. Walls



Jonathan C. Gibbs

Southern Democrats regained control of Florida’s state government in 1877. They followed the example of other Southern states in enacting their own “Jim Crow” laws. A state constitutional convention was held in 1885, which imposed poll

taxes, literacy tests, and residency qualifications as requirements for voting. The convention also endorsed racial segregation in schools. In 1889, Florida's state legislature introduced multiple ballot boxes at elections in order to confuse and discourage African-American voters. These laws were accompanied by acts of violence against those African-Americans who still dared to exercise their political rights. Despite these threats, some African Americans continued bravely to assert their rights. For example, Joseph H. Lee, an African American who moved to Florida in 1873, served in the state legislature from 1880 until 1913.

A unique form of debt peonage developed in the pine forests of Florida at the end of Reconstruction,

which lasted until the 1940s. African Americans who sought work in a turpentine camp were offered a bus ride to the camp. For their ride, they became indebted to the owner and were unable to leave the camp until the debt was paid. They became further indebted to the owner for their housing and food. Thus they became virtual prisoners. One victim later remembered:

*"You is born into the teppentime, with no hope of getting out."*

The system exploited thousands of African Americans, who worked in the camps that produced one-fifth of the world's turpentine.

## Review Cards

### The Battle over Reconstruction

**Freedmen's Bureau** set up to help freedmen; **13th Amendment** abolished slavery.

#### Presidential Reconstruction:

- ▶ Lincoln to readmit Southern states when 10% voters pledge allegiance to the Union and recognize end of slavery.
- ▶ Johnson insists Confederates seek personal pardons.

**Black Codes:** New Southern state governments with former Confederate leaders pass "**Black Codes**," restricting rights of freedmen.

#### Congressional Reconstruction

- ▶ Shocked at Black Codes and election of Confederate leaders, Radical Republicans refuse to seat Southerners in Congress.
- ▶ **Civil Rights Act**, passed over Johnson's veto, grants freedmen rights of citizenship, overturning Black Codes.
- ▶ Civil Rights Act is rewritten as **14th Amendment**, granting all citizens:
  - "**due process of law**": right to fair procedures before a state government takes away a person's property or freedom
  - "**equal protection of the laws**": state laws should treat people equally
- ▶ **Reconstruction Act (1867)** divides South into military occupation zones.

## Impeachment of President Andrew Johnson

- ▶ Radical Republicans pass Tenure of Office Act: President needs Senate consent to remove cabinet members.
- ▶ Johnson impeached for removing Secretary of War. He is first President to be impeached. When tried in the Senate, Johnson is saved from removal by one vote.

## Reconstruction Governments

- ▶ **Carpetbaggers, scalawags** and **freedmen** participate in Reconstruction governments.
- ▶ African Americans vote and serve in government during this experiment in biracial democracy. **Hiram Rhodes Revels** becomes first African American in Congress.
- ▶ Reconstruction governments ban racial discrimination, establish public schools, and encourage railroad construction, but are also guilty of corruption.

## Reconstruction Economics

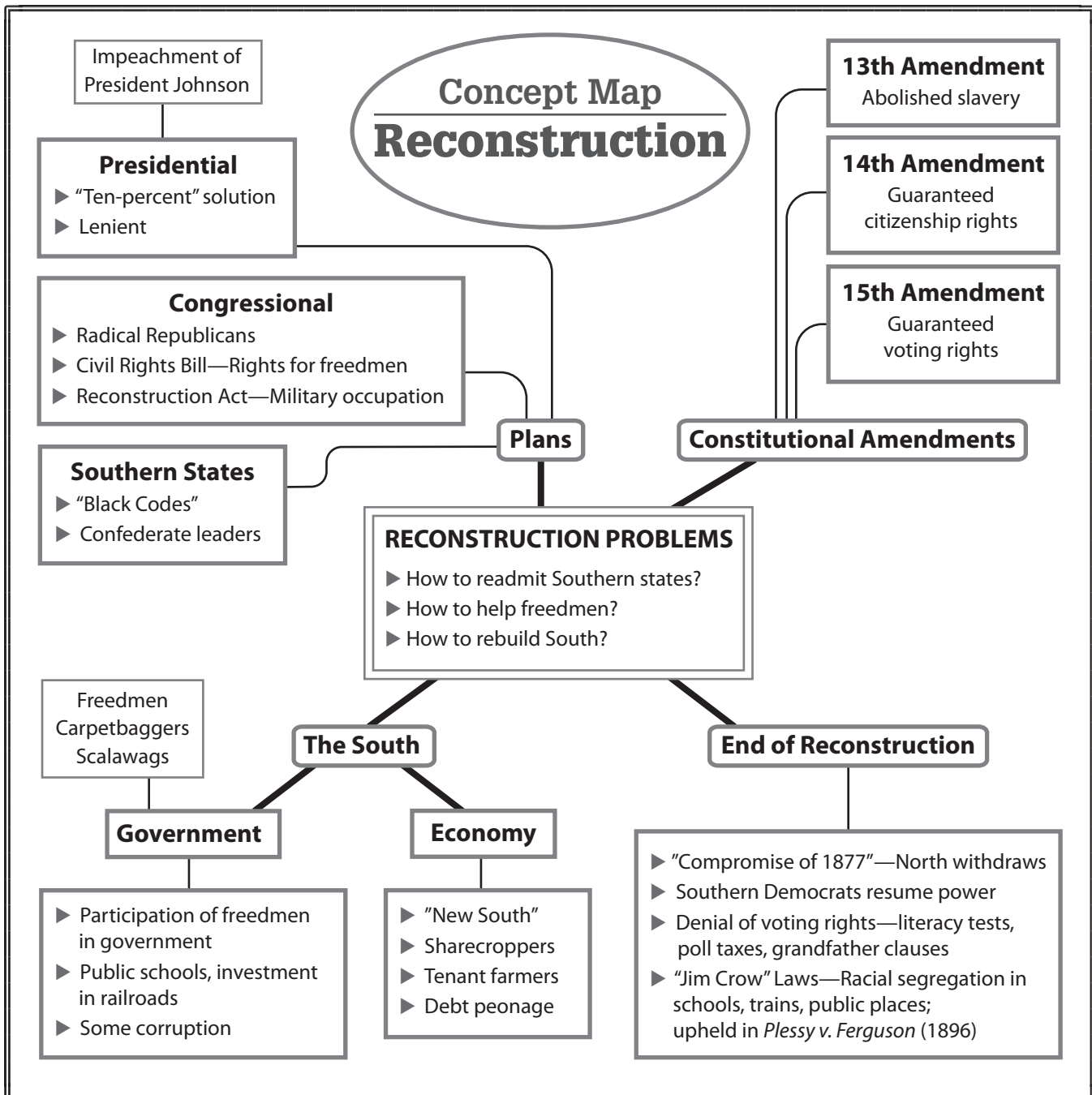
- ▶ **sharecropper**: uses land and tools of landlord in exchange for part of crop
- ▶ **tenant farmer**: rents land from landlord
- ▶ **debt peonage**: loss of freedom to move away because of debts to landlord
- ▶ **“New South”**: new economy of South with greater crop diversity, more railroads and some manufacturing

## The End of Reconstruction

- ▶ North loses interest after economic depression in 1873
- ▶ Rutherford B. Hayes withdraws troops in deal to win disputed 1877 Presidential election
- ▶ Southern Democrats return to power
- ▶ Ku Klux Klan and other groups terrorize African Americans

## “Jim Crow” Laws: “Nadir” in Race Relations

- ▶ Southern state governments take steps to stop African-American voting: literacy tests, poll taxes, residency requirements. Whites exempted by “grandfather clauses.”
- ▶ African Americans intimidated by violence and economic dependence.
- ▶ Southern state governments pass “Jim Crow” laws requiring racial segregation, or separation of whites and blacks, in schools, railroads, restaurants and other public places.
- ▶ “Jim Crow” laws upheld by Supreme Court in *Plessy v. Ferguson* (1896) - facilities are “separate but equal.”





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## What Do You Know?

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**SS.912.A.2.3**

How should former Confederate leaders be punished?

How should Southern states be re-admitted to the Union?

How should four million freedmen enter into public life and the free market economy?

How should the economy of the South be rebuilt?

1. What was one impact of these issues on Republicans following the Civil War?
  - A. They disagreed over whether the President or Congress should set conditions for Reconstruction.
  - B. They agreed to let Southerners govern their own affairs without federal interference.
  - C. They rejected the idea of creating a group of new African-American voters sympathetic to their party.
  - D. They refused to treat the Southern states as conquered areas.

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**22.912.A.2.3**

### Congressional Reconstruction

- ▶ Instituted 5 districts and imposed martial law in the South.
- ▶ States had to ratify the 14th Amendment before readmission into the Union.
- ▶ Confederate leaders could not hold elected office.

2. What was one effect of the changes implemented by Congressional Reconstruction?
  - A. The balance of power in Southern state governments shifted.
  - B. Northern and Southern whites were reconciled more quickly.
  - C. The citizenship rights of African Americans were withheld.
  - D. Confederate leaders automatically regained their confiscated properties.

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**SS.912.A.2.4**

3. Which amendment guaranteed the “equal protection” of the laws to all American citizens?
  - A. 1st Amendment
  - B. 13th Amendment
  - C. 14th Amendment
  - D. 15th Amendment

**22.912.A.2.2**

*“If [African-American] suffrage is excluded in the rebel states, then every one of them is sure to send a [Democratic] representation to Congress and pass a solid [Democratic] electoral vote [for President].”*

—Thaddeus Stevens, Radical Republican leader

4. What reason did Stevens give in this passage for granting voting rights to African Americans?
  - A. Black voters would help Republicans maintain control of the Congress and Presidency.
  - B. African Americans deserved to vote after contributing their unpaid labor for centuries.
  - C. Democrats and Republicans were in agreement on the fairness of letting all races vote.
  - D. Republicans must offer voting rights to freedmen before Southern Democrats do.

**SS.912.A.2.3**

5. What impact did Radical Republicans in Congress have on Reconstruction?
  - A. They persuaded President Johnson to pardon former Confederate leaders.
  - B. They encouraged the freedmen to exercise their new political rights.
  - C. They opposed passage of the Fourteenth Amendment.
  - D. They prevented President Johnson from sending federal troops to the South.

**SS.912.A.2.2**

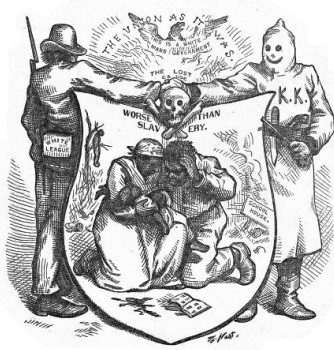
6. Which is the best contemporary definition of a “scalawag”?
  - A. a Northern abolitionist who supported the Freedmen’s Bureau
  - B. a Northerner who came to the South after the Civil War
  - C. a white Southerner who supported Reconstruction
  - D. a freedman entitled to vote

**SS.912.A.2.2**

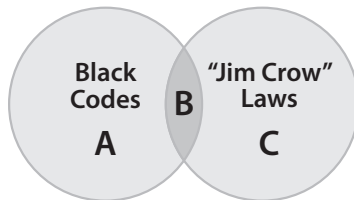
7. What was a positive long-term impact of Radical Reconstruction on the South?
  - A. Confederate leaders never again held elected office.
  - B. The South remained divided into five districts governed by martial law.
  - C. Public education systems were established for all students.
  - D. Women were given the right to vote.

**SS.912.A.2.6**

8. What was an important effect of the sharecropping system and debt peonage?
- Freedmen achieved social and political equality in the South.
  - Freedmen played an important role in local and state government.
  - Freedmen achieved economic independence from their former masters
  - Freedmen often remained in a state of economic dependence on their masters.

**SS.912.A.2.2**

9. What was the main message of this cartoon?
- Opponents of Reconstruction were using violence to intimidate the freedmen.
  - The Ku Klux Klan and other private associations in the South were assisting the freedmen.
  - The 14th Amendment protected the rights of freedmen despite the activities of the Ku Klux Klan.
  - Different groups of Southerners were cooperating to rebuild the South after the war.

**SS.912.A.2.6**

10. Which statement belongs in space A in the Venn diagram on the left?
- Discriminated against African Americans
  - Required racial segregation in public places
  - Provided Americans of all races with equal rights under the law
  - Denied African Americans freedom of movement and basic civil rights

**SS.912.A.2.5**

*“Laws permitting, or even requiring, the separation of the races do not place a badge of inferiority upon one group over another. Thus it is not a violation of the Fourteenth Amendment.”*

—*Plessy v. Ferguson* (1896)

11. What practice did the ruling in *Plessy v. Ferguson* uphold?
- job training for freedmen
  - free public schooling for all races
  - African-American participation in the political process
  - racial segregation in public places

**SS.912.A.2.5**

“Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

*Section 1. It shall be a penal offense for any individual, body of individuals, corporation or association to conduct within this State any school of any grade, public, private or parochial wherein white persons and negroes shall be instructed or boarded within the same building, or taught in the same class, or at the same time by the same teachers.”*

—Florida State Legislature, 1895

12. How did this law influence conditions for African Americans in Florida?
- A. Schools for African-American children received fewer resources than schools for white children.
  - B. African-American adults were permitted to attend night school to improve their literacy skills.
  - C. African Americans were given the right to attend free public schools in Florida for the first time.
  - D. African-American parents who opposed racial segregation sent their children to private schools.

**SS.912.A.2.2**

13. Which two groups most helped the freedmen during the Reconstruction Era?
- A. Radical Republicans and carpetbaggers
  - B. Northern Democrats and Ku Klux Klan members
  - C. Southern Democrats and supporters of the Black Codes
  - D. Confederate veterans and supporters of President Andrew Johnson

**SS.912.A.2.5**

*“The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on account of race, color, or previous condition of servitude.”*

—The 15th Amendment

14. Which practices were introduced in Southern states after Reconstruction to circumvent this amendment?
- A. African-American freedmen increased their participation in government in the nation’s first experiment in bi-racial democracy.
  - B. Poll taxes, literacy tests, and residency requirements were passed, which affected African Americans more than other citizens.
  - C. White and black children in Southern states were required to attend separate, racially segregated public schools and to use separate playgrounds.
  - D. “Jim Crow” laws imposed racial segregation in public places, including trains, restaurants and hotels.