



# **Eighth Grade Social Studies**

**Essential Question: What were the different Reconstruction Plans?**



**8th Grade Social Studies Task 7**

*\*There will be a short video lesson of a Knox County teacher to accompany this task available on the KCS YouTube Channel and KCS TV.*

**Directions: Using the sources provided and information from the, complete the chart below.**

<b>Category</b>	<b>Source 1</b>	<b>Source 2</b>	<b>Source 3</b>
Person/Group Responsible			
Specific Details about the Plan			
Who did the plan help or hurt? Why?			

## Source 1

On December 8th, 1863, President Abraham Lincoln offered his plan for the reunification of the United States with his Proclamation of Amnesty and Reconstruction (known as the Ten Percent Plan). By this point in the Civil War, it was clear that President Lincoln needed to make some preliminary plans for postwar reconstruction. The Union armies had captured large sections of the South, and some states were ready to have their governments rebuilt.

The Ten Percent Plan addressed three main areas of concern:

- First, it allowed for a full pardon for and restoration of property to all engaged in the rebellion with the exception of the highest Confederate officials and military leaders.
- Second, it allowed for a new state government to be formed when 10 percent of the eligible voters had taken an oath of allegiance to the United States.
- Third, the southern states were encouraged to pass plans to deal with the emancipated slaves so long as their freedom was not compromised.

The terms of the plan were easy for most southerners to accept. Though the emancipation of slaves was an impossible pill for some Confederates to swallow, Lincoln's plan was charitable, considering the costliness of the war. With the Proclamation of Amnesty and Reconstruction, Lincoln was seizing the initiative for reconstruction from the U.S. Congress.

### **Vocabulary:**

Amnesty: to be forgiven of a crime

Emancipated: to be free

## Source 2

The North's victory in 1865 ensured that newly freed slaves would stay free, but their emancipation generated new questions about the future economic and political landscape of the southern states. Changes transformed the south as the northern victors in U.S. Congress experimented with ways to improve the lives and opportunities for freed people in the South.

In 1865, Congress passed and the 13th Amendment outlawing slavery. That same year, Congress established the Freedmen's Bureau, which was responsible for helping prepare the newly freed slaves for life by providing social services and education. However, the largest changes came in March of 1867, when Congress passed the Reconstruction Act of 1867, which provided for the following:

- temporarily divided the South into five military districts, each commanded by a U.S. Army general and ruled by military law;
- provided strict conditions for Confederate states to be readmitted to the Union, including:
  - requiring states to rewrite their constitution at a convention attended by black and white delegates
  - guarantee black suffrage
  - ratify the 14th Amendment, granting "equal protection" of the Constitution to former slaves

Finally, in February 1869, Congress approved the 15 Amendment, which guaranteed that a citizen's right to vote would not be denied "on account of race, color, or previous condition of servitude." By 1870, all of the former Confederate states had been admitted to the Union. Blacks won elections to southern state governments and to Congress. Among the other achievements of Reconstruction were the South's first state-funded public school systems, equal taxation legislation, laws against racial discrimination, and economic development programs.

### **Vocabulary:**

Emancipation: to be free

Suffrage: the right to vote

## Source 3

After President Lincoln was assassinated on April 14, 1865, his successor, Andrew Johnson, became president. Soon after, President Johnson announced his plan for Reconstruction, which gave the white South a free hand in regulating the transition from slavery to freedom and offered no role to free slaves in the politics of the South. President Johnson's plan included the following:

- Offered pardons to all southerners who would take an oath of loyalty to the United States.
- Called for Confederate officials or any wealthy white southerner to petition the president personally for individual pardons.
- Ordered nearly all the land in the hands of the federal government to be returned to its prewar owners, which meant that the newly free blacks were still without land needed to be economically secure.
- Mandated that states would have to ratify the 13th Amendment in order to be readmitted.
- Allowed states to create their own government, but did not have to include freed slaves in any of the decision-making.

Many of President Johnson's policies allowed the south to return to their prewar anti-black mindsets and continued to oppress blacks, which did not make the U.S. Congress happy. One of the biggest issues Congress had was that President Johnson's Reconstruction plan allowed any southern leader who had fought in the war to return to Congress and provided for new members to represent the southern states. Congress, however, denied these southerners entry to Congress. They set about establishing a series of laws to handle reconstruction in the South. Their plan was much harsher than Johnson's.

### **Vocabulary:**

Pardon: forgiveness of a crime

Ratify: approve

## **Reflect on Your Learning**

1. Why were there different plans for reconstructing the South?
2. Based on what you've read, what happened when no one agreed on a plan for Reconstruction?
3. Which plan do you think is the best and why?