

Reconstruction 1865 -1877	
<p>I. Background</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. The period after the Civil War, 1865 - 1877, was called the Reconstruction period. B. Lincoln wanted to bring the Nation back together as quickly as possible and in December 1863 he offered his plan which required that the states' new constitutions prohibit slavery. C. However, Lincoln believed that in order to rebuild national unity, Southern states should be treated leniently. D. But in 1865, only a few days after the South surrendered, Lincoln was assassinated. E. The new President, Andrew Johnson lacked Lincoln's authority but sought to follow Lincoln's plan of lenient treatment (most rebel leaders were pardoned). 	
<p>II. The Thirteenth Amendment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. In January 1865, Congress proposed an amendment to the Constitution which would abolish slavery in the United States. B. On December 18, 1865, Congress ratified the Thirteenth Amendment formally abolishing slavery. 	
<p>III. The Black Codes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. The nation also faced the problem of how to deal with the millions of freed slaves, known as freedmen. B. Congress established the Freedman's Bureau to help the freed slaves. C. However, Southern states were slow to extend voting rights to the freedmen. D. In fact, Southern states passed Black Codes to regulate the lives of former slaves. E. Black Codes made it illegal for freedmen to hold public office, to travel freely, or to serve on juries. 	
<p>IV. The Radical Republicans</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. The Radical Republicans, a group of Northern Congressmen, wanted the freedmen to be granted political equality. B. They passed a Civil Rights Bill guaranteeing freedmen's rights, and restored military rule over the South. C. To ensure that this legislation would not be held unconstitutional by the Supreme Court, they rewrote the Civil Rights Bill as the Fourteenth Amendment. D. This amendment granted U.S. citizenship to all former slaves. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Fourteenth Amendment allowed federal courts to protect individual rights from acts by state governments. 	
<p>V. Carpetbaggers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Carpetbagger was the name given to Northerners who came south for political and economic reasons. B. They were considered corrupt individuals who were using Reconstruction as a means to advance their own personal interests. 	

~ Adapted from howard.edu and The Key to Understanding U.S. History and Government

Directions: Answer in complete sentences using the chart about Reconstruction.

1. What was Reconstruction?

2. When was the Reconstruction era?

3. What did Lincoln want to occur during the Reconstruction era?

4. Why do you think Lincoln wanted this to occur?

5. What happened to Lincoln only a few days after the South surrendered?

6. Who succeeded Lincoln as President of the United States?

7. What was stated in the Thirteenth Amendment?

8. What was the purpose of the Freedmen’s Bureau?

9. What were Black Codes?

10. How did Black Codes prevent equality for the freed slaves?

11. Who were the Radical Republicans?

12. What did Radical Republicans do to try to ensure that freed slaves would gain political equality?

13. What was stated in the Fourteenth Amendment?

14. Who were Carpetbaggers?

15. Why did Southerners dislike Carpetbaggers?

16. It is often stated “the failure of Reconstruction.” How did the Reconstruction era fail?

17. Why did emancipation often rarely bring political equality to the freed slaves?

18. Some Radical Republicans wanted “forty acres and a mule” for each newly freed slave. How would an allowance of “forty acres and a mule” to each newly freed slave changed the lives of newly freed slaves?

