Name _____ Date _____

Reconstruction Review: Plans, Amendments and Outcomes

Directions: Read the passage and study the table of the Reconstruction amendments. Then answer each question.

Reconstruction, 1865 to 1877

Rebuilding the Union, 1865 to 1877

When the Civil War ended in 1865, the nation faced two hard questions. How would the eleven Confederate states rejoin the Union? And what would freedom mean for nearly 4 million people who had been enslaved? The years from 1865 to 1877, when Americans struggled over the answers, are known as Reconstruction.

Leaders disagreed about how to bring the South back. In December 1863, President Abraham Lincoln had offered a forgiving plan. Under it, a state could form a new government once 10 percent of its 1860 voters swore loyalty to the Union. Those voters also had to accept the end of slavery. After Lincoln was killed in April 1865, the new president, Andrew Johnson, offered pardons to most former Confederates. Southern states soon elected many former Confederate leaders. Their new governments passed Black Codes. These laws limited where Black Southerners could work and travel, and they forced many to sign yearly work contracts with white landowners.

Republicans in Congress pushed back. In 1867, Congress passed the Reconstruction Acts over Johnson's veto. These laws placed most of the South under military rule. To rejoin the Union, a Southern state had to write a new constitution that let Black men vote. It also had to approve the 14th Amendment. Between 1865 and 1870, the states ratified three amendments to the Constitution, shown in the table. After many clashes with Congress, Johnson was impeached by the House in 1868. The Senate kept him in office by just one vote.

For a time, Black Southerners made real gains. Congress created the Freedmen's Bureau in March 1865. The bureau handed out food, oversaw work contracts and opened schools. Families separated by slavery searched for one another, and communities built their own churches. Black men voted in large numbers and won seats in state legislatures and in Congress. In 1870, Hiram Revels of Mississippi became the first African American to serve in the U.S. Senate.

Other gains came slowly or not at all. Most freed people had no land of their own. Many became sharecroppers, who farmed land owned by others in return for a share of the crop. Meanwhile, many white Southerners fought the changes. Soon after the war, Confederate veterans in Tennessee started the Ku Klux Klan. The Klan and groups like it used threats and violence to keep Black men from voting and to drive Republicans from power. Congress passed laws against the Klan in 1870 and 1871, and federal courts put many members on trial.

By the mid-1870s, many Northerners had lost interest in Reconstruction. In 1877, after a

disputed election for president, Rutherford B. Hayes took office. He pulled federal troops away from the statehouses of South Carolina and Louisiana. Soon the last Republican-led governments in Southern states fell, and Reconstruction was over. By 1910, Southern states had used poll taxes, literacy tests and violence to keep most Black men from voting. They also passed laws that separated Black and white people in public places.

The Reconstruction amendments to the Constitution, 1865 to 1870

Amendment	**Passed by Congress**	**Ratified by the states**	**What it did**
13th	January 1865	December 1865	Ended slavery in the United States, except as punishment for a crime
14th	June 1866	July 1868	Made citizens of people born in the United States, including those who had been enslaved, and required states to treat all people equally under the law
15th	February 1869	February 1870	Barred the national and state governments from denying a citizen the vote because of race or color, or because the person had once been enslaved

1. Which choice best captures the central idea of the passage about Reconstruction?

A. Black Southerners won new rights after the war, but many of those gains were later lost.

B. Johnson and Congress agreed on one plan to rebuild the South and to protect freedom.

C. Northern leaders left the South alone for a few years so it could rebuild in its own way.

D. Every freed family got a farm of its own, and the old cotton trade quickly came to an end.

2. What did Lincoln's 1863 plan require before a Southern state could form a new government?

A. Half of its voters had to approve the 15th Amendment in a special election.

B. The state had to let Black men vote and write a brand-new state constitution.

C. The state had to pay back the full cost of the war to the United States government.

D. Ten percent of its 1860 voters had to swear loyalty and accept the end of slavery.

3. Match each Reconstruction amendment in the table to the change it made.

Write the letter of the matching answer on each line.

1. _____ 15th Amendment
2. _____ 13th Amendment
3. _____ 14th Amendment

Choices for question 3

A. Made people born in the United States citizens and required equal treatment under state law

B. Ended slavery, except as punishment for a crime

C. Gave women the right to vote

D. Barred denying a citizen the vote because of race

4. According to the table, which amendment took the longest to be ratified after Congress passed it?

A. The 15th Amendment

B. The 14th Amendment

C. Each one took exactly one year.

D. The 13th Amendment

5. According to the passage, what led Republicans in Congress to push back against Johnson's plan?

A. Southern states under his plan had already given Black men the right to vote.

B. The 15th Amendment had just been ratified, so Congress wanted to enforce it.

C. Lincoln had asked Congress to take charge of Reconstruction in the months before he died.

D. Southern states under his plan elected former Confederates and passed Black Codes.

6. Fill in each blank about Johnson and the freed people with the right word bank term.

Word bank
planters • pardoned • sharecroppers • delegates • impeached

In 1868, the House _____ President Johnson, but the Senate kept him in office by one vote. Many freed people became _____, farming land owned by others in return for a share of the crop.

7. The Freedmen's Bureau did several kinds of work. Which choice describes one result of that work?

A. Schools opened for freed people.

B. The Ku Klux Klan broke up for good.

C. Every freed family received a farm of its own.

D. Southern states passed the Black Codes.

8. Which choice best sums up how many white Southerners responded to the changes, according to the passage?

A. Most welcomed Black voters, and many white Southerners joined the Republican Party in the 1870s.

B. They wrote and ratified the 15th Amendment to protect Black voters.

C. Many fought the changes, and groups like the Klan used threats and violence against Black voters.

D. They asked Congress to send even more federal troops so the South could be kept safe.

9. Which two details from the passage describe things Black Southerners did with their new freedom?

☐ A. Black men voted in large numbers and won seats in state legislatures and in Congress.

☐ B. Families separated by slavery searched for one another.

☐ C. They passed Black Codes in the Southern states.

☐ D. They started the Ku Klux Klan in Tennessee.

☐ E. Most of them bought large plantations.

10. How did Congress respond to the Klan's violence, according to the passage?

A. It repealed the 15th Amendment so that the Klan would stop its attacks.

B. It passed laws against the Klan, and federal courts put many members on trial.

C. It gave the Klan control of the Freedmen's Bureau and its schools.

D. It ended Reconstruction at once and pulled every federal soldier out of the South in 1870.

11. In 1877, President Hayes pulled federal troops away from the statehouses of South Carolina and Louisiana. What happened next, according to the passage?

A. The last Republican-led governments in Southern states fell, and Reconstruction was over.

B. Congress passed the Reconstruction Acts and placed most of the South under military rule.

C. Black men won the right to vote in every Southern state for the first time.

D. The 13th Amendment was ratified by the states, ending slavery.

12. Many gains of Reconstruction were later undone. Which sentence from the passage gives the clearest evidence of this?

A. "The bureau handed out food, oversaw work contracts and opened schools."

B. "By 1910, Southern states had used poll taxes, literacy tests and violence to keep most Black men from voting."

C. "In 1870, Hiram Revels of Mississippi became the first African American to serve in the U.S. Senate."

D. "In 1867, Congress passed the Reconstruction Acts over Johnson's veto."