

SS8H6 The student will analyze the impact of the Civil War and Reconstruction on Georgia.

- c. Analyze the impact of Reconstruction on Georgia and other southern states, emphasizing Freedmen's Bureau; sharecropping and tenant farming; Reconstruction plans; 13th, 14th, and 15th amendments to the constitution; Henry McNeal Turner and black legislators; and the Ku Klux Klan.

FREEDMEN'S BUREAU

The thousands of **freedmen** (former slaves) faced great hardships. Homeless, uneducated, and free for first time in their lives, the freedmen had little more than the clothes on their backs. Many went from place to place looking for food, shelter, and work. Some traveled just to demonstrate that they could. Others searched for spouses, children, other family members, or friends who had been sold away from them during slavery.

In an effort to help the struggling freedmen, the United States government established the Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands in March 1865. Its first commissioner was Union General Oliver O. Howard, who later founded Howard University in Washington, D.C. The original purpose of the agency, which soon became known as the **Freedmen's Bureau**, was to help both former slaves and poor whites cope with their everyday problems by offering them clothing, food, and other necessities. After a while, the bureau's focus changed; it became concerned mainly with helping the freedmen adjust to their new circumstances. An important focus was education. The bureau set up over 4,000 primary schools, 64 industrial schools, and 74 teacher-training institutions for young African Americans in addition to spending over \$400,000 to help establish teacher-training centers.

Northerners and missionary societies helped by sending both money and teachers. In 1867, the American Missionary Association sponsored the chartering of Georgia's Atlanta University. The American Baptist Home Mission society organized Morehouse College in Augusta (which moved to Atlanta in 1870). A third Georgia Reconstruction-era school was Clark College in Atlanta, which first opened as a school for children.

255. The purpose of the Freedmen's Bureau was to help

- A. former slaves.
- B. all free people in the South.
- C. all poor people in the South.
- D. former slaves and poor whites.

256. Who was the first commissioner of the Freedmen's Bureau?

- A. Rufus Bullock
- B. Ulysses S. Grant
- C. Oliver O. Howard
- D. Alfred Terry

257. The BEST description of the Freedmen's Bureau during Reconstruction was that it

- A. registered newly freed slaves to vote.
- B. helped the newly freed slaves adjust to their freedom.
- C. provided education, training, and social services for the newly freed slaves.
- D. managed the distribution of farm land and animals to the newly freed slaves.

258. Which statement **BEST** describes the contributions of the Freedmen's Bureau in education?

- A. The bureau founded over 10,000 primary schools throughout the South for black and white children.
- B. The bureau established six major colleges in the South, all of which are located in the metropolitan Atlanta area.
- C. The bureau opened government agencies, including schools, colleges, and universities for poor blacks and whites in the South.
- D. The bureau set up thousands of primary schools, industrial or vocational schools, and teacher-training centers for African Americans in the South.

SHARECROPPING

After the war, planters and farmers needed laborers to work on their land. There were many former slaves, as well as some landless whites, who needed jobs. Workers who had nothing but their labor to offer often resorted to **sharecropping**. Under this system, the landowners provided land, a house, farming tools and animals, seed, and fertilizer. The workers agreed to give the owner a share of the harvest. Until the workers sold their crop, the owners often let them have food, medicine, clothing, and other supplies at high prices on credit. **Credit** is the ability to buy something now and pay for it later or over a period of time.

For many, this credit was their undoing. After selling the crop and paying the bills, the typical sharecropper had little, if any, cash left. Because few sharecroppers could not read or count, the planter or the store owner could easily cheat them, and many did. Year after year, sharecroppers were in debt. They had little hope they could ever save enough to buy their own land and equipment.

259. After the Civil War, what system was developed to provide labor to work the former plantations?

- A. Convict Lease
- B. Farmers' Alliance
- C. Knights of Labor
- D. Sharecropping

260. Sharecroppers paid their landowners by

- A. paying a monthly rental or lease fee.
- B. allowing landowners to use their equipment.
- C. providing labor and a large percentage of the crop.
- D. agreeing to work without pay for five to seven years.

261. With whom did sharecroppers share their harvest?

- A. landowners
- B. neighbors
- C. creditors
- D. the poor

TENANT FARMING

Tenant farming was similar to sharecropping. The main difference was that tenants usually owned some agricultural equipment and farm animals, such as mules. They also bought their own seed and fertilizer. At the end of the year, tenant farmers either paid the landowner a set amount of cash or an agreed-upon share of the crop. Because tenant farmers owned more than sharecroppers, they usually made a small profit. However, the lives of both groups were very hard. The tenant farming and sharecropping systems allowed landowners to keep their farms in operation without having to spend money for labor.

On the surface, it would seem that landowners who used tenants and sharecroppers made a profit while taking few risks. However, many landowners who did not have the money to buy the needed seed, fertilizer, and tools borrowed the money and used the crops to back up the loan. Interest on such loans was often more than the crops were worth. Because bankers expected farmers to grow cotton or tobacco year after year, the soil was eventually ruined. In time, many landowners in the South, like the sharecroppers and tenants who worked their land, became poorer each year.

262. How were tenant farmers different from sharecroppers?

- A. Tenant farmers owned all their equipment.
- B. Tenant farmers usually made a small profit.
- C. Tenant farmers bought their seed from the owner.
- D. Tenant farmers usually didn't pay rent for their houses.

263. Which BEST describes the differences between sharecropping and tenant farming?

- A. Sharecroppers received a percentage of the crops produced and could set aside cash money to purchase their own land, while tenant farmers had difficulty saving cash.
- B. Sharecroppers owned nothing but their labor, while tenant farmers owned farm animals and equipment to use in working other people's lands.
- C. Tenant farmers received a cash salary or wage for their farm work, while sharecroppers received only a portion of the crops they raised.
- D. Tenant farmers earned equity or an interest in the land they worked from year to year so that eventually they would own their own property.

RECONSTRUCTION PLANS

Lincoln Plan

During the closing days of the Civil War, President Lincoln developed a plan, commonly called the "Ten-Percent Plan," to rebuild the South and restore the southern states to the Union as quickly and easily as possible. The process was known as **Reconstruction**. Lincoln's plan had two simple steps: (1) All southerners, except for high-ranking Confederate civil and military leaders, would be pardoned after taking an oath of allegiance to the United States; and (2) when 10 percent of the voters in each state had taken the oath of loyalty, the state would be permitted to form a legal government and rejoin the Union.

Congressional Plan

Congress and many northerners thought that the South should be punished. They believed that those Confederate states that had seceded should be treated like a conquered country. In 1864, Congress passed the Wade-Davis Bill, which Lincoln saw as an attempt to punish the South for the actions of the secessionists. Lincoln did not sign the bill into law; he let it die quietly. This action signaled that there would be a fight over Reconstruction. Lincoln's assassination took place before his plan for Reconstruction went into effect. Upon Lincoln's death, Vice President Andrew Johnson, a North Carolinian, became the nation's seventeenth president. Soon after taking office, he took on

the responsibility for returning the former Confederate states to the Union. In June 1865, President Johnson appointed James Johnson as Georgia's provisional governor because, as a congressman, Johnson had opposed secession.

Johnson's Reconstruction plan was much like Lincoln's plan except that Johnson expanded the groups of southerners not granted a general pardon. Those who had owned property worth more than \$20,000 or those who had held high civil or military positions had to apply directly to the president for a pardon. At first, some of the radicals were willing to work with Johnson because they approved of his plan to offer a reward for the arrest of Jefferson Davis. But after Davis was captured and imprisoned, the radicals turned their attention back to the president's plan and began to disagree with it. They were afraid that the freedmen would be **disfranchised** (have their voting rights taken away). They also thought that the South deserved a greater punishment than Johnson's plan provided.

After some pressure, President Johnson added several more requirements. First, the southern states had to approve the Thirteenth Amendment, which made slavery illegal. Second, the southern states had to nullify their ordinances of secession. Third, the southern states had to promise not to repay the individuals and institutions that had helped finance the Confederacy.

264. What was President Abraham Lincoln's plan for Reconstruction called?

- A. 10 Percent Plan
- B. 100 Percent Plan
- C. Congressional Plan
- D. Radical Republican Plan

265. To whom did President Johnson's Reconstruction plan deny a general pardon?

- A. Southerners who owned more than 25 slaves
- B. Southerners who owned more than 50 slaves
- C. Southerners who owned more than \$20,000 worth of land
- D. Southerners who owned more than \$50,000 worth of land

266. Why was President Lincoln's Reconstruction plan NOT enacted?

- A. The Wade-Davis bill took its place.
- B. The plan was too easy on the South.
- C. The plan did not have the support of the states.
- D. The plan did not become effective before Lincoln was assassinated.

267. Why did President Johnson appoint James Johnson as provisional governor of Georgia in 1865?

- A. He had opposed succession as a congressman.
- B. He was extremely popular with the people of Georgia.
- C. He denounced the Congressional Reconstruction plan.
- D. He had supported Johnson when he ran for vice president.

268. Which statement **BEST** describes the most important difference between the Reconstruction plans of President Lincoln and the radical Congress?

- A. Lincoln's plan involved bringing the nation back together to heal the wounds of war.
- B. The Congressional plan sought to punish the South and prevent its reentry into the Union.
- C. Lincoln's plan required loyalty oaths and sought to help the South reenter the Union quickly.
- D. The Congressional plan treated the southern states like conquered provinces requiring Congress to monitor the treatment of freedmen.

THIRTEENTH, FOURTEENTH, AND FIFTEENTH AMENDMENTS

After the Civil War, three amendments were passed and ratified to ensure the rights of the former slaves. These three amendments are sometimes called the Reconstruction Amendments.

The **Thirteenth Amendment** to the U.S. Constitution, which continued the work of the Emancipation Proclamation, officially abolished slavery. The amendment was passed by Congress in January 1865 and submitted to the states for ratification. It was ratified in December 1865. President Andrew Johnson made ratification of the amendment a requirement for the southern states to rejoin the Union.

Although the Thirteenth Amendment abolished slavery, it did not abolish **discrimination** (unfair treatment of a person or group because of prejudice). By 1865, most of the southern states, including Georgia, had passed a number of laws known as **Black Codes**, which were designed to restrict the rights of the freedmen. Congressional reaction to the Black Codes was fairly swift. The **Fourteenth Amendment** granted citizenship to the freedmen and forbade any state from denying anyone the "equal protection of the law." Congress passed the amendment in June 1866, and it was ratified in July 1868.

The **Fifteenth Amendment** granted all male citizens the right to vote regardless of "race, color, or previous condition of servitude." The amendment was submitted to the states in February 1869 and ratified in February 1870.

269. What did the Thirteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution do that brought about many changes in Georgia's society and economic structure after the Civil War?

- A. It freed the slaves.
- B. It changed who owned land.
- C. It gave blacks the right to vote.
- D. It made blacks United States citizens.

270. Under the terms of the radical Congressional plan of Reconstruction, what amendment did a southern state have to ratify before it could rejoin the Union?

- A. Thirteenth
- B. Fourteenth
- C. Fifteenth
- D. Sixteenth

271. What did the Fourteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution do?

- A. It abolished slavery.
- B. It gave blacks citizenship.
- C. It gave blacks the right to vote.
- D. It gave blacks the right to own property.

_____ **272. What did the Fifteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution do?**

- A. It abolished slavery.
- B. It gave blacks citizenship.
- C. It gave blacks the right to vote.
- D. It gave blacks the right to own property.

_____ **273. The Fourteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution was passed in response to the**

- A. adoption of laws known as Black Codes by the southern states.
- B. rising violence from terrorist organizations such as the Ku Klux Klan.
- C. refusal of white southerners to provide freedmen with land and farm animals.
- D. refusal of some southern states to adopt constitutional provisions calling for an end to slavery.

HENRY MCNEAL TURNER AND BLACK LEGISLATORS

In 1867, African Americans voted for the first time in Georgia. In 1868, they helped elect a Republican governor. They also helped elect twenty-nine African Americans to the Georgia house of representatives and three African Americans to the Georgia senate. Some of those elected were Tunis G. Campbell, Jr., Henry McNeal Turner, and Aaron A. Bradley. However, all of these men were expelled in September 1868 on the grounds that although the constitution had given them the right to vote, it did not specifically give them the right to hold political office.

During Reconstruction, African Americans formed the largest group of southern Republicans, and thousands voted in the new elections to help keep Republicans in power. By the same token, Republican carpetbaggers, along with some agents and many volunteers of the Freedmen's Bureau, worked hard to make African Americans part of the political scene.

Realizing political empowerment (the ability to bring about change) for the first time, thousands joined the Union League, which had become the freedmen's political organization. From church meetings to picnics and family gatherings, politics became "the" topic of discussion and debate.

_____ **274. Henry McNeal Turner was expelled from his seat in the Georgia state legislature on the grounds that he did not**

- A. win the election fairly and honestly.
- B. have the knowledge to be a legislator.
- C. have the right to ~~vote~~ or hold political office.
- D. live in the district from which he was elected.

_____ **275. Which political organization did African Americans join during Reconstruction?**

- A. the Union League
- B. the Ku Klux Klan
- C. the Freedmen's Bureau
- D. the Civil Rights Bureau

KU KLUX KLAN

During Reconstruction, the **Ku Klux Klan** became a force in Georgia. The Klan, as it was called, was one of several secret organizations that tried to keep freedmen from exercising their new civil rights. The group began in Pulaski, Tennessee, in 1865 as a social club for returning soldiers. However, it quickly changed into a force of terror. Its members dressed in robes and hoods so no one would recognize them. They terrorized and intimidated African Americans to keep them from voting and, by doing so, to return control of the state to the Democrats. There were numerous reports of beatings, whippings, and murders.

Freedmen who were not frightened away from the polls were carefully watched. Those voting Republican lay awake at night listening for the sounds of horses, indicating the Klan was nearby. All knew that the price for **suffrage** (voting rights) could be death. Hostilities between whites and African Americans increased, and there were many incidents of racial conflict.

Ku Klux Klan activities increased throughout the state, and there was evidence that the group had prevented many African Americans from voting in the 1868 presidential election. Governor Rufus Bullock appealed to the federal government for help. Congress responded by passing the **Georgia Act** in December 1869. This law returned Georgia to military control for the third time. General Alfred Terry became Georgia's new military commander, and Rufus Bullock became the provisional governor.

- _____ 276. **Beginning soon after the end of the Civil War, what secret organization used force and violence to influence Georgia's society?**
- A. United Confederate Veterans
 - B. Free and Accepted Masons
 - C. Freedmen's Bureau
 - D. Ku Klux Klan
- _____ 277. **The Ku Klux Klan began in Tennessee in 1865 as a**
- A. social club.
 - B. terrorist group.
 - C. college fraternity.
 - D. church organization.
- _____ 278. **Perhaps the main goal of the Ku Klux Klan was to**
- A. return control of the southern governments to the Democrats.
 - B. force the carpetbaggers to move back north.
 - C. attract members from all social classes.
 - D. return land to former Confederates.
- _____ 279. **What was the Georgia Act of 1869?**
- A. federal legislation returning Georgia to military control because of KKK terrorism against freedmen
 - B. federal legislation refusing to admit Georgia to the Union until it ratified the Thirteenth Amendment
 - C. state legislation allowing freedmen the right to vote and the right to hold public office
 - D. state legislation ending Reconstruction in Georgia thanks to its demonstrated success