

Election Ends Reconstruction

Trace how a disputed election changed federal action in the South.

USII.2.f "explaining how the 1876 presidential election led to the end of Reconstruction."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline details about the disputed election, then number 1, 2, and 3 beside the steps that connect the election result to the end of Reconstruction.

A Deal After a Dispute

- ① In 1876, the presidential race between Democrat Samuel J. Tilden and Republican Rutherford B. Hayes was extremely close. Tilden won more popular votes, but the Electoral College result was uncertain. In Florida, Louisiana, South Carolina, and Oregon, officials disputed which candidate had won certain electoral votes. Each party claimed victory. Because neither side accepted the first count, Congress created a special Electoral Commission to decide the disputed votes and prevent a political crisis. The conflict tested whether the nation could settle an election peacefully.
- ② The commission gave all of the disputed electoral votes to Hayes. Its decision made Hayes the winner by 185 electoral votes to Tilden's 184. Many Democrats believed the decision was unfair and could have challenged it. Instead, Republican and Democratic leaders reached an informal political agreement, often called the Compromise of 1877. Democrats accepted Hayes as president. In return, Hayes agreed to remove the remaining federal troops from South Carolina and Louisiana, where they had supported Republican state governments.
- ③ Federal troops had helped protect Reconstruction governments and the rights of formerly enslaved people in the South. After the troops left, white Southern Democrats regained control of the last Republican-led state governments. The federal government no longer enforced Reconstruction in the same way across the region as before. This change marked the end of Reconstruction. The election did not end Reconstruction by itself, but the agreement that settled the election led directly to troop withdrawal and reduced federal protection for Black citizens.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 Why was the Electoral College result uncertain after the 1876 election?

2 What did the Electoral Commission decide, and what was the final electoral vote total?

3 What did Democrats accept in the agreement, and what did Hayes agree to do?

4 How did the removal of federal troops help bring Reconstruction to an end?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write a three-sentence cause-and-effect explanation for a classmate. In order, explain the disputed election, the agreement, and why troop withdrawal ended Reconstruction.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline details about the disputed election, then number 1, 2, and 3 beside the steps that connect the election result to the end of Reconstruction. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Why was the Electoral College result uncertain after the 1876 election?	Officials disputed certain electoral votes in Florida, Louisiana, South Carolina, and Oregon, and each party claimed victory.
2	What did the Electoral Commission decide, and what was the final electoral vote total?	The commission gave all disputed electoral votes to Hayes, making him the winner, 185 electoral votes to Tilden's 184.
3	What did Democrats accept in the agreement, and what did Hayes agree to do?	Democrats accepted Hayes as president. Hayes agreed to remove the remaining federal troops from South Carolina and Louisiana.
4	How did the removal of federal troops help bring Reconstruction to an end?	The troops had supported Reconstruction governments and protected rights. After they left, white Southern Democrats regained control, and federal enforcement and protection weakened.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The disputed 1876 election left the Electoral College result unsettled. To settle the conflict, Democrats accepted Hayes while he agreed to remove federal troops from South Carolina and Louisiana. Without troops to support Reconstruction governments, federal protection weakened and Reconstruction ended.

Accept explanations that show the sequence from disputed electoral votes to the political agreement, troop withdrawal, and the end of federal support for Reconstruction. Students may call the agreement the Compromise of 1877.