

SS5H2

Reconstruction

Effects on American Life



Standards

SS5H2 The student will analyze the effects of Reconstruction on American life.

- a. Describe the purpose of the 13th, 14th, and 15th Amendments.
- b. Explain the work of the Freedmen's Bureau.
- c. Explain how slavery was replaced by sharecropping and how African-Americans were prevented from exercising their newly won rights; include a discussion of Jim Crow laws and customs.

Reconstruction

- Reconstruction means to build something again.
- It is the name given to the time period after the Civil War, from 1865 to 1877.
- The Southern states needed to be rebuilt and brought back into the Union.



Railroad Lines Ruins
that had to be Rebuilt

Atlanta 1864

Ruins on Peachtree Street

Atlanta 1864



Reconstruction

- In 1867, Congress passed the first Reconstruction Acts.
- They required that Southern states rewrite their constitutions to allow African American men the right to vote.
- They also prevented former Confederate leaders and military officers from holding public office.

Amendments

- The greatest social effect of the Civil War was the creation of a new class of people—freed slaves.
- Congress realized that some changes were needed to the Constitution, or else the Civil War would have been for nothing.

13th Amendment

- In December 1865, ratification of the Thirteenth Amendment to the Constitution freed all slaves in the United States.
- It banned slavery in the US and any of its territories.

13th
Amendment
(Signed by
Abraham
Lincoln)

Thirty-Eighth Congress of the United States.

A Resolution; Submitting to the Legislatures of the several States a proposition to amend the Constitution of the United States.

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled (two-thirds of both Houses concurring) That the following article be proposed to the Legislatures of the several States as an amendment to the Constitution of the United States, which, when ratified by three-fourths of said Legislatures, shall be valid, to all intents and purposes, as a part of the said Constitution, to-wit:

ARTICLE XIII.

Section 1. Neither Slavery nor involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for crime; whereof the party shall have been duly convicted, shall exist within the United States, or any place subject to their jurisdiction.

Section 2. Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.

Attest:

W. P. M. C.
Secretary of the Senate

W. P. M. C.
Clerk of the House of Representatives

Stephen A. Crawford Speaker of the House of Representatives

W. Hamilton Vice President of the United States
and President of the Senate

Approved, February 1, 1865. Abraham Lincoln

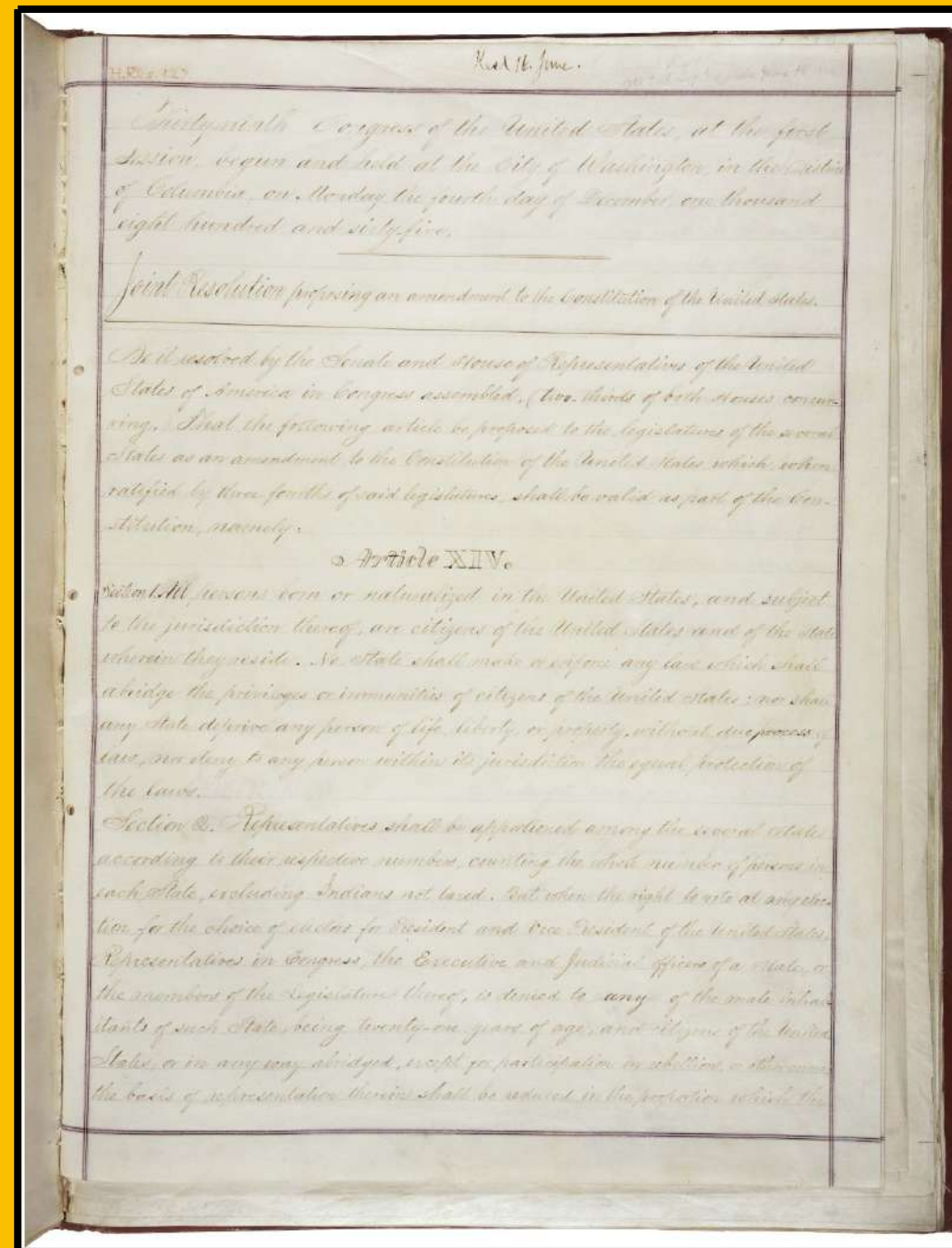
In the Senate, April 8, 1864.

<i>W. P. M. C.</i>	<i>J. B. Hudson</i>	<i>W. Lane</i>	<i>W. L. Law</i>	<i>John Cornish</i>
<i>Ab. Ramsey</i>	<i>Edgar Cowan</i>	<i>B. F. Brown</i>	<i>Henry Wilson</i>	<i>Chas. C.</i>
<i>James Dixon</i>	<i>Jam. W. Smith</i>	<i>Wm. Clarke</i>	<i>W. P. Anderson</i>	<i>W. P. Little</i>
<i>Geo. Harlan</i>	<i>W. D. Willey</i>	<i>L. F. S. Foster</i>	<i>Wm. Smith</i>	<i>Lyman Tappan</i>
<i>Reuben Johnson</i>	<i>Chas. Sumner</i>	<i>Wm. Sprague</i>	<i>John Sherman</i>	<i>S. M. Howard</i>
<i>Solomon Foot</i>	<i>W. H. McCreary</i>	<i>Wm. Harris</i>	<i>Ed. Morgan</i>	<i>Wm. McKim</i>
<i>J. K. Garrison</i>	<i>Wm. L. G. W.</i>	<i>W. C. Wm. E. W.</i>	<i>John O. Hale</i>	<i>B. F. Hardin</i>

14th Amendment

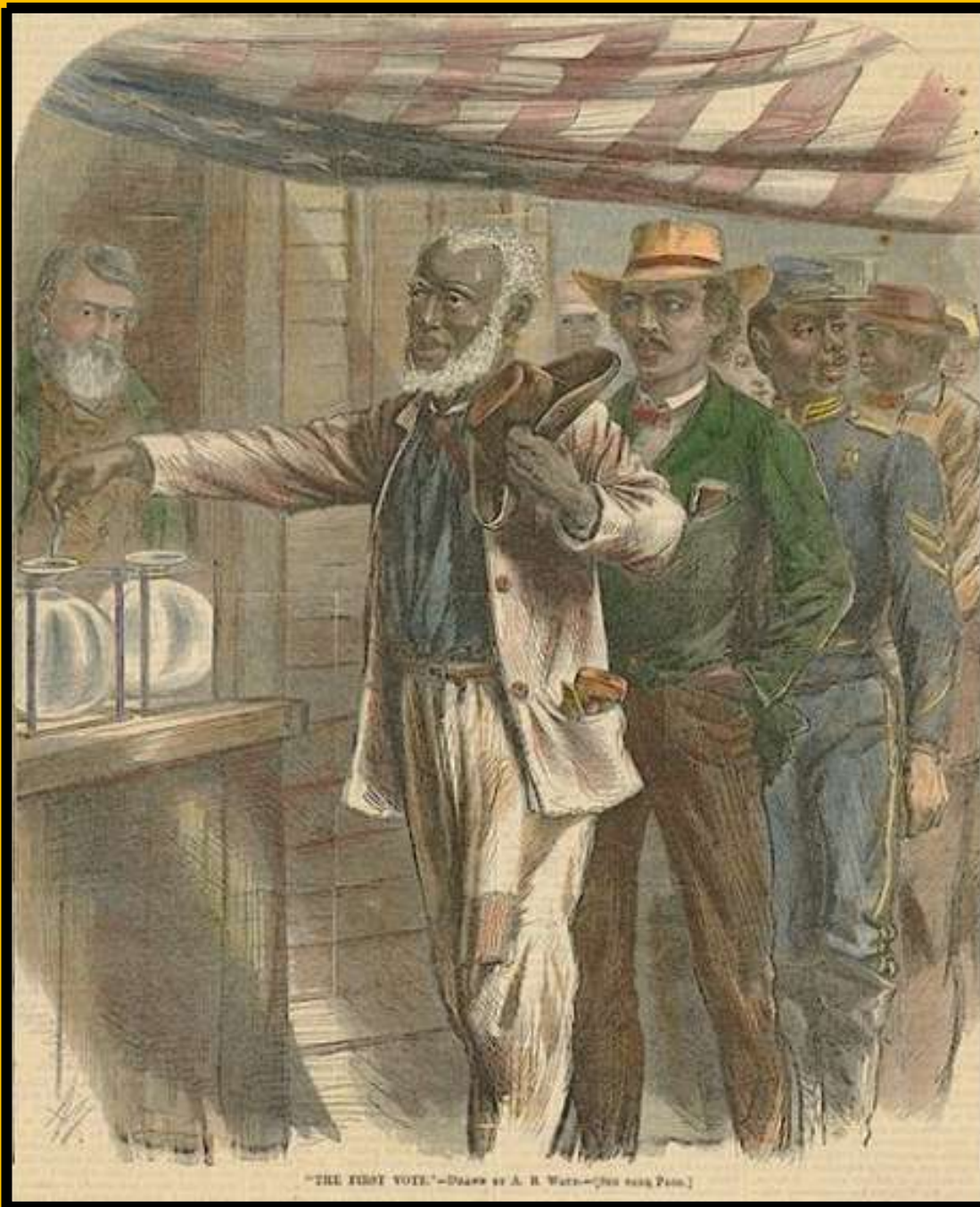
- In order to be readmitted to the Union, Southern states had to accept two new amendments.
- In 1868, the Fourteenth Amendment made all former slaves citizens of the United States.
- It granted citizenship to all persons born in the United States, and it guaranteed all citizens equal rights under the law.

14th Amendment (Original)



15th Amendment

- In 1870, the Fifteenth Amendment declared that no citizen of the United States could be denied the right to vote on account of race, color, or previous servitude.
- It granted the right to vote to all male citizens.
- African Americans could now vote and run for office.



“The First Vote”

Freedmen
Voting in
New
Orleans,
1867



Freedmen's Bureau

- In March 1865, the federal government set up the Freedmen's Bureau, an organization that helped feed, clothe, and provide medical care to former slaves.
- It also established thousands of schools and helped African Americans with legal problems.
- The bureau also helped poor whites, many of whom lost everything in the war.

A Freedmen's
Bureau Agent
Stands Between
Armed Groups of
Whites and Freed
men
1868





Sharecropping

- Many former slaves were forced to return to plantations because they could not find work.
- Freed slaves knew how to grow crops, and landowners still needed labor.
- In the sharecropping arrangement, the owner would lend the worker a place to live, his seeds, and farm equipment.

Sharecroppers Picking Cotton





Sharecroppers and
Cotton Bales



Mississippi
Sharecroppers



Children of African
American
Sharecroppers in
Arkansas

Sharecropping

- Sharecroppers received almost no pay, just a small share of the crops.
- Because the worker had no money for rent, he would give the owner a share of the crop, plus extra for the cost of rent and supplies.
- The workers had little hope of ever owning land because they rarely made a profit.



Sharecropper's Cabin Surrounded by Cotton and Corn



Inside a Sharecropper's Home





The Families of
Evicted
Sharecroppers in
Arkansas

Right to Vote

- During Reconstruction, many African Americans were elected to local and state political offices as Republicans.
- This soon ended when white southerners rallied around the Democratic Party.
- By 1870, white southern Democrats had taken over control of their state legislatures.

Joseph H. Rainey
from South Carolina
was the first African
American member of
the House of
Representatives.





Entered according to act of Congress in the year 1872 by Currier & Ives, in the Office of the Librarian of Congress at Washington.
ROBERT C. DE LARGE, M.C. of S. Carolina. JEFFERSON H. LONG, M.C. of Georgia.

U.S. Senator H.R. REVELS, of Mississippi. BENJ. S. TURNER, M.C. of Alabama. JOSIAH T. WALLS, M.C. of Florida. JOSEPH H. RAINY, M.C. of S. Carolina. R. BROWN ELLIOT, M.C. of S. Carolina.

THE FIRST COLORED SENATOR AND REPRESENTATIVES.

In the 41st and 42nd Congress of the United States.

NEWYORK, PUBLISHED BY CURRIER & IVES, 125 NASSAU STREET.

African Americans in Office 1870–1876 ^[120]			
State	State Legislators	U.S. Senators	U.S. Congressmen
Alabama	69	0	4
Arkansas	8	0	0
Florida	30	0	1
Georgia	41	0	1
Louisiana	87	0	1*
Mississippi	112	2	1
North Carolina	30	0	1
South Carolina	190	0	6
Tennessee	1	0	0
Texas	19	0	0
Virginia	46	0	0
Total	633	2	15

Right to Vote

- By 1900, disenfranchisement, or blocking the black vote, was almost complete.
- Some legislatures passed a poll tax, which required voters to pay money before they could vote.
 - Many African-Americans were too poor to pay the tax and could not vote.
- Literacy test laws required voters to be able to read a passage before voting.
 - At the time, about half of African-Americans could not read so they could not vote.

No. **838** Birmingham, Ala. 4/9 1896

Received of J. M. Kirklin (Col.) (White.)
the sum of Two Dollars
in full of amount of Poll Tax for the year 1895.

Poll Tax,	1	50
Assessor's Fee,		50
Collector's Fee,		50

A. M. M. P. T. C.

Alabama Poll Tax Receipt & Literacy Rate Test

5. List the places you have lived the past five years, giving town or county and state _____
6. Have you ever been known by any name other than the one appearing on this application? _____ If so, state what name _____
7. Are you employed? _____ If so, state by whom. (If you are self-employed, state this.) _____
8. Give the address of your present place of employment _____
9. If, in the past five years, you have been employed by an employer other than your present employer, give name of all employers and cities and states in which you worked _____
10. Has your name ever been stricken for any reason from any list of persons registered to vote? _____ If so, where, when and why? _____
11. Have you previously applied for and been denied registration as a voter? _____ If so, when and where? _____
12. Have you ever served in the Armed Forces? _____ If so, give dates, branch of service, and serial number _____
13. Have you ever been dishonorably discharged from military service? _____
14. Have you ever been declared legally insane? _____ If so, give details _____
15. Give names and addresses of two persons who know you and can verify the statements made above by you relative to your residence in this state, county and precinct, ward or district _____
16. Have you ever seen a copy of this registration application form before receiving this copy today? _____ If so, when and where? _____
17. Have you ever been convicted of any offense or paid any fine for violation of the law? _____ (Yes or No) If so, give the following information concerning each fine or conviction; charge, in what court tried, fine imposed, sentence, and, if paroled, state when, and if pardoned, state when. (If fine is for traffic violation only, you need write below only the words "traffic violation only.") _____

(Remainder of this form is to be filled out only as directed by an individual member of the Board of Registrars.)

PART III

Part III of this questionnaire shall consist of one of the forms which are Insert Part III as herein below set out. The insert shall be fastened to the questionnaire. The questions set out on the insert shall be answered according to the instructions therein set out. Each applicant shall demonstrate ability to read and write as required by the Constitution of Alabama, as amended, and no person shall be considered to have completed this application, nor shall the name of any applicant be entered upon the list of registered voters of any county until after such Insert Part III of the questionnaire has been satisfactory completed and signed by the applicant.

African Americans in Office 1870–1876 ^[120]			
State	State Legislators	U.S. Senators	U.S. Congressmen
Alabama	69	0	4
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Georgia	41	0	1
Louisiana	87	0	1*
Mississippi	112	2	1
North Carolina	30	0	1
South Carolina	190	0	6
Tennessee	1	0	0
Texas	19	0	0
Virginia	46	0	0
Total	633	2	15

Jim Crow Laws

- Southern states also passed “Jim Crow laws”, which were designed to keep African Americans and white people apart.
 - This is called racial segregation.
- Jim Crow laws made it legal to have separate drinking fountains, telephone booths, restrooms, hospitals, hotels, and schools.





Jim Crow Laws

- African Americans could not sit with white people on trains, eat in certain restaurants, or attend certain theaters or parks.
- These laws violated the newly won rights of African Americans, but it would be almost 100 years before they were abandoned.



