

Name: _____ Date: _____

Answer Key: Tug-of-War: 9th Grade Civil War Power Struggles Quiz

Students trace the fracturing of federal authority by identifying key legislative failures and the tactical shifts that defined the Reconstruction landscape.

1. Which specific 1850 piece of legislation required citizens in free states to assist in the capture of enslaved people, significantly increasing Northern abolitionist sentiment?

Answer: B) The Fugitive Slave Act

Part of the Compromise of 1850, this law compelled citizens to assist in returning escaped enslaved individuals, turning many neutral Northerners against the institution of slavery.

2. The ____ Amendment, ratified in 1870, was intended to prevent the denial of voting rights based on 'race, color, or previous condition of servitude.'

Answer: D) Fifteenth

The 15th Amendment specifically addressed suffrage, though it was later undermined by state-level policies like literacy tests.

3. The 'Trent Affair' was a diplomatic crisis during the Civil War that nearly brought Great Britain into the conflict on the side of the Confederacy.

Answer: A) True

In 1861, the Union's seizure of two Confederate diplomats from a British ship (the HMS Trent) caused a major international incident that threatened to widen the war.

4. Which Union General's 'Anaconda Plan' sought to squeeze the Confederacy into submission through a naval blockade and control of the Mississippi River?

Answer: B) Winfield Scott

Winfield Scott proposed the Anaconda Plan at the start of the war, aiming for a long-term economic strangulation of the South rather than a quick invasion.

5. During the Civil War, the term ____ referred to Northern Democrats who advocated for an immediate peace settlement with the Confederacy.

Answer: C) Copperheads

Name: _____ **Date:** _____

Copperheads were a vocal faction of Democrats in the North who opposed the war and wanted an immediate end to the fighting.

6. During Reconstruction, the Tenure of Office Act was the primary legal mechanism used to justify the impeachment of President Andrew Johnson.

Answer: A) True

Johnson was impeached after he violated this act by removing Secretary of War Edwin Stanton without Senate approval.

7. The 1862 Battle of Hampton Roads was historically significant because it featured the first engagement between which type of vessels?

Answer: C) Ironclad warships

The battle between the USS Monitor and the CSS Virginia (formerly the Merrimack) signaled the end of the era of wooden sailing ships in naval warfare.

8. The labor system of _____, which kept many freedmen in a cycle of debt and poverty, replaced the plantation system in much of the post-war South.

Answer: B) Sharecropping

Sharecropping allowed farmers to work land in exchange for a portion of the crops, but high interest rates and debt often led to a new form of economic servitude.

9. What was the primary goal of the 'Radical Republicans' in Congress during the Reconstruction era?

Answer: C) To provide land and full civil rights to formerly enslaved people

Radical Republicans sought to transform Southern society by ensuring harsh penalties for Confederate leaders and robust protections for freedmen.

10. The use of the 'Minie ball' bullet contributed to the high casualty rates of the Civil War because it was more accurate and destructive than previous ammunition.

Answer: A) True

The Minie ball expanded upon firing to fit the rifling of the barrel, greatly increasing range and accuracy, which led to devastating injuries in traditional line-of-battle formations.