

Rebuilding Rights

Track Reconstruction policies, resistance, and lasting consequences.

SS.8.A.5.8 "Explain and evaluate the policies, practices, and consequences of Reconstruction (i.e., presidential and congressional reconstruction, Johnson's impeachment, Civil Rights Act of 1866, the 13th, 14th, and 15th Amendments..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each federal policy or amendment, circle each action that resisted Reconstruction, and number the consequences that followed in the order they appear.

Promises and Pushback

- ① After the Civil War, President Andrew Johnson offered a quick plan for former Confederate states to rejoin the Union. His presidential Reconstruction required loyalty oaths but gave southern states wide control over their governments. Many enacted Black Codes that limited Black Americans' work, movement, and legal rights. Congress rejected this approach. Radical Republicans passed the Civil Rights Act of 1866, which recognized citizenship and civil rights for U.S.-born Black Americans, and later required southern states to accept stronger federal rules before returning to Congress.
- ② Congressional Reconstruction placed ten former Confederate states, excluding Tennessee, under five military districts and required new state constitutions that protected Black men's rights. The Fourteenth Amendment established national citizenship and equal protection of the laws. The Fifteenth Amendment barred states from denying the vote because of race. These changes expanded democracy, and Black men voted and served in southern governments. Conflict with Johnson grew after he resisted Congress's program. The House impeached him in 1868, but the Senate fell one vote short of removing him from office.
- ③ Reconstruction also faced violent and political resistance. The Thirteenth Amendment had ended slavery, yet groups including the Ku Klux Klan used terror to frighten Black voters and Republican leaders. Federal enforcement sometimes protected rights, but its support weakened over time. The disputed election of 1876 was resolved in 1877, when Republican Rutherford B. Hayes became president. Federal troops then stopped protecting the remaining Reconstruction governments, ending Reconstruction. Southern governments soon built Jim Crow laws that enforced racial segregation and helped deny Black citizens equal political power.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 Which Reconstruction approach gave Black Americans stronger protection, Johnson's plan or Congressional Reconstruction? Use two details from the passage to support your judgment.

2 How did the Fourteenth and Fifteenth Amendments change the rights of Black Americans?

3 What happened when Congress impeached President Johnson, and what was the final result?

4 Explain how resistance to Reconstruction helped lead to Jim Crow laws after 1877.

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write a four-sentence judgment about Reconstruction by 1877. State whether it was more successful or more limited, use two policies or accomplishments as evidence, and explain one form of opposition or one consequence that supports your judgment.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline each federal policy or amendment, circle each action that resisted Reconstruction, and number the consequences that followed in the order they appear. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Which Reconstruction approach gave Black Americans stronger protection, Johnson's plan or Congressional Reconstruction? Use two details from the passage to support your judgment.	Congressional Reconstruction gave stronger protection. It used military districts and required new state constitutions protecting Black men's rights, while Johnson's plan gave southern states wide control and Black Codes limited rights.
2	How did the Fourteenth and Fifteenth Amendments change the rights of Black Americans?	The Fourteenth Amendment established national citizenship and equal protection. The Fifteenth Amendment barred states from denying the vote because of race.
3	What happened when Congress impeached President Johnson, and what was the final result?	The House impeached Johnson in 1868 after conflict over his resistance to Congress's program. The Senate was one vote short of removing him from office.
4	Explain how resistance to Reconstruction helped lead to Jim Crow laws after 1877.	The Ku Klux Klan used terror against Black voters and Republican leaders, while federal support weakened. After the election dispute was resolved in 1877, federal troops stopped protecting Reconstruction governments, and southern governments imposed Jim Crow segregation laws that reduced Black citizens' political power.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

By 1877, Reconstruction had achieved important gains but was ultimately limited. The Thirteenth Amendment ended slavery, and the Fourteenth and Fifteenth Amendments established citizenship, equal protection, and voting rights. Black men voted and served in southern governments. However, Klan terror, fading federal support, and the withdrawal of federal protection allowed Jim Crow laws to reduce those gains.

Accept supported judgments that identify two accurate policies or accomplishments and explain an accurate form of resistance or consequence. Students may argue that Reconstruction was successful, limited, or both if their evidence comes from the passage.