

Name: _____ Date: _____

Answer Key: Which Side of History? A 10th Grade Civil War Analysis Quiz

Learners apply critical thinking to 10 nuanced questions covering wartime technology, political precedents, and the complex shifting of rights during Reconstruction.

1. The use of the 'Ironclad' changed naval warfare forever. Which two vessels engaged in the first battle between these metal-armored ships at the Battle of Hampton Roads?

Answer: A) The CSS Virginia and the USS Monitor

This 1862 skirmish signaled the end of wooden sailing ships in modern warfare, as iron plating proved resistant to traditional cannon fire.

2. General Winfield Scott's strategic plan to 'squeeze' the Confederacy by blockading ports and controlling the Mississippi River was known as the _____ Plan.

Answer: B) Anaconda

The Anaconda Plan aimed to stifle the Southern economy and military logistics through a maritime blockade and division of the CSA territory.

3. The 15th Amendment explicitly prohibited states from using literacy tests or poll taxes to prevent citizens from voting.

Answer: B) False

While the 15th Amendment prevented disenfranchisement based on 'race, color, or previous condition of servitude,' it lacked provisions against taxes or tests, which were later used to obstruct voters.

4. Who was the first African American to serve in the United States Senate, representing Mississippi during the Reconstruction era?

Answer: C) Hiram Revels

Hiram Revels took his seat in 1870, filling the vacancy previously held by Jefferson Davis, symbolizing a massive political shift in the Reconstruction South.

5. During the war, Northern Democrats who opposed the conflict and advocated for an immediate peace settlement with the South were disparagingly called _____.

Answer: B) Copperheads

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Named after the venomous snake, Copperheads were seen by Lincoln supporters as a 'threat from within' the Union.

6. In the case of Ex parte Merryman (1861), Chief Justice Roger Taney challenged President Lincoln's authority regarding which constitutional protection?

Answer: C) The Writ of Habeas Corpus

Lincoln suspended habeas corpus to suppress Confederate sympathizers in Maryland, sparking a major debate over executive power during wartime.

7. The 'Crittenden Compromise' was a successful last-minute legislative deal that prevented the secession of South Carolina in 1860.

Answer: B) False

The Crittenden Compromise failed because it proposed extending the Missouri Compromise line to the Pacific, which was unacceptable to the newly elected Republican Party.

8. Which agricultural system rose to prominence during Reconstruction, often trapping formerly enslaved people in a cycle of debt and poverty?

Answer: B) Sharecropping

Sharecropping allowed landowners to maintain control over labor and profit, frequently resulting in perpetual debt for the laborers (tenant farmers).

9. The 1862 _____ Act provided 160 acres of public land to any citizen who would settle and farm it for five years, accelerating Western expansion during the Civil War.

Answer: C) Homestead

The Homestead Act was part of the Republican 'free soil' agenda, encouraging settlement while the South was absent from the federal legislature.

10. The Wade-Davis Bill of 1864 proposed a much more lenient path for Confederate states to rejoin the Union compared to President Lincoln's 'Ten Percent Plan.'

Answer: B) False

The Wade-Davis Bill was actually much stricter than Lincoln's plan, requiring a majority (50%) of voters to take an 'Ironclad Oath' of past loyalty.