

Name: _____ Date: _____

Answer Key: Dissect the Post-War Pivot: A 5th Grade Reconstruction Quiz

Step into the shoes of a 19th-century lawmaker to weigh the impact of the 15th Amendment and the rise of tenant farming on a fractured nation.

1. The 15th Amendment was a major milestone in American history. What specific power did it aim to protect for citizens, regardless of their 'race, color, or previous condition of servitude'?

Answer: B) The right to vote in elections

Ratified in 1870, the 15th Amendment prohibited federal and state governments from denying a citizen the right to vote based on race.

2. After the war, many formerly enslaved people and poor whites became _____, a system where they farmed land owned by someone else in exchange for a portion of the crops.

Answer: C) Sharecroppers

Sharecropping became the dominant labor system in the South after the war, often creating a cycle of debt for the farmers.

3. Hiram Revels made history during Reconstruction by becoming the first African American to serve in the United States Senate.

Answer: A) True

Hiram Revels was elected by the Mississippi state legislature in 1870 to fill a seat previously held by Jefferson Davis.

4. Which specific event is often cited as the 'spark' that began the physical combat of the Civil War in April 1861?

Answer: B) The bombardment of Fort Sumter

Confederate forces attacked the federal garrison at Fort Sumter in South Carolina, marking the start of military hostilities.

5. The period of 'Radical Reconstruction' was characterized by the _____ divided into five military districts to ensure the transition and safety of freedmen.

Answer: C) Southern States

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The Reconstruction Acts of 1867 divided the former Confederacy (excluding Tennessee) into military districts governed by Union generals.

6. Robert E. Lee surrendered his army to Ulysses S. Grant at Appomattox Court House, effectively ending the major fighting of the war.

Answer: A) True

General Lee surrendered the Army of Northern Virginia on April 9, 1865, which led to the subsequent surrender of other Confederate forces.

7. What was the primary goal of the 'Ironclad Oath' proposed by Radical Republicans during the rebuilding of the Union?

Answer: C) To prevent former Confederates from voting or holding office

The Ironclad Oath required officials to swear they had never supported the Confederacy, which effectively barred many Southerners from political power.

8. During the war, the _____ was a strategic Union plan to 'strangle' the Confederacy by blockading Southern ports and controlling the Mississippi River.

Answer: B) Anaconda Plan

Proposed by General Winfield Scott, the Anaconda Plan aimed to squeeze the South economically and geographically.

9. The term 'Carpetbagger' was a positive nickname given to Southerners who supported Northern business interests during Reconstruction.

Answer: B) False

Carpetbagger was a derogatory term for Northerners who moved South after the war; Southerners who supported Reconstruction were called 'Scalawags'.

10. In the context of 19th-century infrastructure, how did the completion of the Transcontinental Railroad in 1869 impact the United States during Reconstruction?

Answer: B) It connected the East and West coasts, speeding up national integration

While the nation was politically rebuilding, the railroad physically joined the country, facilitating trade and westward expansion.