

Name: _____ Date: _____

Answer Key: Your Mission: Fix a Fractured Nation Reconstruction Quiz for 8th Grade

Step into the boots of a radical policymaker to analyze the constitutional shifts and social hurdles of the post-war South.

1. Which specific provision of the Reconstruction Act of 1867 most altered the political landscape of the South to ensure federal oversight?

Answer: B) The division of the South into five military districts governed by Union generals.

To enforce the 14th Amendment and protect freedmen, Congress enacted military rule over the former Confederacy to manage the transition and oversee new state constitutions.

2. The system of _____ replaced slavery as the primary labor model in the South, often trapping formerly enslaved people in a cycle of permanent debt to white landowners.

Answer: B) Sharecropping

Sharecropping required laborers to give a large portion of their crops to the landlord, creating an economic system that closely mimicked the dependencies of slavery.

3. True or False: The 'Redeemers' were a group of Northern abolitionists who moved South to protect the voting rights of African Americans during the late 1870s.

Answer: B) False

The 'Redeemers' were actually Southern Democrats who sought to oust Republican governments and restore the pre-war social order through 'home rule'.

4. What was the fundamental constitutional reason behind the impeachment of President Andrew Johnson by the House of Representatives?

Answer: C) A power struggle over the Tenure of Office Act following his firing of Edwin Stanton.

Congressional Radicals used the Tenure of Office Act to limit Johnson's authority; his violation of this act provided the legal grounds for his impeachment trial.

5. Hiram Revels gained historical significance during Reconstruction by becoming the first African American to serve in the _____.

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Answer: C) U.S. Senate

Representing Mississippi, Revels took the seat once held by Jefferson Davis, symbolizing a massive shift in the political representation of the South.

6. How did the 15th Amendment's language leave an opening for Southern states to disenfranchise (take away voting rights) Black men despite its ratification?

Answer: B) It did not prohibit 'neutral' barriers like literacy tests and poll taxes.

While the 15th Amendment barred discrimination based on race, it didn't block other requirements, allowing states to use loopholes to prevent Black citizens from voting.

7. True or False: The 'Civil Rights Act of 1866' was the first federal law to define citizenship and affirm that all citizens are equally protected by the law.

Answer: A) True

This act was a landmark piece of legislation passed by Radical Republicans over Andrew Johnson's veto to guarantee civil rights regardless of race.

8. The term _____ was used pejoratively by Southerners to describe white Northern migrants who moved South to seek economic or political opportunities during Reconstruction.

Answer: C) Carpetbaggers

The name implied these individuals arrived with nothing but a cheap carpetbag (suitcase) to profit from the South's post-war instability.

9. In the context of 19th-century political philosophy, 'Radical Republicans' were defined by their belief that:

Answer: C) The federal government should secure equal rights and voting for freedmen.

Radicals believed that total social and political transformation of the South was necessary to ensure the Civil War was not fought in vain.

10. True or False: The Election of 1876 resulted in a clear, undisputed victory for Rutherford B. Hayes, leading to the immediate expansion of Reconstruction policies.

Answer: B) False

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The election was highly contested and settled by the Compromise of 1877, which made Hayes president but resulted in the withdrawal of federal troops, ending Reconstruction.