

## Reconstruction Packet

### Reconstruction Timeline

1865	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The Civil War ends.</li><li>• Republican President Abraham Lincoln is assassinated.</li><li>• Democrat Andrew Johnson becomes president.</li><li>• 13th Amendment to the Constitution passes.</li><li>• Congress creates the Freedmen’s Bureau to help freed men and women transition from slavery.</li></ul>
1866	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Civil Rights Act of 1866 allows African Americans to own property and to be treated equally in court.</li><li>• The Ku Klux Klan is founded.</li></ul>
1867	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Radical Republicans take over the United States government.</li></ul>
1868	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 14th Amendment to the Constitution passes.</li><li>• First African American elected to United States Congress.</li></ul>
1869	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Ulysses S. Grant is elected president.</li></ul>
1870	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 15th Amendment to the Constitution passes.</li></ul>
1871	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Congress passes the Ku Klux Klan Act of 1871 in response to reports of widespread violence in the South.</li></ul>
1872	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The Freedmen’s Bureau ends.</li></ul>
1874	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Democrats take control of the United States Congress.</li><li>• Radical Republicans are no longer in power.</li></ul>
1877	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Rutherford B. Hayes is elected President and officially ends Reconstruction. Hayes pulls all remaining Northern troops out of the Southern states.</li></ul>

### Document A: The Reconstruction Amendments (Modified)

The 13th, 14th and 15th amendments to the United States Constitution are sometimes called the “Reconstruction Amendments.” They were passed in order to abolish slavery and to establish the rights of former slaves.

13th Amendment: 1865

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.

14th Amendment: 1868

Section 1. All persons born or naturalized in the United States . . . are citizens of the United States and of the State wherein they reside. No State shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States; nor shall any State deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws.

15th Amendment: 1870

Section 1. The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of race, color, or previous condition of servitude.

Vocabulary

jurisdiction: legal control

naturalized: made citizens

abridge: limit

immunities: rights

#### Document B: Black Codes (Modified)

In the years following the Civil War, many Southern states and cities passed Black Codes. These laws laid out what freed blacks were and were not allowed to do. The document below, passed July 3, 1865, is a Black Code from Opelousas, Louisiana.

SECTION 1. No negro shall be allowed to come within the limits of the town of Opelousas without special permission from his employers.

SECTION 3. No negro shall be permitted to rent or keep a house within the limits of the town under any circumstances.

SECTION 4. No negro shall reside within the limits of the town of Opelousas who is not in the regular service of some white person or former owner.

SECTION 5. No public meetings of negroes shall be allowed within the limits of the town of Opelousas under any circumstances without the permission of the mayor or president of the board of police. This, however, does not prevent the freedmen from attending the usual church services.

SECTION 7. No freedman who is not in the military service shall be allowed to carry firearms, or any kind of weapons, within the limits of the town of Opelousas without the special permission of his employer, in writing, and approved by the mayor or president of the board of police.

SECTION 11. All the foregoing provisions apply to freedmen and freedwomen.

#### Document C: Henry Adams Statement (Modified)

In September 1865 I asked the boss to let me go to the city of Shreveport. He said, "All right, when will you come back?" I told him "next week." He said, "You had better carry a pass." I said, "I will see whether I am free by going without a pass."

I met four white men about six miles south of town. One of them asked me who I belonged to. I told him no one. So him and two others struck me with a stick and told me they were going to kill me and every other Negro who told them that they did not belong to anyone. They left me and I then went on to Shreveport. I saw over twelve colored men and women, beat, shot and hung between there and Shreveport.

Sunday I went back home. The boss was not at home. I asked the madam [the boss's wife], "where was the boss?" She said, "You should say 'master'. You all are not free . . . and you shall call every white lady 'missus' and every white man 'master.'"

During the same week the madam took a stick and beat one of the young colored girls, who was about fifteen years of age. The boss came the next day and whipped the same girl nearly to death. . . . After the whipping a large number of young colored people decided to leave that place for Shreveport. [On our way], out came about forty armed white men and shot at us and took my horse. They said they were going to kill every colored person they found leaving their masters.

Source: Former slave Henry Adams made this statement before the U.S. Senate in 1880 about the early days of his freedom after the Civil War.

Document D: Elected Black Officials during Reconstruction

During Reconstruction, thousands of African Americans were elected to local and state governments throughout the Southern states. In addition, 17 African Americans were elected to the United States Congress from Southern states between 1870 and 1877. Here are photographs of 6 of these 17 elected officials.



**Blanche Bruce**  
U.S. Senator  
Mississippi  
1875-1881



**Robert DeLarge**  
U.S. Representative  
South Carolina  
1871-1873



**Jefferson Long**  
U.S. Representative  
Georgia  
1871



**Joseph Rainey**  
U.S. Representative  
South Carolina  
1870-1879



**Benjamin Turner**  
U.S. Representative  
Alabama  
1871-1873



**Josiah Walls**  
U.S. Representative  
Florida  
1871-1876

### Document E: Education (Modified)

In 1865 the United States government created the Freedmen's Bureau to help former slaves in Southern states. The Freedmen's Bureau helped people by providing medical supplies and health care and establishing schools.

The creation of schools for former slaves was an important part of Reconstruction. Before the Civil War, Southern states outlawed the teaching of reading and writing to slaves.

Many of the negroes . . . common plantation negroes, and day laborers in the towns and villages, were supporting little schools themselves. Everywhere I found them hoping to get their children into schools. I often noticed that workers in stores and men working in warehouses, and cart drivers on the streets, had spelling books with them, and were studying them during the time they were not working. Go outside any large town in the South, and walk among the negro housing, and you will see children and in many cases grown negroes, sitting in the sun alongside their cabins studying.

Source: Sidney Andrews quoted in the Joint Report on Reconstruction, 1866. The document above is an excerpt from a report by a Northern white man to the United States government in 1866.

#### ORGANIZING THE EVIDENCE

African Americans WERE free during Reconstruction: List the 4 main points/evidence that support this side.

1) From Document \_\_\_\_\_:

2) From Document \_\_\_\_\_:

3) From Document \_\_\_\_\_:

4) From Document \_\_\_\_\_:

African Americans were NOT free during Reconstruction: List the 4 main points/evidence that support this side.

1) From Document \_\_\_\_\_:

2) From Document \_\_\_\_\_:

3) From Document \_\_\_\_\_:

4) From Document \_\_\_\_\_:

## **Central Historical Question: Were African Americans free during Reconstruction? Use evidence from the documents to support your position. (7-10 Sentences).**

### Radical Reconstruction

Thaddeus Stevens (Modified)

Thaddeus Stevens was a member of the House of Representatives from Pennsylvania. He was a leader of the Radical Republicans within the Republican Party during the 1860s. This is a series of excerpts from a speech he delivered to Congress on March 19, 1867.

The cause of the war was slavery. We have liberated the slaves. It is our duty to protect them, and provide for them while they are unable to provide for themselves.

None will deny the right to confiscate the property of the Southern states, as they all made war as the Confederate States of America. The bill provides that each freed slave who is a male adult, or the head of a family, will receive forty acres of land, (with \$100 to build a house). Homesteads are far more valuable than the immediate right of suffrage, though they should receive both.

Four million people have just been freed from slavery. They have no education, have never worked for money, and don't know about their rights. We must make the freed slaves independent of their old masters, so that they may not be compelled to work for them upon unfair terms, which can only be done by giving them a small tract of land to farm.

Source: Thaddeus Stevens, speech to Congress, March 19, 1867.

#### Vocabulary

confiscate: take or seize someone's property

homestead: a piece of land gifted by the government to a citizen who lives on and farms it

suffrage: the right to vote

tract: an area of land

### Andrew Johnson (Modified)

Andrew Johnson was a Democrat who served as President of the United States from 1865 to 1869. The following is a series of excerpts from a campaign speech that Johnson gave in September 1866 in Cleveland, Ohio. In the speech he discusses the Freedmen's Bureau, which was a federal agency designed to help former slaves with jobs and education. Radical Republicans, like Thaddeus Stevens, supported additional funding for the Freedmen's Bureau.

Before the Civil War there were 4,000,000 black people held as slaves by about 340,000 people living in the South. That is, 340,000 slave owners paid all the living expenses of the slaves. Then, the war began and the slaves were freed . . . Now to the Freedmen's Bureau bill. What was it? Four million slaves were emancipated and given an equal chance and fair start to work and produce . . . But the Freedmen's Bureau comes and says we must take charge of these 4,000,000 slaves. The bureau comes along and proposes, at a cost of \$12,000,000 a year, to take charge of these slaves. You had already spent \$3,000,000,000 to set them free and give them a fair opportunity to take care of themselves - then

these [Radical Republicans], who are such great friends of the people, tell us they must be taxed \$12,000,000 to sustain the Freedmen's Bureau.

Source: Andrew Johnson, campaign speech, September 3, 1866.

Andrew Johnson (Modified)

Andrew Johnson delivered the following speech to Congress on March 2, 1867, after he vetoed legislation that would have given freedmen the right to vote.

The purpose and object of the bill is to change the entire structure and character of the State governments. Blacks have not asked for the privilege of voting. The vast majority of them have no idea what it means. The Federal Government has no jurisdiction, authority, or power to regulate such subjects for any State. To force the right of suffrage out of the hands of the white people and into the hands of the blacks is an arbitrary violation of this principle.

Source: Andrew Johnson, speech to Congress, March 2, 1867.

Vocabulary

jurisdiction: the official power to make legal decisions

suffrage: the right to vote

**Central Historical Question Why was the Radical Republican plan for Reconstruction considered “radical”? Do you think it was “radical” Use evidence from the documents to support your position. (7-10 Sentences).**