

Chapter 11 Lesson 1 Study Guide
Social Studies "A Changing Nation"
Reconstruction

Vocabulary:

Reconstruction - rebuilding of the nation

black codes - laws limiting the rights of former enslaved people in the South

acquit - to find not guilty

freedmen - men, women, and children who had been enslaved

sharecropping - a system of working the land in which the worker was paid by letting them keep a share of the crops they harvested

secret ballot - a voting method that does not allow anyone to know how a person has voted

segregation - the practice of keeping people in separate groups based on their race or culture

Things to remember:

Abraham Lincoln was assassinated at the end of the Civil War. His plan of reconstruction was to bring the South back into the Union quickly.

Andrew Johnson then became president of the U.S. He let most Confederates become citizens again after pledging loyalty to the U.S.

Amendments:

13th - abolished slavery in the U.S. Its purpose was to end slavery everywhere in the nation and bring the country back together. After Southern states agreed to end slavery, they could rejoin the U.S.

15^h - guaranteed that no citizen would be denied the right to vote based on race, color, or previous condition of servitude. This gave African Americans the right to vote and hold office.

Problems faced by the South during Reconstruction

- the economy was in ruins
- many bridges, buildings, and railroads were destroyed
- taxes were raised to rebuild them
- Jim Crow Laws - laws that established segregation (separation) of restaurants, libraries, and trains. They caused many African Americans to move to the North
- carpetbaggers - people from the North who moved south to work in Reconstruction governments. Southerners disliked them and leaders called scalawags because they were outsiders, were thought to be dishonest and corrupt, and raised taxes.
- at the end of Reconstruction, African Americans lost many of the rights they had gained.

Andrew Johnson was impeached (which means to bring charges against someone in office) because he tried to stop parts of Congress's Reconstruction Plan.

The Freedmen's Bureau

- helped needy people in the South
- gave food and supplies to former slaves
- built more than 4000 schools
- hired thousands of teachers

Sharecropping - a worker farmed land owned by someone else. Each sharecropper was given a cabin, mules, tools and seed. At harvest time, the landowner took a share of the crops to cover the costs of housing and supplies. What was left was the worker's share.

How could people or groups use information about how people voted to control their votes?

Their information would be published and used to bully people and threaten them with harm unless they voted a certain way.