Civil War Reconstruction

8th Grade Social Studies

Unit 1
What was Reconstruction?

- South lay in ruins
- Nearly 4 million freedmen (former slaves) needed food, clothing, & jobs
- Lincoln had a plan!
What was Reconstruction?

- A period of time when the country had to…
  - 1: Figure out how to bring back Southern states into the Union.
  - 2: Decide how to incorporate former slaves into society.
Differing Views

- Lincoln—don’t punish the South; reunite peacefully
- Congress (Radical Republicans) have opposite view
Lincoln’s 10% Plan

- Lincoln argued southern states never left Union (secession illegal)
- 10% of voters pledge allegiance to the USA—state could be readmitted & create a new govt.
- States had to abolish slavery
- Too lenient? Discuss w/ neighbor
**Wade-Davis Bill**

- Bill proposed for Reconstruction by **Radical Republicans**

- A **majority** of people had to take the **Ironclad Oath** stating they had never supported the Confederacy to begin with (excludes former soldiers, generals, politicians)

- Blocked by Lincoln with a pocket veto (delays signing until too late in legislative session)…
Military Reconstruction Acts of 1867

- Divided the south into 5 military districts
- Districts were under watch of former U.S. military generals
- Only voters were those approved by the U.S. Congress…who do you think this might be?
  - Mostly former slaves
- Each state had to ratify 13th amendment (abolish slavery) and 14th amendment (citizenship rights for all) after drafting new state constitutions
Andrew Johnson’s Plan

- Majority of voters must swear loyalty to the U.S.
- Each state must approve the 13th amendment
- Response to plan
  - Southern states met these demands
  - Republicans in Congress outraged—no voting for African-Americans & former Confederate leaders elected to Congress
- Loathed by Republicans in Congress; eventually impeached Johnson, but failed to be kicked out of office
Acts of Congress

- Freedmen’s Bureau created in 1865
- Gave food, clothing, & other help to freedmen
- Helped establish sharecropping—former slaves rented land from plantation owners in return for a share or percentage of the total crop produced
Acts of Congress

- Civil War Amendments

- 13th—abolish slavery nationwide (south passes black codes to get around new laws)

- 14th—all people born in the USA are citizens; no one can take away the rights of citizens

- 15th—right to vote “cannot be denied” due to race, color, or previous enslavement
Reconstruction Under Pres. Grant

- Supported amnesty (pardon) for Confederate leaders & protection for African Americans’ rights
- Signed laws to promote voting rights & prosecute Ku Klux Klan members
The K.K.K. (Ku Klux Klan)

- Domestic terrorist group which attempted to uphold white supremacy in the South
- Often used violence and intimidation, especially against African American leaders
- President Grant signed the “Force Acts” to defend the right to vote for all—targets KKK who would try to stop blacks from voting (federal crime to interfere)
Collapse of Reconstruction

- Election of 1876—Rutherford B. Hayes (R) vs. Samuel Tilden (D)
  - Tilden wins popular vote; Hayes wins electoral vote
  - South upset; disputes the election
Collapse of Reconstruction

- Compromise of 1877 (ends Reconstruction)
  - 1—Republicans would end military occupation in the South
  - 2—White Democrats take control of southern state governments, which ends Republican control in the South