

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

Reconstruction (Distance Learning Week 4)

Instructional Guide: In order to complete this instructional activity on the Reconstruction era, read the articles listed at the bottom of these directions. There is a short multiple choice quiz to complete at the end of each article.

Student Instructions:

1. Read the content summary.
2. Read the provided articles and complete the story quiz for each article.
3. Answer the questions below on a separate piece of paper using complete sentences. If you're completing this digitally, you may use Microsoft Word and then submit either on Edmodo or email (depending on your teacher).
4. Everything is to be completed and **turned in by Friday, May 15th by 3:30pm.**

Content Summary: (Important people, events, and vocabulary are in **bold**.)

Reconstruction is the name given to the period of U.S. history that followed the Civil War. After 4 years of brutal fighting between the North and South, the country faced the enormous task of putting itself back together. Abraham Lincoln was **assassinated** and the immediate task of Reconstruction fell to the new president, **Andrew Johnson**. His era of the Reconstruction period is known as **Presidential Reconstruction**. He favored a **lenient** policy towards the South and allowed southern states to best decide how they wanted to treat African Americans. Southern legislatures promptly passed **black codes**, which denied African Americans the right to purchase or rent land. Post-Civil War life for newly freed African Americans was very similar to life before the war. Johnson faced stiff opposition and in 1866, radical republicans were brought to power with the aim of punishing the south. They passed the **Military Reconstruction Acts of 1867**, which divided the south in military districts and gave African Americans the right to vote and hold political offices. This time period gave rise to the **Ku Klux Klan**, which terrorized local republican leaders and African Americans. In 1868, the **Fourteenth Amendment** made African Americans citizens of the United States and in 1870, the **Fifteenth Amendment** prohibited the federal government from denying the right to vote based on "race, color, or previous condition of **servitude**". Without a doubt, the Reconstruction period was a **turbulent** time in U.S. history.

Questions: (Heading= **Reconstruction Questions**)

1. In 3-5 sentences, explain the goals of Reconstruction. (What were they trying to accomplish?)
2. In 5-8 sentences, describe the successes and failures of Reconstruction.
3. In 5-8 sentences, do you think the laws and processes **accomplished** or **fell short of accomplishing** the goals of Reconstruction?

The articles included in this lesson are:

- What everyone should know about Reconstruction 150 years after the 15th Amendment's ratification
- The Other '68: Black Power during Reconstruction
- Reconstruction in the South
- Compromise of 1877: The "Corrupt Bargain" that Ended Reconstruction

What everyone should know about Reconstruction 150 years after the 15th Amendment's ratification

By Tiffany Mitchell Patterson, The Conversation, adapted by Newsela staff on 02.03.20

Word Count **942**

Level **830L**

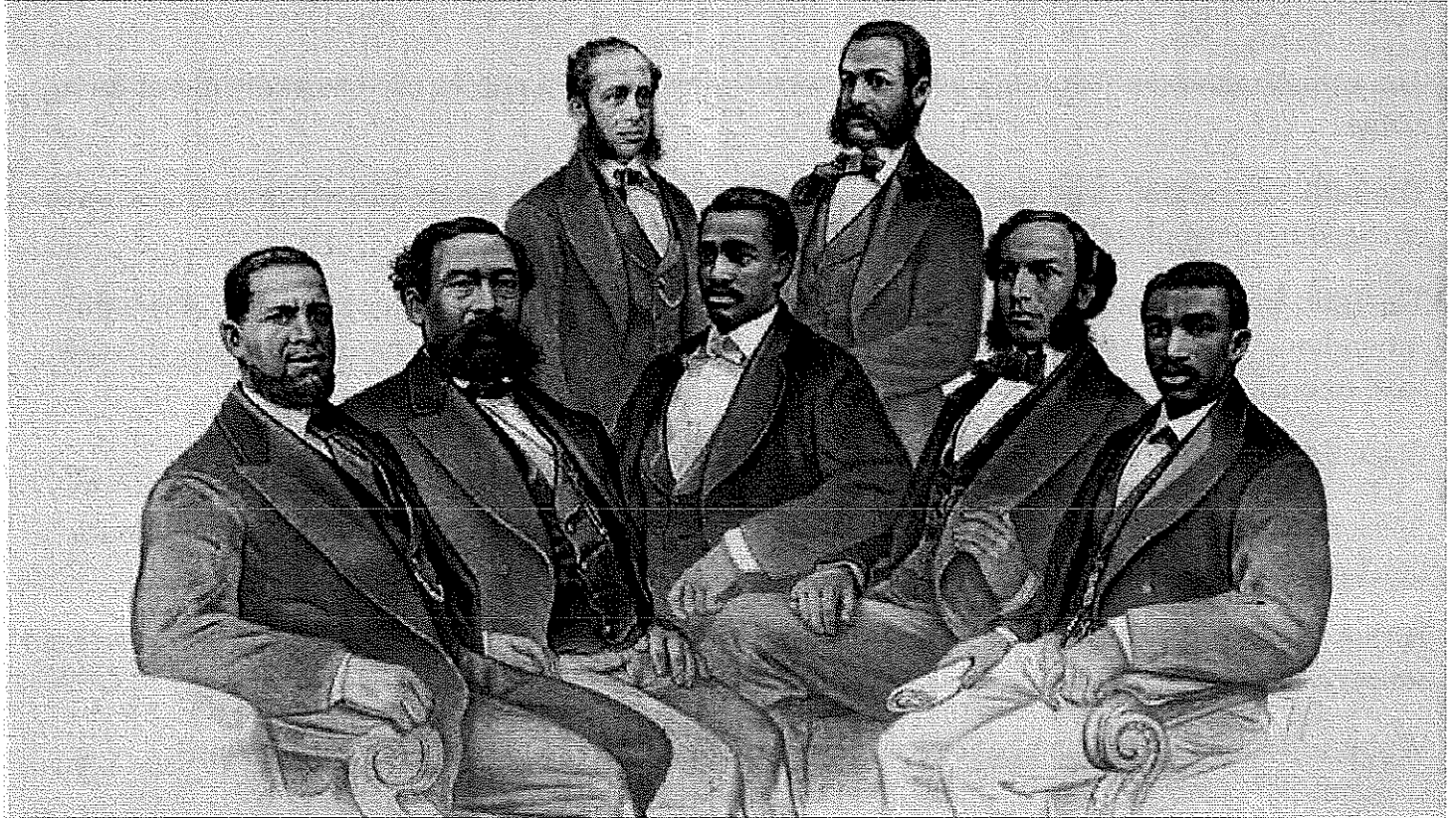


Image 1. An 1872 portrait of black Americans serving in Congress (from left): Hiram Revels, the first black man elected to the Senate; and representatives Benjamin S. Turner, Robert C. De Large; Josiah T. Walls; Jefferson H. Long; Joseph H. Rainey; and R. Brown Elliot. Photo: Currier & Ives/The Library of Congress.

Once I was in a middle school social studies class. I asked the students what they knew about black history. I'll never forget the response of one student, who said "Martin Luther King freed the slaves."

Martin Luther King Jr. was born in 1929. Slavery ended 60 years before King was even born.

The student's answer shocked me, but I understood why they were wrong. Schools spend very little time teaching black history. Many Americans think black history is only about slavery. Most adults don't know much about black history, either.

For instance, what do you know about Reconstruction?

I'm excited about some new materials for teaching children and adults about the history of slavery. These materials come from The New York Times' "1619 Project." However, I also believe we need to learn about what happened during Reconstruction. It is important for understanding the power and excellence of black Americans.

Reconstruction was the period after slavery ended. Black Americans gained some power in government. However, they still faced violence because of their race. Like many other experts, I am concerned about how little students learn about Reconstruction in school. Here are some suggestions for educators and others interested in learning more about Reconstruction.

Three New Amendments

The U.S. gained three constitutional amendments during Reconstruction. These changes to the Constitution gave new rights to the black Americans who had just been freed from slavery.

The 13th Amendment banned slavery. However, slavery could still be used as punishment for a crime.

The 14th Amendment said that all people born in the United States are U.S. citizens. It also gave citizenship to people who used to be enslaved.

The 15th Amendment gave all male Americans the right to vote, no matter their race. The 15th Amendment passed 150 years ago. It is a great time to think about the important rights this law gave to black Americans.

Black Entrance Into Government

Black men used their new voting rights to work in the government. Many social studies classes don't explore this part of Reconstruction.

Hiram Rhodes Revels became the first African-American senator. A total of 2,000 black men held some type of public office.

White supremacist groups like the Ku Klux Klan also formed after the Civil War. White supremacists wrongly believe that white people are better than people of other races. These terrorist groups used violence to scare black Americans and lawmakers. This makes the accomplishments of black lawmakers even more incredible. They still did their jobs even though they could be hurt.

Black Women Succeed

About 55 years after the Civil War, black American women gained the right to vote. However, many states had discriminatory laws that made it hard for them to vote.

During Reconstruction, many black women were leaders in the movement for women's voting rights. They fought for equal rights for all.

One of the black women activists during Reconstruction was Mary Ann Shadd Cary. She was the first black woman in North America to edit and publish a newspaper and one of the first black female lawyers in the country.

Another of these leaders was Ida B. Wells. Wells helped women win the right to vote. She educated people about the horrible violence being done to black Americans.

HBCUs Created

Before the Civil War, enslaved people did not get an education. In some places it was a crime to teach enslaved people to read. When slavery ended, many black Americans focused on education.

In the north, the U.S. government and other groups helped create new educational opportunities for black Americans. After the Civil War, African-American public schools were built. However, it was mostly the black community that built and worked at these schools.

Many universities opened during Reconstruction. Today, those universities are called historically black colleges and universities, or HBCUs.

These schools taught black people to be teachers, doctors, nurses and other professionals.

Today, many of the HBCUs are still open, including Howard University in Washington, D.C. Even now, HBCUs train more black doctors and professionals than many other universities.

Field Trip!

Storytelling, trips and museums help get people of any age interested in history.

Depending on where you live, you could take a trip with your family or your school to learn more about Reconstruction. In Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, you can visit the National Constitution Center. You could also visit The National Museum of African-American History and Culture in Washington, D.C.

I also recommend watching films or reading books about Reconstruction. The professor Henry Louis Gates Jr. has made some films and books about Reconstruction. A group called Teaching for Change also has a booklist on Reconstruction for kids in middle school and high school.

Movement Backward

W.E.B. DuBois was a famous black thinker. He once explained how formerly enslaved people got to enjoy freedom at first, but then new laws limited their freedoms.

"The slave went free; stood for a brief moment in the sun; then moved back again toward slavery," he explained.

Black Americans did not choose this. Many white supremacists did not like the idea of black Americans voting or becoming successful. They tried to gain power over black Americans by using violence and creating unfair laws. Still, black Americans used their new rights. They continued their work as activists, politicians, business owners, teachers and farmers.

Today, racist violence has returned. DuBois' words seem to ring true. At the same time, it helps to remember how quickly black Americans went from being enslaved to getting an education and working in government.

Tiffany Mitchell Patterson, PhD, is a professor at West Virginia University. She studies education, youth activism and teaching black history.

Quiz

1 Read the section "Three New Amendments."

Select the paragraph that shows the purpose of the Reconstruction amendments.

- (A) The U.S. gained three constitutional amendments during Reconstruction. These changes to the Constitution gave new rights to the black Americans who had just been freed from slavery.
- (B) The 13th Amendment banned slavery. However, slavery could still be used as punishment for a crime.
- (C) The 14th Amendment said that all people born in the United States are U.S. citizens. It also gave citizenship to people who used to be enslaved.
- (D) The 15th Amendment gave all male Americans the right to vote, no matter their race. The 15th Amendment passed 150 years ago. It is a great time to think about the important rights this law gave to black Americans.

2 Read the section "Movement Backward."

Which selection from this section supports the conclusion that many of the new rights and freedoms black Americans gained during Reconstruction were later restricted?

- (A) W.E.B. DuBois was a famous black thinker. He once explained how formerly enslaved people got to enjoy freedom at first, but then new laws limited their freedoms.
- (B) Black Americans did not choose this. Many white supremacists did not like the idea of black Americans voting or becoming successful.
- (C) Still, black Americans used their new rights. They continued their work as activists, politicians, business owners, teachers and farmers.
- (D) At the same time, it helps to remember how quickly black Americans went from being enslaved to getting an education and working in government.

3 Why did the author feel surprised after she asked a middle school student about black history?

- (A) The student's response was more complex than she had expected it to be.
- (B) The student told her information she had never heard before.
- (C) The student's response illustrated how poorly schools teach black history.
- (D) The student already knew about the Reconstruction era.

4 What effect did the 15th Amendment have on the political representation of black Americans?

- (A) It expanded voting rights to all black Americans.
- (B) It limited the number of white representatives in Congress.
- (C) It prevented black American women from voting for and serving in public office.
- (D) It allowed black American men to vote for and serve in public office, which many of them did.

The other '68: Black power during Reconstruction

By Adam Sanchez, Zinn Education Project, adapted by Newsela staff on 12.07.18

Word Count 750

Level 880L

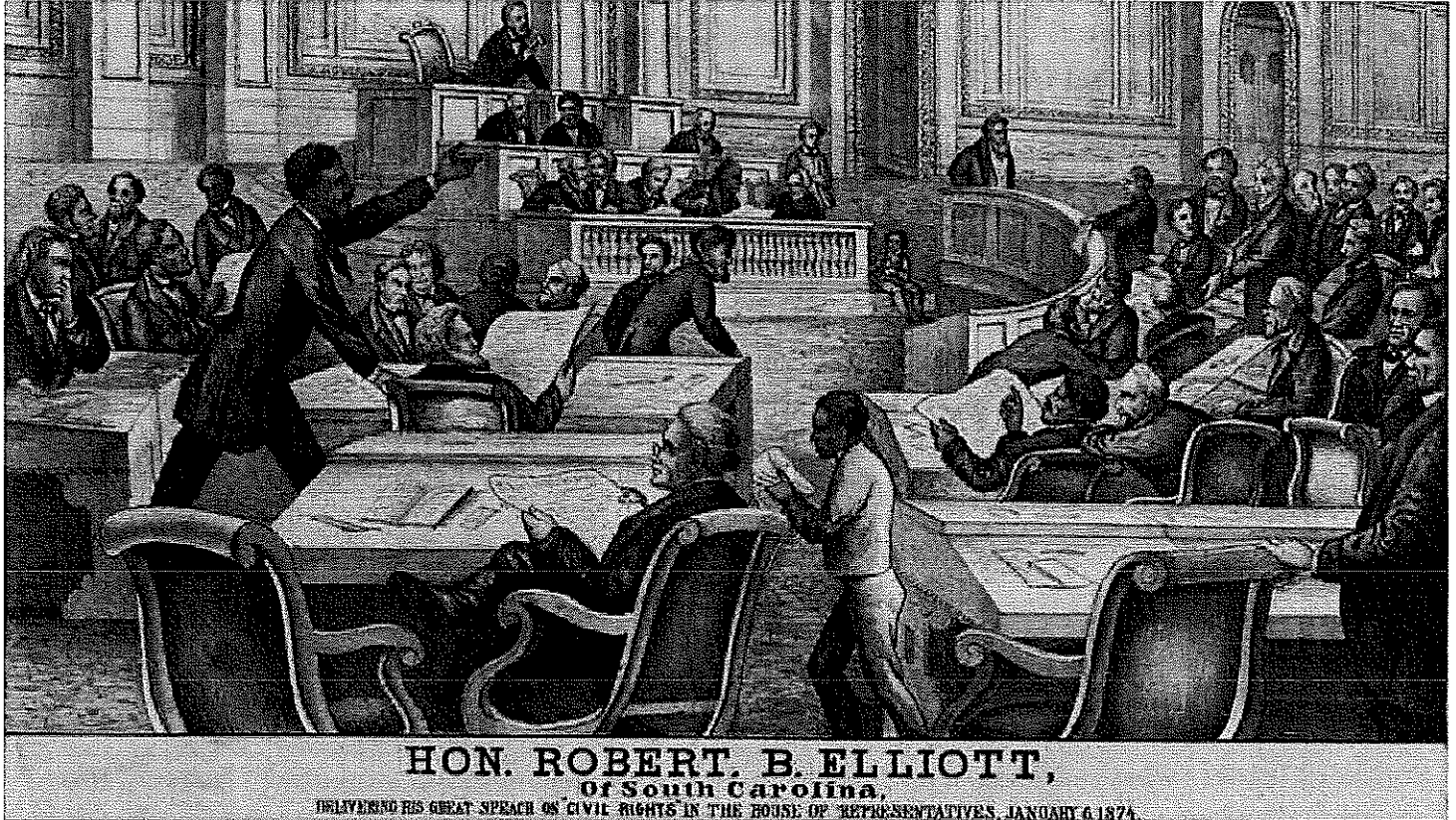


Image 1. Robert B. Elliott (1842-1884), of South Carolina, delivered a speech for an 1874 Civil Rights Act, in the U.S. House of Representatives.

Few Americans know what an important year 1868 was in our nation's history. It marked the height of black political power during Reconstruction.

The period known as Reconstruction began after the Civil War in 1865. It was an attempt to change the Southern states of the defeated Confederacy. Black Americans, including newly freed people, won the same rights and opportunities as all other Americans during Reconstruction. Sadly, many of the advances of the Reconstruction period did not last long. Yet for a time it seemed as though anything was possible, particularly during the year 1868.

The 14th Amendment to the Constitution was ratified in 1868. The 14th Amendment granted citizenship and equal rights to black Americans. Also in 1868 black and mostly poor white people all over the South came together to try to create a new and better society.

In state after state, black men gathered together with white men. Many of the black men were formerly enslaved, and many of the white men were poor, or northerners who had moved to the

South. Together they rewrote the constitutions of the South.

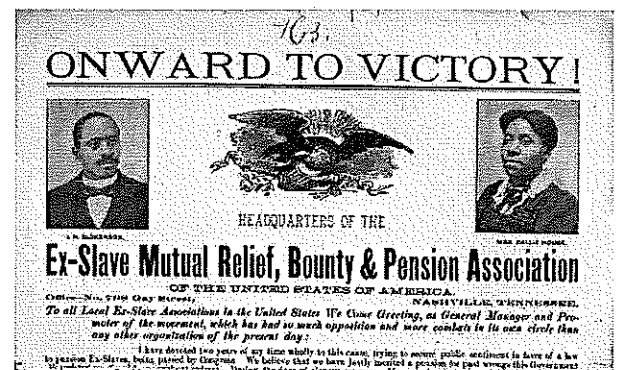
After The War

Things were very different in the years immediately following the Civil War. For many black people it seemed as if freedom would not be that different from slavery. Abraham Lincoln was killed in 1865, right after the end of the Civil War. Andrew Johnson, his replacement as president, pardoned former slave owners. He also returned their land, which had been given to freed black Americans.

White Southern plantation owners wanted to win back their control over black Americans. Black Americans were attacked by gangs of white people, who hoped to scare black people into giving up their new rights. Southern states passed new laws known as Black Codes. These laws attempted to reintroduce slavery by another name. In South Carolina, for example, black people who were unwilling to be farm workers had to get special permission from a court. In Mississippi, freed black people had to work as laborers. They could be jailed for the "crime" of doing anything else.

Yet all over the South, black people refused to go back to slavery days. They banded together and defended each other from white attacks. They mounted strikes to prevent plantation owners from reintroducing slavery-like conditions. They demanded the right to vote, schools, fair wages and land. They marched and protested.

These efforts were successful.



In 1866 Congress ordered the Southern states to rewrite their state constitutions. Each of the state constitutions would have to adopt the 14th Amendment if they wanted to rejoin the Union.

Southern leaders who had been loyal to the Confederacy were forced to step down. Instead, the new constitutions were to be written by newly elected delegates.

A new voter-registration process was also begun. Soon, black citizens were a majority of the voters in Mississippi, Alabama, Florida, Louisiana, South Carolina and Georgia. They voted for more diverse delegates to the constitutional conventions.

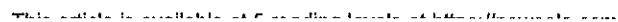
Constitutional Conventions Across The South

Between November of 1867 and June of 1868, constitutional conventions met in Southern state capitol buildings. Their members were both black and white. Together they fought hard to make Southern constitutions more just, both for black and poor white people.

At a time when even most Northern states limited the vote to white men, every convention gave black men the right to vote. A few delegates pushed to give women the vote as well. The South's new laws also protected black civil rights. Unlike in the North, black citizens could now serve in the government and on juries.

These bold advances reveal what could happen when black and white people worked together. Sadly, this progress was not to last. After just a few years, rich white people took back power in the

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Quiz

- 1 What effect did constitutional conventions have on black people in the South?
- (A) They ended Reconstruction and allowed black men to serve on juries.
 - (B) They ended the Civil War and gave enslaved black people freedom.
 - (C) They gave power to white people who took rights from black people.
 - (D) They gave black men the right to vote and protected their civil rights.

- 2 What caused the Black Codes to be passed?
- (A) White people in the South did not want black people to work on farms or plantations.
 - (B) White people in the South wanted to control black people even though slavery had ended.
 - (C) Congress told Southern states to rewrite their constitutions to help black people.
 - (D) Congress told Southern states to make laws that jailed black people for working.

- 3 Read the paragraph from the section "Constitutional Conventions Across The South."

These bold advances reveal what could happen when black and white people worked together. Sadly, this progress was not to last. After just a few years, rich white people took back power in the South. They introduced new racist laws that deepened inequality in the South.

Which word from the selection helps the reader understand the meaning of "progress"?

- (A) advances
- (B) reveal
- (C) deepened
- (D) inequality

- 4 Read the following paragraph from the section "After The War."

Things were very different in the years immediately following the Civil War. For many black people it seemed as if freedom would not be that different from slavery. Abraham Lincoln was killed in 1865, right after the end of the Civil War. Andrew Johnson, his replacement as president, pardoned former slave owners. He also returned their land, which had been given to freed black Americans.

What is the meaning of the word "pardoned" as it is used in the paragraph above?

- (A) blamed
- (B) thanked
- (C) punished
- (D) forgave

Reconstruction in the South

By Encyclopaedia Britannica, adapted by Newsela staff on 04.20.17

Word Count **572**

Level **810L**



This drawing of African-American soldiers returning to their families in Little Rock, Arkansas, after the war captures the joyous spirit of many former slaves upon gaining their freedom. They were soon to find out that freedom did not necessarily mean equality during Reconstruction of the South. From Wikimedia Commons

The Reconstruction period came after the Civil War and lasted from 1865 to 1877. It was a plan to rebuild the South and give rights to former slaves. Reconstruction was a time of huge change.

Southern whites wished to keep African-Americans as semi-slaves. Southern whites gave them few rights and did not see them as equal. On the other hand, African-Americans wanted full freedom and especially wanted land of their own.

During this time, Southern whites and blacks began trying to get their farms working again. The Civil War was fought mainly in the South. Nearly all the men of fighting age took part in the war, and many were killed. Likewise, many farms were destroyed or neglected. Southern society slowly changed. African-Americans could now marry. Under slavery, their marriages were not legal. African-Americans left the white churches and formed their own. Black churches became centers for the African-American community.

The South was very poor during Reconstruction

Most African-Americans did not have land or money of their own and had to continue working for white plantation owners. They became sharecroppers. This means they worked on plantations for a part, or "share," of the harvest. Planters did not have much cash and liked the system because they did not have to pay wages.

African-Americans preferred it at first because they could rent pieces of land and live in their own cabins on that land. They could also decide what to plant and how to plant it. However, the sharecropping system made African-Americans depend on whites and kept them very poor. As a whole, the South was extremely poor throughout the Reconstruction period. Bad harvests hurt both whites and blacks.



New governments were set up

Congress set up governments in the South, which were fairly honest and worked well. Most of the governments in the South were white. There were no black governors, only two black senators and a handful of congressmen. South Carolina was the only state where most of the lawmakers were African-American. African-Americans officials were as able and honest as whites. For the first time, there was a public school system in the South.

Some Southern whites in the mountains and some planters in farm areas were willing to work with African-Americans and "carpetbaggers." "Carpetbagger" was a word used to describe whites from the North who traveled South. They were called carpetbaggers because they carried only a satchel, or carpetbag, of possessions.

Southern whites did not support Reconstruction

Many of these "carpetbaggers" moved South to make money. They bought land, rented plantations or went into business with Southern planters in hopes of making money from cotton.

"Carpetbaggers" were different from "scalawags." These were planters who supported the government plan for Reconstruction. There were not very many of these scalawags, and they were hated by Southern whites. "Scalawags" were small farmers, who did not own slaves. They were also merchants, craftsman and other professionals who had remained loyal to the Union during the Civil War.

Most Southern whites remained completely against African-American equality. Sometimes they joined violent groups like the Ku Klux Klan. They tried to punish African-Americans who tried to gain their rights. Southern whites waited for the North to get tired of supporting Reconstruction.

Quiz

- 1 Which sentence from the article helps you understand the goals of Reconstruction?
- (A) The Reconstruction period came after the Civil War and lasted from 1865 to 1877.
 - (B) It was a plan to rebuild the South and give rights to former slaves.
 - (C) Reconstruction was a time of huge change.
 - (D) Black churches became centers for the African-American community.

- 2 Read the section "The South was very poor during Reconstruction."
Which of the following is TRUE about sharecroppers?
- (A) Sharecroppers were not able to save much money.
 - (B) Plantation owners had to pay sharecroppers with cash.
 - (C) Sharecroppers were black farmers who owned their land.
 - (D) The sharecropping system helped blacks become equal to whites.

- 3 Which of the following answer choices BEST describes the structure of the article?
- (A) a personal example
 - (B) comparing two things
 - (C) description and explanation
 - (D) an opinion about something

- 4 Fill in the blank in the sentence below.
Overall, the article is organized around ____.
- (A) a civil war and a farming system
 - (B) an unfair law and groups of people
 - (C) a time in history and groups of people
 - (D) a type of government and a farming system

Compromise of 1877: The "Corrupt Bargain" that Ended Reconstruction

By History.com, adapted by Newsela staff on 07.01.19

Word Count 887

Level 880L

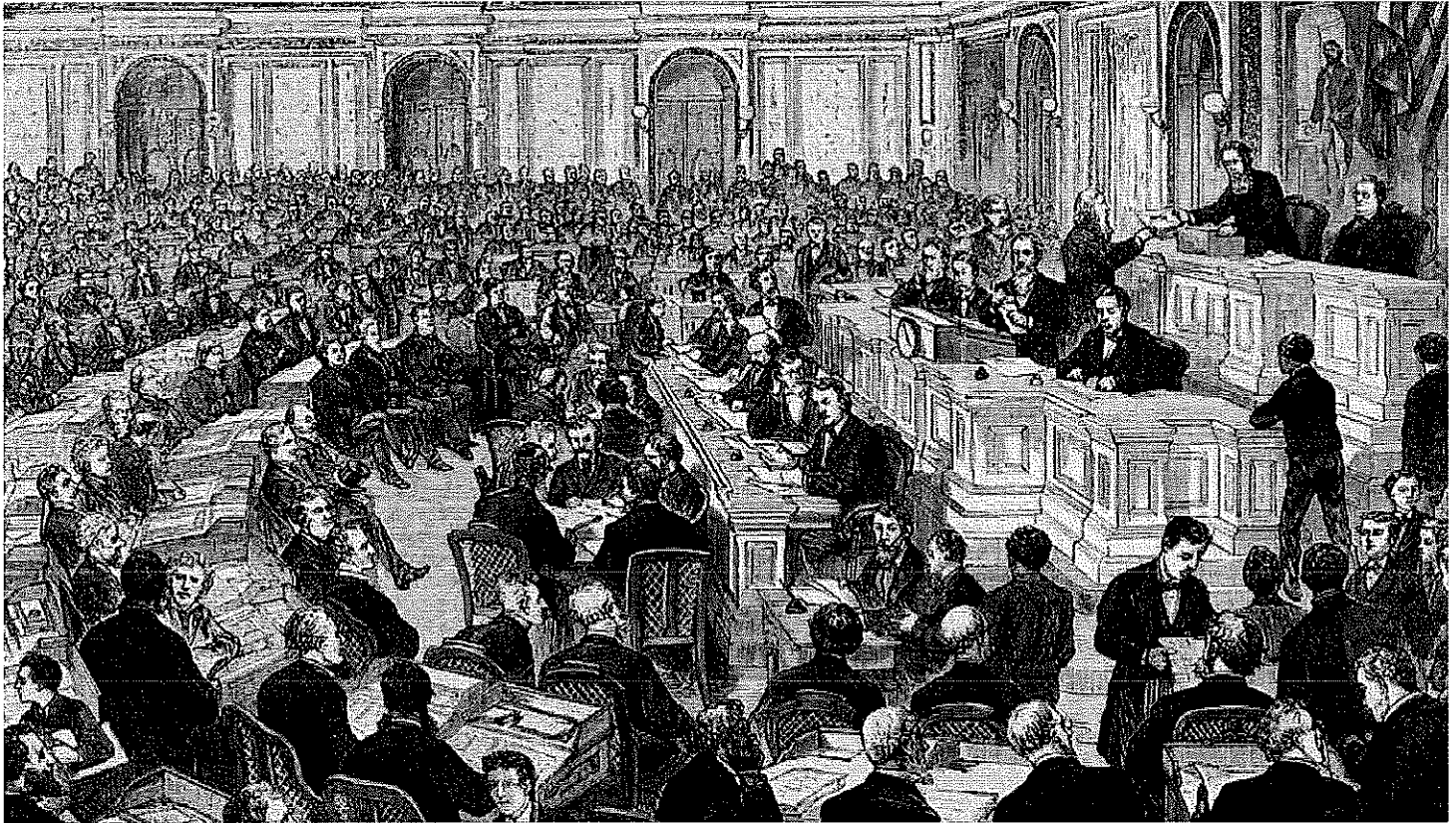


Image 1. Session of the National Congress to verify the counting of the presidential vote. Engraving by Ovejero, 1877. Photo: PHAS/Universal Images Group via Getty Images

The outcome of the 1876 U.S. presidential election was very important. It eventually would lead to the end of the Reconstruction era in the South.

That year, the Democrats chose as their candidate Governor Samuel B. Tilden of New York. The Republicans nominated Rutherford B. Hayes, the governor of Ohio.

There was soon a problem. The results of the election were in dispute. Both sides believed the other had rigged their votes.

The dispute had to do with three states: Florida, Louisiana and South Carolina. These were the only states in the South with Reconstruction-era Republican governments still in power.

A congressional commission debated over the outcome early in 1877. Soon, allies of the Republican Party candidate Rutherford Hayes met in secret with moderate Southern Democrats. They hoped to arrange for the Democrats to accept Hayes' election. The Democrats agreed not to

block Hayes' victory. However, they demanded that Republicans withdraw all federal troops from the South. This would guarantee Democratic control over the whole region.

As a result of this so-called Compromise of 1877 (or Compromise of 1876), Florida, Louisiana and South Carolina became Democratic once again. The Reconstruction era effectively ended.

The 1876 Election

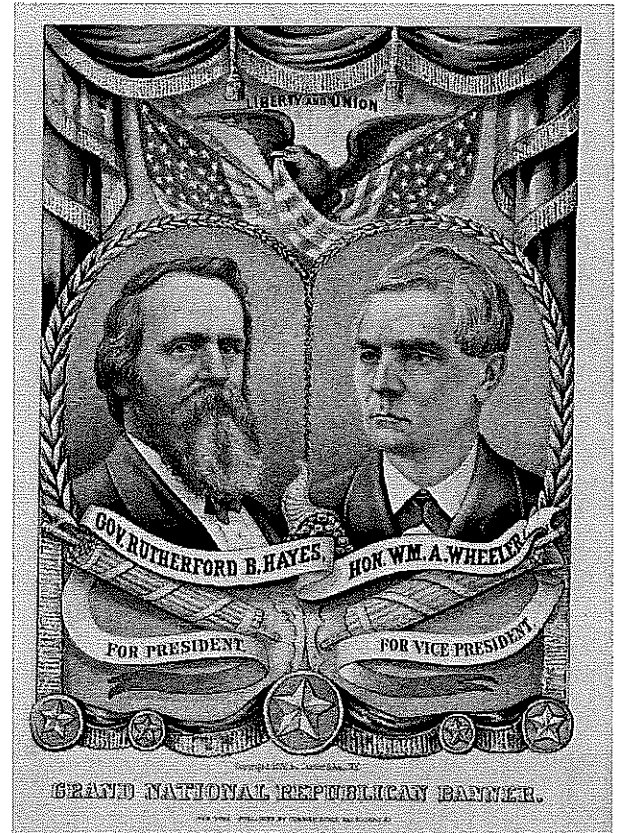
By the 1870s, there was less support for Reconstruction-era policies. These federal policies had guaranteed political and civil rights for African-Americans.

Many Southern whites wanted to restore white supremacy in the region. They resorted to intimidation and violence to keep black Southerners from voting.

Beginning in 1873, a series of Supreme Court decisions limited the reach of Reconstruction-era laws. It also lowered federal support for the so-called Reconstruction Amendments, particularly the 14th and 15th Amendments. These gave African-Americans citizenship and the protection of the Constitution. Among these rights was the all-important right to vote.

Then came the 1876 presidential election.

Hayes wrote that if elected, he would bring "self-government" to the South. In other words, he would not strictly enforce unpopular Reconstruction-era federal rulings. This would allow Southern states to limit the rights of African-Americans.



Election Results

On Election Day that November, the Democrats appeared to come out on top. By midnight, Tilden had 184 of the 185 electoral votes he needed to win. He was leading the popular vote by 250,000.

The Republicans refused to accept defeat, however. They accused Democratic supporters of intimidating and bribing African-Americans to prevent them from voting in three Southern states: Florida, Louisiana and South Carolina. As of 1876, these were the only remaining states in the South with Republican governments.

In South Carolina, the election had been marred by violence on both sides. A clash unfolded between black militia and armed whites in the town of Hamburg in July. It ended in the death of five militiamen after their surrender. The white militiamen had supported a former Confederate general running for governor. The group was threatening African-American voters. Meanwhile, near the city of Charleston, six white men were killed when armed blacks opened fire in a political meeting.

Both sides were accusing each other of electoral fraud – that is, illegal behavior in their elections. Soon, South Carolina, along with Florida and Louisiana, submitted two sets of election returns with different results.

In Oregon, the state's Democratic governor replaced a Republican elector with a Democrat. Electors decide electoral votes for their state. The governor said that the Republican was not eligible.

The results of the presidential election were now unclear.

Congress Steps In

To solve the dispute, Congress set up an electoral commission in January 1877. It consisted of five U.S. representatives, five senators and five Supreme Court justices. The commission's members included seven Democrats and eight Republicans.

During the commission's meetings, Hayes' Republican allies met in secret with moderate Southern Democrats. The allies hoped to convince them not to delay the official counting of votes. This would allow Hayes to be elected president.

In February, the Democrats agreed to accept a Hayes victory. The Democrats also said they would respect the rights of African-Americans, on one key condition – that Republicans withdraw all federal troops from South. This would ensure Democratic control in the region.

On March 2, the congressional commission voted 8-7 to award all the disputed electoral votes to Hayes. It gave him 185 votes to Tilden's 184. All eight Republicans voted for the measure.

The End Of Reconstruction

Within two months, Hayes had ordered out federal troops who were guarding Louisiana and South Carolina statehouses. This allowed Democrats to seize control in both those states. Florida had recently elected a Democratic governor. Soon, the party had been restored to power all across the South.

The Compromise of 1876 effectively ended the Reconstruction era. The federal government stopped interfering in Southern affairs. Before long, Southern Democrats' promises to protect civil and political rights of African-Americans were not kept.

Starting in the late 1870s, Southern legislatures passed a series of segregation laws. These required the separation of whites from "persons of color." They were not to be together on public transportation, in schools, parks, restaurants, theaters or other locations. Known as the "Jim Crow laws," these laws governed life in the South for nearly 100 years. They would end only after the hard-won successes of the civil rights movement in the 1960s.

Quiz

1 Which sentence from the article supports the MAIN idea of the article?

- (A) A congressional commission debated over the outcome early in 1877.
- (B) It consisted of five U.S. representatives, five senators and five Supreme Court justices.
- (C) The Compromise of 1876 effectively ended the Reconstruction era.
- (D) They were not to be together on public transportation, in schools, parks, restaurants, theaters or other locations.

2 Read the following paragraph from the section "The End Of Reconstruction."

Starting in the late 1870s, Southern legislatures passed a series of segregation laws. These required the separation of whites from "persons of color." They were not to be together on public transportation, in schools, parks, restaurants, theaters or other locations. Known as the "Jim Crow laws," these laws governed life in the South for nearly 100 years. They would end only after the hard-won successes of the civil rights movement in the 1960s.

How does this paragraph support the MAIN idea of the article?

- (A) It connects the Jim Crow laws to both the Civil War and the civil rights movement of the 1960s.
- (B) It connects the Compromise of 1877 and Hayes' election to the civil rights movement of the 1960s.
- (C) It shows how Southern Democrats cared mostly about protecting the superiority of white people and promoted racism that would last for decades.
- (D) It shows how Southern Democrats failed to keep their promise to protect the rights of African-Americans, ending the efforts of Reconstruction.

3 What caused the election of 1876 to be so controversial?

- (A) The South disliked the laws of the Reconstruction era.
- (B) The South disliked Rutherford Hayes and his policies.
- (C) Rutherford Hayes opposed the laws of the Reconstruction era.
- (D) Rutherford Hayes opposed the idea of self-government.

4 What is the relationship between the Compromise of 1877 and the civil rights movement of the 1960s?

- (A) The compromise tried to stop the same kind of inequality that the civil rights movement tried to fix.
- (B) The compromise gave more power to the Democrats who would later support the civil rights movement.
- (C) The compromise allowed racial inequality in the South to grow and eventually be confronted during the civil rights movement.
- (D) The compromise introduced the laws that would eventually protect the people who protested during the civil rights movement.