

The Artios Home Companion Series

Unit 5: Reconstruction, Part One - 1860s

Teacher Overview

The results of the war were revolutionary in character. Slavery was abolished and the freedmen given the ballot. The Southern planters who had been the leaders of their section were ruined financially and almost to a man excluded from taking part in political affairs. The union was declared to be perpetual and the right of a state to secede settled by the judgment of battle. Federal control over the affairs of states, counties, and cities was established by the fourteenth amendment. The power and prestige of the federal government were enhanced beyond imagination. The North was now free to pursue its economic policies: a protective tariff, a national banking system, land grants for railways, free lands for farmers. Planting had dominated the country for nearly a generation. Business enterprise was to take its place.



The room where the Confederacy surrendered to the Union

Key People, Places, and Events

General Grant
General Sheridan
General Robert E. Lee
Abraham Lincoln
Andrew Johnson
13th Amendment
Reconstruction
The Purchase of Alaska

Reading and Assignments

In this unit, students will:

- Complete three lessons in which they will learn about **the conclusion, results and reconstruction from the Civil War**, journaling and answering discussion questions as they read.
- Define vocabulary words.
- Conduct research on **the conspiracy theories of Lincoln's assassination**.

- Explore the following websites:
 - Abraham Lincoln by James Russell Lowe:
<http://www.poemhunter.com/best-poems/james-russell-lowell/abraham-lincoln-7/>
 - Lincoln's assassination:
<http://www.history.com/topics/abraham-lincoln-assassination>
- Visit www.ArtiosHCS.com for additional resources.

Leading Ideas

Honesty is a character quality to be desired.

The Lord detests differing weights, and dishonest scales do not please Him.

— Proverbs 20:23

The Bible provides the ethics upon which to judge people and nations.

— Exodus 20:1-17

God is sovereign over the affairs of men.

From one man he made all the nations, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he marked out their appointed times in history and the boundaries of their lands.

— Acts 17:26

Vocabulary

Lesson 1:

magnanimous
conspiracy

Lesson 2:

vagrant

Lesson 3:

scalawags
carpetbaggers

Lesson One

History Overview and Assignments The Year 1865

As the year 1865 began, the Union and Confederate armies were in striking contrast in their condition. The Confederacy was pitiable in the extreme. Its finances were in utter ruin, food products were scarce, the army was on short rations, prices for food and clothing were extremely high, there were thousands of army deserters, and the spirit which had kept the rebellion alive was rapidly disappearing. In contrast, the Union hope ran so high that all felt like the end was in sight. And so it was. With the end of the war came much rejoicing followed quickly by great national grief as the hand of an assassin took the life of President Lincoln.



Abraham Lincoln's second inauguration

Vocabulary

magnanimous
conspiracy

Key People, Places, and Events

General Grant
General Sheridan
General Robert E. Lee
Abraham Lincoln

Reading and Assignments

- Review the discussion questions and vocabulary, then read the article: *The Year 1865*.
- Narrate about today's reading using the appropriate notebook page. Be sure to answer the discussion questions and include key people, events, and dates within the narration.
- Define the vocabulary words in the context of the reading and put the word and its definition in the vocabulary section of your history notebook.
- Read through the poem Abraham Lincoln by James Russell Lowe:
<http://www.poemhunter.com/best-poems/james-russell-lowell/abraham-lincoln-7/>
- Do additional research on the conspiracy theories of Lincoln's assassination:
<http://www.history.com/topics/abraham-lincoln-assassination>
- Be sure to visit www.ArtiosHCS.com for additional resources.

Discussion Questions

1. What two campaigns did General Grant plan in 1865?
2. What was the condition of the Confederacy in 1865?
3. What was the condition of the Union in 1865?
4. What was the tone of Lincoln's Second Inaugural Address, and what words and phrases of this address demonstrate that tone?
5. Describe the fall of Petersburg and Richmond during Grant's last campaign of the war.
6. Did the Confederacy's president, Jefferson Davis, ever face trial?
7. What were the terms of surrender given to General Robert E. Lee and the Confederate Army at Appomattox on April 9th?
8. Describe how humility was demonstrated by both General Grant and General Lee during the surrender proceedings.
9. How do Lincoln's famous words from 1858 (below) almost seem prophetic in retrospect?
"A house divided against itself cannot stand. I believe this government cannot endure, permanently, half slave and half free. I do not expect the Union to be dissolved—I do not expect the house to fall—but I do expect it will cease to be divided. It will become all one thing or all the other."
10. How did Lincoln die?
11. What were Edwin M. Stanton's words when he saw that Lincoln had died?

Adapted for High School from the book:

History of the United States

by William M. Davidson

The Year 1865

Plan of Operations for 1865

After having thrown his army almost completely around Petersburg, Grant was

content to let the siege drag along, awaiting the result of Sherman's march through Georgia and Sheridan's campaign in the

Shenandoah Valley. As the winter wore away, the Confederate prospects became more and more desperate, Lee himself acknowledging that the rebellion was at the end of its tether. As the year 1865 opened, Grant recalled Sheridan from the Shenandoah Valley to move with his cavalry in and around Richmond, cutting the railroads and destroying supplies. He now planned two campaigns: (1) He directed Sherman to move northward through the Carolinas to the vicinity of Goldsboro, with a view of preventing reinforcements being sent to Lee, and also of preventing that general's escape, should he fly south; (2) Grant himself, with the army of the Potomac, now numbering 125,000 men, resolved on capturing both Petersburg and Richmond, and forcing the surrender of Lee's entire army.

NORTH AND SOUTH

Condition of the Confederacy

The condition of the Confederacy at this time was pitiable in the extreme. Its finances were in utter ruin, a billion dollars of debt had been incurred without prospect of paying a cent thereof, food products were scarce, and the condition of the people in every locality regarding food supply was desperate. The army was on short rations, some days Lee's army being almost without food. The prices paid for food and clothing and all articles of merchandise were extremely high. The Confederate army was being deserted at that time by the thousands. The age limits of service in the southern army were now placed from fourteen to sixty—a fact which caused General Butler to remark that “the Confederacy was robbing both the cradle

and the grave.” The spirit which had kept the rebellion alive was rapidly disappearing. With starvation staring them in the face, many in both the army and the country were ready to give up the struggle.

Condition of the Union

At no time since the beginning of the war did hopes run so high in the North; all felt that the end was in sight. While the draft had been resorted to in the North to force men into Union service, still the draft bill was of little value other than that it served to quicken the more honorable and loyal method of volunteer enlistment. Although Grant's losses in the campaign against Richmond had been enormous, yet his ranks were soon filled up and the army of the Potomac at the beginning of 1865 was in reality one of the most formidable veteran armies ever gathered together in the world. There had been years of gloom and despondency, of fault-finding, of discontent; there had been time when the fate of the Union hung in the balance; but all this passed and the whole people, now that they had time to reflect, began to realize that the nation owed its very life to the genius and lofty patriotism of the patient, kindly-natured, great-souled Lincoln. An effort had been put forth by the malcontents in November, 1864, to defeat his reelection, George B. McClellan being the candidate against him. But the loyal North flocked to the support of the administration, and Lincoln was reelected by the largest vote which a presidential candidate had up to that time received in the history of the Republic.

Lincoln's Second Inaugural Address

Once again, on the 4th of March, 1865,

Lincoln stood on the east steps of the national capitol and delivered his inaugural address, closing with the memorable words, “Fondly do we hope—fervently do we pray—that this mighty scourge of war may speedily pass away. Yet, if God wills that it continue, until all the wealth piled by the bond-man’s 250 years of unrequited toil shall be sunk, and until every drop of blood drawn with the lash, shall be paid by another drawn with the sword, as was said 3,000 years ago, so still it must be said, ‘the judgments of the Lord are true and righteous altogether.’ With malice toward none; with charity for all; with firmness in the right, as God gives us to see the right, let us strive on to finish the work we are in; to bind up the nation’s wounds; to care for him who shall have borne the battle, and for his widow, and his orphan—to do all which may achieve and cherish a just and lasting peace, among ourselves, and with all nations.”

SHERMAN’S LAST CAMPAIGN

Johnston’s Army Repulsed

While encamped at Columbia, Sherman learned that Lee had sent a detachment of his troops south to check the Union advance, and further, that General Joseph E. Johnston had been recalled to take command of these troops. He accordingly moved rapidly forward toward Goldsboro. On March 16, he came upon a part of Johnston’s army near Averysboro and defeated it. On the 19th of March, he met Johnston’s whole force at Bentonville, and the Confederate army again went down to defeat. On the 23rd of March, Sherman reached his objective point at Goldsboro, four hundred twenty-five miles from Savannah, where he was joined by

reinforcement under General Schofield, sent in from the Atlantic coast by Grant.

GRANT’S LAST CAMPAIGN

Fort Steadman and Five Forks

In the meantime Grant had been impatient to force the evacuation of the two besieged cities. By the last of March, he was ready for his final movement against the entrenchments at Petersburg. Meanwhile, Lee had been planning to escape, but before doing so he resolved to strike one blow which he hoped would aid in his escape. Accordingly, on the 25th of March he assailed the Union line at Fort Steadman, but in the attempt he signally failed, being repulsed with fearful loss. A week later Sheridan advanced on April 1st to Five Forks, in Lee’s rear, south and west of Petersburg. Here Sheridan was furiously attacked, but after a hard-fought battle, he forced nearly five thousand hungry and starving Confederate soldiers to lay down their arms and become prisoners of war.

Petersburg and Richmond Fall

On the night of April 1, Grant issued the order and all the Union batteries began a general bombardment of the Confederate works. The heavy cannonading was kept up until five o’clock on the morning of April 2, when Grant ordered a general assault upon the Confederate left. The resistance was stubborn, but nothing could withstand the heroic charges of the Union troops. Lee telegraphed from Petersburg to Jefferson Davis at Richmond that the two cities must be immediately evacuated. Davis received the dispatch while in his pew at church and hastily flew south. He was afterward captured in Georgia and sent as a prisoner to Fortress Monroe, to be released on bail

two years later, and, through northern leniency, never brought to trial. Lee, gathering together his now depleted army, sought safety in flight, hoping still to unite with Johnston's army and defeat Sherman's victorious western troops ere Grant could come to his assistance. The following day both Petersburg and Richmond were entered by the national troops.

Lee Surrenders at Appomattox – April 9

Grant immediately ordered Sheridan to cut off Lee's retreat, and he himself followed close upon the heels of the Confederate army. Much fighting was indulged in between the fleeing and the pursuing armies. Lee was finally brought to bay near Appomattox Courthouse, where, on the 9th of April, 1865, he surrendered his entire army as prisoners of war.

By the terms of the surrender, Lee's men were to lay down their arms and give their pledge that they would not serve against the national government until regularly exchanged. Officers were permitted to retain their side-arms, private horses, and baggage. Grant also agreed that all privates in the cavalry and artillery should be permitted to take home their own horses since they would "need them for the spring plowing." Lee spoke of the pitiable condition of his men, stating that they had been two days without food. Whereupon, the magnanimous Grant at once sent a large drove of oxen and a wagon-train of provisions, as a free will gift to the Confederate soldiers.

Within a few days Johnston yielded to Sherman in North Carolina, and soon all organized resistance to the authority of the national government ceased. Secession had

run its course; the war of the rebellion had reached its end!

ASSASSINATION OF LINCOLN

After Appomattox

Although the event had been anticipated, the news of Lee's surrender passed through the loyal states like an electric shock. The president issued a proclamation of thanksgiving, and the whole nation responded as with one voice. During all the trying period of the Civil War, a statesman—such as the nation had not known since the days of Washington—had safely conducted the affairs of state through the most perilous crisis in the history of the Republic. No greater American has yet lived than the tender-hearted, broad-gauged, generous Lincoln. His famous words uttered in 1858 now seemed like prophecy: "A house divided against itself cannot stand. I believe this government cannot endure, permanently, half slave and half free. I do not expect the Union to be dissolved—I do not expect the house to fall—but I do expect it will cease to be divided. It will become all one thing or all the other."

Now that the Union had been restored and the country had become "all free," thoughtful and anxious men in every section of the Republic looked to the great Lincoln to point the way to the restoration of the Southern states to their old position in the Union. He had been born in the South, and as an old-time Whig had associated much with Southern leaders. He knew the temper of the Southern people as no Northern man could know it. On the afternoon of the 14th of April he dismissed his Cabinet meeting with the word, "We must now begin to act in the interest of peace."

Death of Lincoln

On that very night of the now historic 14th of April, 1865, the country was startled by a message flashed over the wires from Washington that President Lincoln, while in attendance upon a performance at Ford's Theater, had been shot by John Wilkes Booth—a brilliant, though dissolute actor of the national capital. The president was immediately removed from his box at the theater to a house across the street, where the whole nation anxiously awaited the verdict of the surgeons who had been summoned to his bedside. The verdict fell like a blow upon the country—the wound was pronounced fatal! On the following day the president passed away, surrounded by members of his family, his Cabinet, and many other anxious watchers. As the great Emancipator breathed his last the big-hearted secretary of war, Edwin M. Stanton, sobbed aloud, “Now he belongs to the ages...There lies the most perfect ruler of men the world has ever seen.” This eloquent tribute of the great secretary, spoken in tears at the bedside of his dead chief, is today the final verdict of mankind.

After Lincoln's Death

The startling event came close upon the welcome news from Appomattox. National joy was thus suddenly changed to national

sorrow. The whole nation mourned the loss of

*The kindly-earnest, brave,
foreseeing man,
Sagacious, patient,
dreading praise, not blame.
New birth of our new soil,
the first American.**

But the wretch who had committed the cowardly deed was not to escape punishment, for the nation

*Wept with the passion of
angry grief.¹*

Booth fled, but was brought to bay in a barn near an old farmhouse in Maryland, where, on refusing to surrender, he was not taken alive. A conspiracy was soon unearthed in Washington. On the night of the president's assassination an attempt was made upon the life of Secretary of State Seward, which was foiled by the vigorous action of Seward's son, who, in a hand-to-hand encounter, ejected from his father's sick chamber one Payne, a self-confessed member of this band of conspirators. Payne and three others of the conspirators were afterwards hanged, while a few more who were later found guilty on the charge of aiding the plot were imprisoned for life.

¹ James Russell Lowell

NAME OF BATTLE	Place Where Fought	Date	Commanding General of Union Army	Commanding General of Confederate Army
Fort Fisher...	Fort Fisher, N.C.	Jan. 15.....	Maj.-Gen. A. H. Terry	Gen. B. Bragg
Mobile.....	Mobile, Ala.	March 17- April 12...	Maj.-Gen. E. R. Canby	Maj.-Gen. D. H. Maury
Bentonville...	Bentonville, N.C.	March 19-21	Maj.-Gen. W. T. Sherman	Gen. J. E. Johnston
Five Forks...	Five Forks, Va.	April 1.....	Maj.-Gen. P. H. Sheridan	Maj.-Gen. G. E. Pickett
Appomattox Campaign	Richmond, Va.	April 9.....	Lieut.-Gen. U. S. Grant	Gen. R. E. Lee

Important Battles of 1865

Lesson Two

History Overview and Assignments Reconstruction and Johnson's Administration

Now that the war was over, the reconstruction of the South and readmission of Southern states into the Union were the pressing issues of the day. The creation of The Freedman's Bureau and the ratification of the 14th amendment were all done as solutions for this challenge.



Abraham Lincoln and Andrew Johnson poster

Reading and Assignments

- Review the discussion questions and vocabulary, then read the article: *Reconstruction and Johnson's Administration*.
- Narrate about today's reading using the appropriate notebook page. Be sure to answer the discussion questions and include key people, events, and dates within the narration.
- Define the vocabulary words in the context of the reading and put the word and its definition in the vocabulary section of your history notebook.
- Visit www.ArtiosHCS.com for additional resources.

Vocabulary

vagrant

Key People, Places, and Events

Andrew Johnson
13th Amendment

Discussion Questions

1. What was the cost in human life of the Civil War?
2. How did the North finance their war efforts?
3. Describe three areas of improvement that came as a result of the Civil War.
4. What was the Grand Army of the Republic?
5. How did the celebration of Memorial Day start?
6. How did Andrew Johnson become president?
7. What was the purpose and intent of the 13th Amendment?
8. What questions and challenges did the 13th Amendment leave unanswered?

9. What was Lincoln's policy on reconstruction?
10. What was Johnson's policy on reconstruction?

11. Describe the laws several Southern states passed that virtually re-instated slavery.

Adapted for High School from the book:

History of the United States

by William M. Davidson

Reconstruction and Johnson's Administration

THE COST OF WAR

In Men and In Treasure

During the war more than 2,200,000 men enlisted on the Union side and half that number on the Confederate side. Nearly 110,000 Union soldiers and sailors were killed, or died from wounds received in battle. The total number of deaths from all causes amounted to more than 360,000 on the Union side; to about 300,000 on the Confederate. It will thus be seen that on both sides a total of 3,700,000 men were under arms on the continent within a period of four years—from April, 1861 to April, 1865. Within the same four years 660,000 men laid down their lives in the camp or in the field of battle.

The total cost of the war to the national government was \$3,250,000,000. The cost of the war to the seceded states was at least \$1,750,000,000, making a total war expenditure in the four years of five billion dollars. In the last years of the war, the total amount appropriated by Congress for the maintenance and support of the Union army was \$516,214,131, an average of nearly one and one-half million dollars per day.

The Finances of the War

To raise the vast amount of money

necessary to carry on the war, the national government resorted to two methods—taxation and loans. The war tariffs, sometimes called the Morrill Tariffs, were first laid in 1861. Each succeeding session of Congress, from 1862 to 1865, passed some amendment to the original bill. Congress also levied internal taxes—upon incomes and salaries, trades and callings, nearly all home manufacturers, and the gross receipts of railroad, steamboat, and express companies. A stamp-tax was also laid upon the all legal and public documents. This system of direct and indirect taxes produced an annual revenue of about \$300,000,000.

This amount not being sufficient to meet the enormous expenses of the government, the secretary of the treasury now began to borrow money on the credit of the United States. For these loans government bonds were issued bearing interest at various rates and payable at the option of the government after a certain number of years. Treasury notes, too, were issued to the amount of nearly half a billion dollars. This paper money became known as the “greenback currency.” To aid the government in carrying on its financial operations, Congress established and perfected the national banking system.

PROGRESS DURING THE WAR

Improvements in Arms

The war called forth the inventive genius of the North. The improvements in firearms, heavy cannon, explosives, torpedoes, and all that goes into making war terrible and frightful marked an epoch in the manufacture of the implements and munitions of war. The success of the Monitor revolutionized the construction of the navies of the world. The practical application of the telegraph on the field of battle was demonstrated. The methods of feeding, clothing, and transporting large armies excited the admiration of the military experts sent from Europe to witness the progress of war.

The Sanitary and Christian Commissions

The suffering and hardships of army life were lessened through the efforts of the loyal women of the North. Nurses were sent into every hospital and army camp to look after the sick and care for the wounded. The Sanitary Commission and the Christian Commission did a work unequaled by any similar body in the history of war. Nearly twenty million dollars were raised and expended, without waste, by these splendid organizations which sent vast quantities of needed supplies to the army. Through their help thousands of soldiers were better fed and more warmly clothed. Delicate food was provided for the sick and ailing, and greater comforts placed in the army hospitals. Through the Christian Commission thousands of Bibles and large quantities of high-quality literature were distributed among the soldiers. The commission in every way aided in securing and

maintaining a high moral standard among the men who composed the armies of the Republic. Nor was the work of these two commissions devoted solely to the armies in the field. The widows and the orphans were tenderly cared for and comforted as well.

Growth: New States

While the South was devastated by the ravages of war, the progress of the northern states was steadily maintained. Two new states were admitted to the Union—West Virginia coming in in 1863 as the thirty-six state, and Nevada in 1864 as the thirty-seventh. It will thus be seen that the country grew in spite of the war. Lincoln recognized this on the very night of his second election, when the returns showed that the voting strength of the country in 1864 was greater than it was in 1860. During the decade in which the war occurred, the population of the country increased over seven million, and the total wealth of the country leaped from sixteen billions to more than thirty billions of dollars. Manufacturers had thrived, internal commerce had prospered, and the great west had steadily grown. War and national growth were carried on side by side. While granting appropriations to meet the expenses of the war, Congress at the same time passed a liberal homestead act and made large grants of land to the Union Pacific railroad—which line was soon to join the Atlantic to the Pacific and make it possible for one to ride from ocean to ocean across the continent.

THE UNION ARMY DISBANDS

The Grand Review at Washington

When Lee surrendered on April 9, 1865, there were more than a million Union

soldiers under arms on the continent. Many Europeans predicted that the government could not peaceably disband such a large force of men. They urged that when the soldiers were once released from the restraint of army discipline, riot and bloodshed would follow in every section of the Union. The people of the European countries, with their large standing armies, could not appreciate the difference between a standing army maintained by force of government and a volunteer citizen soldiery maintained by patriotism. Europe's fears were altogether groundless. By November 1, 1865, fully 800,000 men had been mustered out of service, "without a fancy in any mind that there was anything else to do." However, "before the great army melted away into the greater body of citizens, the soldiers enjoyed one final triumph—a march through the capital undisturbed by death or danger, under the eyes of the highest commanders, military and civilian, and the representatives of the people whose nationality they had saved."

For two whole day (May 23 and 24) the army of the Potomac, "which for four years had been the living bulwark of the national capital," and the army of the West, which had twice cut the Confederacy to twain, marched in grand review along the full length of Pennsylvania Avenue—the principal street of the national capital. On a platform in front of the White House stood Andrew Johnson, made president by the assassination of Lincoln, and a large number of men prominent in army and public life, as well as many foreign representatives from the diplomatic corps. No mightier martial host was ever gathered together on the continent. These men in a few short months were to be engaged in

peaceful walks of life—to take up life's struggle where they had left it off four years before. The memories of the war, however, were not to be forgotten but to be kept alive in the "camps of peace" of the Grand Army of the Republic, organized the very first year following the close of the war.

The Grand Army of the Republic

The motto of the Grand Army of the Republic was "Friendship, Charity, and Loyalty," and all that these words imply, toward the comrades in arms and their country which they saved. The first post of the Grand Army of the Republic was organized at Decatur, Illinois, by Major B. F. Stephenson, of the 14th Illinois infantry, April 6, 1866. The first national convention met in Indianapolis, November 20, 1866, and perfected the national organization, afterward known as the National Encampment Grand Army of the Republic. All honorably discharged Union sailors and soldiers of good moral character of the war were eligible to membership. The second meeting of the National Encampment took place at Philadelphia in January, 1868, where General John A. Logan was elected commander-in-chief. He ordered May 30 to be observed as Memorial Day for the purpose of strewing with flowers the graves of comrades who died in defense of their country. Memorial Day, sometime erroneously called "Decoration Day," is now a legal holiday. The Grand Army of the Republic was dissolved in 1956 when its last member died.

Associated Organizations

The First Organization of Women for active cooperation with the Grand Army of the Republic met at Portland, Maine in

1869. Various societies of women with patriotic objectives established a state organization at Fitchburg, Massachusetts in 1879, under the title Women's Relief Corps. All loyal women of good moral character were eligible for membership. The Ladies of the Grand Army of the Republic, organized in 1881, was composed only of women who were the wives, sisters, mothers or daughters of honorably discharged Union soldiers, sailors, or marines who served in the war. Each of these groups had a local, state, and national organization. Their object was to assist the Grand Army of the Republic in its high and holy missions and to encourage and sympathize with them in their noble work of charity; to extend needful aid to members in sickness and distress; to aid sick soldiers, sailors, and marines; and to do all in their power to alleviate suffering. Other associated organizations of the Grand Army of the Republic, but not subordinate to it, included the Sons of Veterans, the Union Veteran Legion, Union Veteran's Union, Union Ex-prisoners of War Association, the Loyal Legion, and the Veteran's Rights Union.

**FROM JOHNSON TO HAYES:
RECONSTRUCTION ~1865-1877**

Johnson's Administration

Republican 1865-1869

Andrew Johnson, the seventeenth president of the United States, was born in poverty in Raleigh, North Carolina on December 29, 1808. He was orphaned at four years of age; at ten he was apprentice to a tailor. Being an ambitious boy, he learned to read with the help of one of the workmen. Writing, however, he did not yet aspire to, and it was not until after his

marriage that he learned the art, his wife being his teacher. At sixteen he set up as a tailor on his own account. Settling in east Tennessee, he became the leader of the Tennessee Democrats, who opposed the rule of the slaveholding aristocracy of the state. In 1835 he was elected to the state legislature; in 1841 he became state senator; and in 1843 a congressman, holding that office for ten years. He then became governor of Tennessee, serving two terms. In 1857 he was elected United States senator and proved himself a bold and active enemy of slavery. In 1862 President Lincoln made him military governor of Tennessee; in 1864 the Republicans nominated him for vice-president, though he was still a Democrat, and in 1865 he became president.

Johnson was a man of lofty principles and pure morals, and had a strong and keen intellect. He was, however, obstinate, quick-tempered, and lacking in the essential element of tact. His character accounts for the difficulties he met while president.

After having been president he continued actively in politics, and though he was several times defeated for office, he became United States senator once again in 1875. Johnson died near Carter's Station, Tennessee on July 29, 1875.

The Problems

A prolonged war always leaves a country in a disorganized condition, especially in regard to its finances and its business life, and tends to breed corruption in public affairs. The War Between the States had not only these effects, but one other result far different from these. It left the southern states ruined and conquered, without governments and without the materials from which to erect government. It was

impossible to turn the states over to those who had just been fighting against the Union. If the fruits of the war were not to be lost, it was felt that the national government must take charge of these states for a time. But that, said many, was contrary to the fundamental idea of the Union, that the states must manage their own affairs. In this difficulty, many people declared that the southern states no longer existed as states, but simply as territories of the United States; others asserted that they were still states, but without the rights and functions of states, and that the central government could impose conditions at their restoration. This last was the theory generally adopted. The process of restoring the seceded states to their old position was called Reconstruction.

Then came other questions: On what terms should they come back? Should these terms be easy or harsh? Who had the right to dictate what they should be, the president or Congress? Finally and most difficult and most important of all, what situation was the former slave to occupy?

Thirteenth Amendment

One point in this regard had been quickly settled. An amendment to the Constitution had been proposed by Congress in February, 1865, abolishing slavery forever. So the African-American was not to be a slave. But was he to have full privileges and powers of citizenry? Was he to vote? Was he to hold office? Or was he to be kept in a condition of inferiority, though free?

Beginning of Reconstruction

President Lincoln had early taken up the problem of Reconstruction. He believed that the president could restore the states to

the Union without the interference of Congress, and acted on that supposition. In December, 1863, he issued a proclamation granting pardon and restoring property ownership to those who gave up secession and swore to defend the Constitution and all the laws and proclamations emancipating the slaves. Only the most prominent leaders were refused these conditions. Lincoln then said that when one-tenth of the qualified citizens who had voted in 1860 should take the oath and set up state governments, the president would recognize these as the lawful governments of the states. Thus Reconstruction would be achieved, and by the president alone. Under this plan Arkansas was reconstructed in 1863; and Louisiana and Tennessee in 1864. Congress, however, did not agree with the president that he had the power to reconstruct states. On the contrary, it claimed that power for itself. It therefore opposed his plan and refused to admit senators and representatives from the newly-constituted states.

Johnson's Policy

Naturally, Johnson adopted Lincoln's plans, and since Congress was not in session when he became president and would not be for eight months, he could do as he pleased for that period of time. He therefore issued a proclamation of pardon in May, 1865, very much like that issued by President Lincoln. The reconstructed states, however, must ratify the thirteenth amendment abolishing slavery. The conditions being accepted by the southern states, excepting only Texas, he proceeded, in accordance with Lincoln's ideas, to reconstruct seven more states, Texas being the only one now left out. The acceptance of the thirteenth amendment by

these states made it part of the Constitution, and it was declared in force December 18, 1865.

Legislations Against the Freedmen

Several of the southern states passed laws virtually restoring slavery. Thus, in Virginia, all persons who would not work the wages commonly paid were declared vagrants and could be forced to work; in Mississippi African-American orphans and minors without means of support were to be hired out to masters until they became of age. This was slavery for that length of time. That there might be no mistaking the intention of the legislature, the master was given the right to whip the servant. African-American persons without employment were declared vagrants, and were to be arrested and fined. If unable to pay the fine, as they undoubtedly would be, they were to be hired out for a term of service. They were forbidden to carry arms or to preach the gospel without a license, and if they did so were fined. In South Carolina a similar code of laws was enacted, but additions were made to it—no freedman could have a trade or occupation other than agriculture or contract service without paying a special license of from \$10 to \$100.

The Congressional Theory

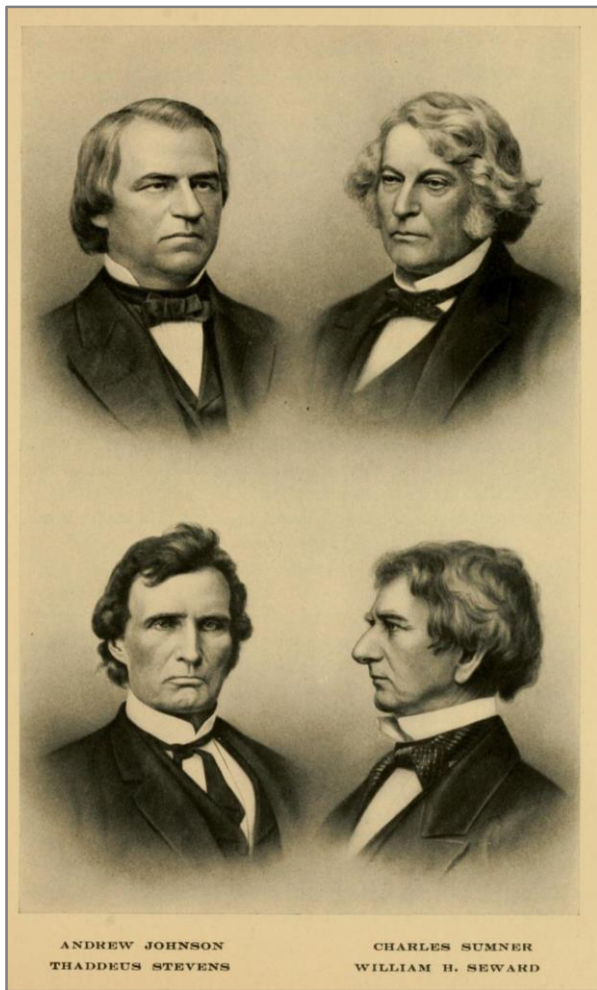
Congress met in December, 1866. Most of the Republican members were strongly opposed to the president's Reconstruction ideas. They were displeased, too, at the acts of the new southern legislatures. Were the southern states to be permitted to accept the thirteenth amendment, and then in mockery trample it under foot by making laws utterly nullifying its provisions? Assuredly not, replied the Republicans, who

refused to recognize Johnson's work and would not allow the senators and representatives from the southern states to take their seats.

Led by Representative Thaddeus Stevens of Pennsylvania and Senator Charles Sumner of Massachusetts, the radical Republicans began to prepare a Reconstruction plan of their own. They made good their right to do so by declaring that the states out of the Union were in the condition of territories, and so could be readmitted only by Congressional action. Hence the president on his own authority had no power whatever to restore those states. Acting on this theory, the radical Republicans declared that the southern states should not be considered to be included in the Union until Congress assented.

The Freedmen's Bureau

The Republicans then proceeded to thwart the nullifying laws passed by the southerners. The federal troops which were still in the South were ordered to stay there and protect the former slaves in their new-found liberty. This was effective. Congress then, in February, 1866, passed a bill continuing the Freedmen's Bureau, which had been created in 1865 to take care of sick and helpless freedmen and to render assistance of all kinds to the African-American people. The president vetoed the bill. In July Congress passed it again, and when the president vetoed it, they passed it over his veto. This was a fatal blow to the president's Reconstruction plans, for it proved that his opponents had possession of two-thirds of both houses and could always pass bills over his veto.



Reconstruction Leaders

The Fourteenth Amendment

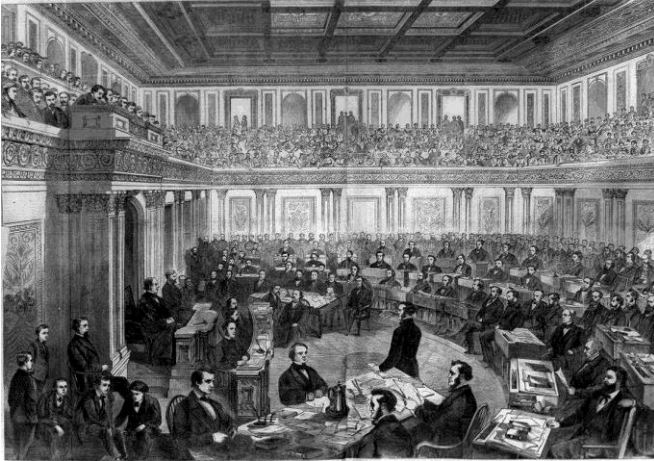
Congress then cleared the way for its plan of Reconstruction by passing a Civil Rights Bill, which gave the freedmen the same rights to “life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness” which full citizens possessed, but did not include political rights such as the privilege of voting or holding office. The president vetoed the bill, declaring it unconstitutional. Congress immediately passed it over the veto. To avoid the

objection of unconstitutionality, however, and to make certain that it should never be repealed, the Republicans resolved to force the Civil Rights Bill into the Constitution. Consequently a fourteenth amendment was proposed. This enacted that “all persons born or naturalized in the United States” were citizens of the United States and of the state in which they lived. No state was to diminish in any way the civil rights of any citizen. The federal courts were to be open to all citizens. Thus the former slave would be a citizen of the United States and could appeal to the national courts against such laws as those passed by the reconstructed states. The amendment did not compel the states to grant the privilege of voting. That the state could grant or refuse, but if refused, the representation of the state in Congress was to be reduced in proportion to the number of those who could not vote. The third section of the amendment made it impossible for those Confederate officers who had been in the service of the United States or of a state before the war to vote or to hold office. This restricted the president’s pardoning power, and would also throw government in the southern states into the hands of Union men and freedmen. The fourth section guaranteed the debt of the United States, and at the same time made all debts of the Confederacy null and void. These provisions were the same as those which had been put in the Civil Right Bill. The fourteenth amendment was declared in force in July 28, 1868.

Lesson Three

History Overview and Assignments Reconstruction

The issue of reconstruction in the South was a topic of debate through Johnson's term in office. It was Congress that eventually limited the power of the president in this area and enacted laws that affected the readmission of the Southern states into the Union and guidelines by which that readmission would occur.



An illustration of Andrew Johnson's impeachment trial

Reading and Assignments

- Review the discussion questions and vocabulary, then read the article: *Reconstruction*.
 - Narrate about today's reading using the appropriate notebook page. Be sure to answer the discussion questions and include key people, events, and dates within the narration.
 - Define the vocabulary words in the context of the reading and put the word and its definition in the vocabulary section of your history notebook.
- Be sure to visit www.ArtiosHCS.com for additional resources.

Vocabulary

scalawags
carpetbaggers

Key People, Places, and Events

Andrew Johnson
Reconstruction
The Purchase of Alaska

Discussion Questions

1. What was the main issue of the congressional campaigns of 1866?
2. How did Congress limit Johnson's powers?
3. What was required of the Southern states for them to be readmitted to the Union?
4. What four states refused that requirement and remained under military rule?
5. Why was President Johnson impeached?
6. From whom did the United States purchase Alaska?
7. Who became president in 1868?

History of the United States

by William M. Davidson

Reconstruction

The Congressional Election of 1866

The election of representatives to Congress in 1866 was expected to reveal the will of the northern people with regard to the fourteenth amendment and of the struggle between president and Congress. If the people sided with President Johnson, they would elect representatives favorable to his plan; if not, they would elect representatives favorable to the Congressional plan. The campaign was heated, and the president made most undignified and violent speeches against his opponents, abusing Congress, asserting that certain Congressmen were trying to destroy the Constitution, and more than hinting that the same individuals wished to have him assassinated. Such foolish and venomous talk made him contemptible, and helped materially to ruin the cause which he championed. As a consequence, the new Congress was to be more bitterly opposed to the president than the old one.

Congress Limits Johnson's Powers

While the elections were taking place, all the southern states, excepting only Tennessee, had contemptuously rejected the fourteenth amendment, which could not become part of the Constitution without their assent. Congress at once admitted Tennessee into the Union and decreed that the other ten seceded states could not come back until they had ratified the amendment. The Republicans then carried out a program which put them in complete control. In the

first place, the Congress just elected was authorized to meet on the 4th of March, 1867 instead of December. This would give the president no chance whatever to carry out measures which Congress opposed. The Republicans next passed the Tenure of Office Act, by which the president was forbidden to dismiss any government official without the consent of the Senate; they then enacted a third measure which made General Grant supreme as head over the army, so that the president's control over the troops could be taken away.

The Completed Reconstruction Measures

The Congress elected in 1866 met on the 4th of March, 1867 and at once completed the Reconstruction measures. The ten southern states still outside of the Union were divided into five military districts, over each of which a general was placed to carry out by military force the policy of Congress. The measures of Reconstruction were then detailed. The state governments recognized by the president were set aside; all citizens of the southern states who were not excluded by the fourteenth amendment were to elect delegates to state conventions. The conventions would draw up new constitutions. These constitutions, however, must allow for freedmen to vote. The constitution was next to be ratified by the same voters who had elected the delegates to the convention. The state would then be ready to enter the Union, but before

it came in, it must adopt the fourteenth amendment. Until that was done the military officers would remain in control.

Reconstruction Carried Out

This plan put the power of the southern states into the hands of southern Union men and the freedmen. The result was that the conventions in Arkansas, North Carolina, South Carolina, Alabama, Louisiana, and Florida accepted the conditions of Congress, approved the fourteenth amendment, and were recognized as being states with full state powers. The work was completed in June, 1868. Virginia, Mississippi, and Texas refused to accept the fourteenth amendment; Georgia, after accepting it, passed laws against former slaves and was refused admission. These four states, therefore, remained subject to military rule.

Military Rule in the South

The military government set up by Congress had absolute power in the southern states until Reconstruction was complete. The generals in command made regulations, dismissed and appointed civil officers at will, set aside the laws and institutions of the various states, and put military courts in the place of the civil courts. The former slaves were protected in their rights and encouraged to vote and hold office.

The New Governments

Where Reconstruction was completed, the new governments usually fell into the hands of the most incapable and least competent classes of the population. Not infrequently white men without property or character and without experience in

political life, contemptuously called “scalawags,” controlled the votes of former slaves, enabling them to secure the offices and plunder the country. They were joined by a number of northern men of much more ability and political experience, but most of whom came to the south to make fortunes. These people were called “carpetbaggers,” because in many cases they brought all their worldly possessions with them in a carpet-bag. Some of them were honest and desired to help the south, but many were neither honest nor helpful. Legislatures made up of three classes voted vast sums of money to themselves and their friends. In South Carolina a mixed legislature furnished the statehouse in magnificent style: clocks cost \$480 each; mirrors, \$750, and each member was voted a china cuspidor worth \$8. At the end of each session all this magnificent furniture mysteriously disappeared, and the legislative halls had to be refurnished at equal expense. Many of the legislators, and many of the judges, could neither read nor write. Some of these legislatures often voted money lavishly—even recklessly. Within four and a half years the debt of Louisiana was increased by \$106,000,000. Taxes became so oppressive that many impoverished southern planters could not pay them and had to part with the old plantations.

The Impeachment of President Johnson

Poor President Johnson, left in an office without power, and, on account of the Tenure of Office Act, denied the power to oust officials who were obnoxious to him, struggled angrily and vainly against the will of the majority in Congress. Finally, he resolved to dismiss Secretary Stanton, in

spite of the Tenure Act, which forbade his dismissing any official without the consent of the Senate. Hereupon Stanton appealed to the House of Representatives, which, on February 24, 1868, determined to impeach the president. The impeachment was brought before the Senate, with the chief justice, for this purpose, the presiding officer. On May 16 a vote was reached on the article charging Johnson with having broken the Tenure of Office Act. It was then found that two-thirds of the Senate would not declare the president guilty, the vote being 35 for conviction to 19 against. Hereupon the impeachment failed. This trial produced the greatest excitement both in Congress and throughout the country, and provoked much bitterness of party spirit.

The State of Nebraska

On March 1, 1867, Nebraska was admitted as the thirty-seventh state. The Constitution of the new state not only granted freedom to all men, but the vote to former slaves.

Mexico and the Monroe Doctrine

During the Civil War France had picked a quarrel with the Republic of Mexico, and Napoleon III had sent an expedition to that country in 1862. Once there, he refused to withdraw his army and finally set up the luckless Archduke Maximilian of Austria as

emperor of Mexico. The United States protested at once, but could do nothing. When the war was over, however, Secretary Seward hinted to the French minister that the Monroe Doctrine was being violated by the constant presence of French troops in Mexico. Matters now wore a different face, and Napoleon recognized the situation and withdrew. Thereupon the Mexicans took him captive, and on the 19th of June, 1867, executed him as a traitor.

The Purchase of Alaska

In 1867 the United States added Alaska to its territory by purchase from Russia. The credit for the annexation is Secretary Seward's. At the time there was much ridicule over the proceeding, and people were inclined to be indignant at the expenditure of over \$7,000,000 for a barren expanse of territory. Time, however, seems to have proven Seward's wisdom, since the mineral resources of the territory are of immense value.

Election of 1868

The Republicans were now through with Johnson for good or ill. In 1868 they nominated General Ulysses S. Grant for president. Horatio Seymour of New York was the Democratic candidate. Grant was easily elected, receiving 214 votes to Seymour's 80.