

The Reconstruction Era

To what extent did Reconstruction bring African Americans closer to full citizenship?

PREVIEW

Suppose that you are an emancipated slave in the South at the end of the Civil War. What changes do you hope for your new life? *On a separate sheet of paper*, write about three ways you imagine your life will change now that you have your freedom.

READING NOTES

Key Content Terms

As you complete the Reading Notes, use these terms in your answers.

Reconstruction

black codes

Fifteenth Amendment

Thirteenth Amendment

civil rights

Jim Crow laws

Freedmen's Bureau

Fourteenth Amendment

Section 2

1. What were President Johnson's two major aims for Reconstruction? Circle the aim that was achieved by the Thirteenth Amendment.
2. Who established the Freedmen's Bureau, and what was its purpose? List three activities of the bureau that helped it carry out its purpose.

3. Complete the chart to show how new Southern state governments limited African Americans in the South.

Black Codes Enacted During Presidential Reconstruction

Purpose	Example

Section 3

1. How did the Radical Republicans' aim for Reconstruction differ from President Johnson's? What two new laws passed by Congress helped them achieve this aim?

2. Place an adjective on the line below to describe the relationship between Congress and President Johnson during presidential Reconstruction. In each oval, give an example of this relationship.

Congress and President Johnson
had a/an _____ relationship.

3. Why did the House of Representatives impeach President Johnson? What was the outcome of the impeachment trial?

4. Why did many sharecroppers end up in poverty and debt?

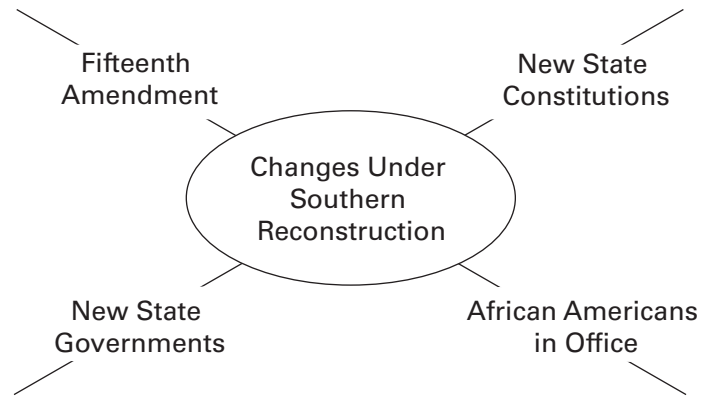
Section 4

1. Who was banned by Congress from voting, and who were the three groups of new voters in the South? Write each answer on top of the appropriate symbol.



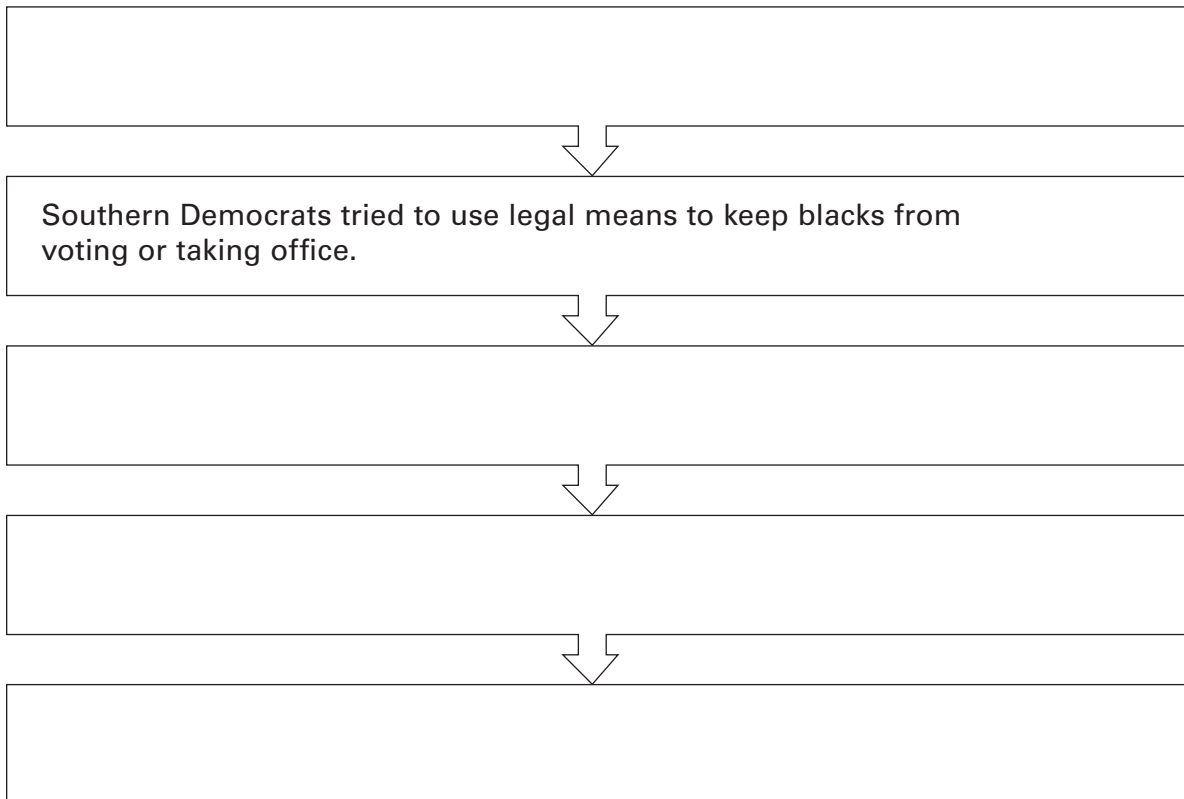
2. What important lesson did Republicans learn in the 1868 presidential election of Ulysses S. Grant?

3. On the spoke diagram, write a one-sentence summary of each change during Southern Reconstruction.



Section 5

1. Complete the flowchart to show the development and effects of violence against African Americans in the South.



2. What was the dispute in the presidential election of 1876? How was it resolved?

3. How did the 1876 election affect African Americans in the South?

Section 6

1. How did Southern Democrats reverse gains made during Reconstruction in each of these areas?

Education:

Voting rights:

Segregation:

2. Make a sketch to illustrate the results of *Plessy v. Ferguson*. Include a caption that explains the Supreme Court's decision in the case and the consequences of that decision.

Section 7

1. List two factors that pushed African Americans out of the South after Reconstruction and two factors that pulled them toward the North.

↑
Push factors

↑
Pull factors

2. Write one sentence to describe the experience of African Americans in each region at the end of the 1800s.

The North:

The West:

The South:

P R O C E S S I N G

On a separate sheet of paper, create an illustration of a road that shows the important events of Reconstruction and their impact on African Americans' journey toward full citizenship. Your road should

- show the progress and setbacks that African Americans experienced in their struggle for full citizenship during Reconstruction. For example, hills, twists, and turns away from full citizenship might show setbacks, while straight paths and bridges might show progress.
- include symbols, pictures, and labels for at least two events from each phase of Reconstruction. Stop signs, potholes, and roadblocks might show events that prevented progress toward full citizenship. High-speed-limit signs or freeway signs might show events that helped African Americans to achieve their goals.
- include at least six Key Content Terms.
- have a caption summarizing to what extent Reconstruction brought African Americans closer to full citizenship.
- be colorful and free of spelling errors.

R E A D I N G F U R T H E R

Preparing to Write: Identifying Values

In 1965, President Lyndon Johnson told the U.S. Congress that the struggle of African Americans in Selma was a struggle shared by the nation. “Their cause must be our cause too,” he said. President Johnson expressed his values by saying that it was important for *all* Americans to be able to exercise their civil rights.

What values were the Little Rock Nine expressing by integrating Central High School?

What values did Charles Houston act on when he trained black lawyers?

What values did the Selma marchers express through their actions?

Writing a Personal Statement

The right to vote is one of the most important values in a democratic nation. Americans have fought and died to defend that right. American citizens are able to exercise their right to vote when they are 18 years old.

Write a statement expressing your personal beliefs about the value of the right to vote. Offer two reasons why voting is important in a democracy. Tell whether you intend to vote when you are 18, and explain the reasons for your answer.

Use this rubric to evaluate your personal statement. Make changes in your statement if you need to.

Score	Description
3	The statement gives two reasons for the importance of voting. It clearly explains a personal opinion. There are no spelling or grammar errors.
2	The statement gives a reason for the importance of voting. It explains a personal opinion. There are some spelling or grammar errors.
1	The statement does not give reasons for the importance of voting. It does not explain a personal opinion. There are many spelling or grammar errors.

Timeline Skills

Analyze the timeline. Also think about what you have learned. Then answer the following questions.

1. What was the Missouri Compromise? How long was it in effect?
2. Why did some Southerners threaten to secede over California's application for statehood?
3. How did the Kansas-Nebraska Act affect the Great Plains?
4. How did the Dred Scott decision affect slaves?
5. When was Abraham Lincoln elected president? What was an important result of his election?
6. What event started the Civil War? How long did the war last?
7. How many years of the Civil War passed before President Lincoln freed the slaves? In particular, which slaves were freed?
8. What two events took place in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, in the same year? Why was each of these events significant?
9. When and where did the Civil War end?
10. Describe three changes to the Constitution after the Civil War that improved the lives of African Americans.

