

Report Cards on Reconstruction

Directions: For each Reconstruction issue, read President Johnson's plan and the Radical Republicans' plan. Discuss with your group members the strengths and weaknesses of each plan. Keep in mind that the goal of Reconstruction was to reunite the country in a stable and fair way. Then, give each plan a letter grade, and explain your reason for assigning that grade. Group members do not have to agree on the same grade.

Grading Scale		
A = Excellent plan, no weaknesses	B = Good plan, has only minor weaknesses	C = Some good parts and some weaknesses
	D = Only limited strengths and major weaknesses	F = Plan is doomed for failure

<u>Reconstruction Issue #1: What should be done to Southerners who rebelled?</u>			
Radical Republicans' Plan		President Johnson's Plan	
I would give this plan a grade of	(Explain your reason for assigning grade...strengths and weaknesses)	I would give this plan a grade of	(Explain your reason for assigning grade...strengths and weaknesses)
_____		_____	
because...		because...	

<u>Reconstruction Issue #2: What should Southern states be required to do to be re-admitted into the Union?</u>			
Radical Republicans' Plan		President Johnson's Plan	
I would give this plan a grade of	(Explain your reason for assigning grade...strengths and weaknesses)	I would give this plan a grade of	(Explain your reason for assigning grade...strengths and weaknesses)
_____		_____	
because...		because...	

<u>Reconstruction Issue #3 What should be done for the freedmen</u>			
Radical Republicans' Plan		President Johnson's Plan	
I would give this plan a grade of	(Explain your reason for assigning grade...strengths and weaknesses)	I would give this plan a grade of	(Explain your reason for assigning grade...strengths and weaknesses)
_____		_____	
because...		because...	

Reconstruction Plans

<u>Reconstruction Issue #1: What should be done to Southerners who rebelled?</u>	
Radical Republicans' Plan	President Johnson's Plan
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Southerners should be punished so they would not rebel again. One idea was to confiscate (take away) all the plantations and divided up the land among freedmen. • Leaders of the South should lose their governmental positions. A new set of leaders should be brought in to reconstruct the South. Any person who held a leadership position before the war could not hold public office until he was pardoned (forgiven) by Congress. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Southerners had to take an oath (verbal pledge) to support, protect, and defend the Constitution of the United States. The oath also included a promise to obey all laws passed during the war, especially regarding the emancipation (freeing) of the slaves. • Confederate officers, large landholders, and any other leaders of the pre-war South had to seek a special pardon (forgiveness) if they wanted to regain their rights as citizens. • Lincoln's idea of "malice (hatred) towards none" was a good one. Being lenient (easy) towards Southerners would heal the wounds of the nation more effectively and quickly.

<u>Reconstruction Issue #2: What should Southern states be required to do to be re-admitted into the Union?</u>	
Radical Republicans' Plan	President Johnson's Plan
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Southern states had given up statehood by seceding from the Union. They needed to be punished for their actions. • In order to come back into the union as a state, a southern state would have to meet these conditions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Call a convention to write a new state constitution ○ Guarantee African Americans full rights as citizens ○ Guarantee African Americans the right to vote ○ Former Confederate officials and army officers could not vote on these issues • The states would be ruled by the military until all new laws were enforced. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Individual leaders of the Southern states – not the states themselves – had made the decisions to secede. Therefore, states should not be punished harshly for secession. It was in the best interest of the country to reunite all states as quickly and as easily as possible. • In order to come back into the union, Southern states would have to meet these conditions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Call a convention to write a new state constitution ○ Repeal (do away with) secession ○ Cancel all Confederate debts ○ Approve of the 13th Amendment, which abolished slavery • Once the above conditions were met, Southerners were allowed to run their own states, hold elections, and send representatives to Congress.

<u>Reconstruction Issue #3 What should be done for the freedmen</u>	
Radical Republicans' Plan	President Johnson's Plan
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • African Americans should be guaranteed equal rights and be assisted in establishing new lives as free people. Congress should pass laws giving some land to the freedmen and build schools for them. In fact, it was Congress's duty to help out African Americans until they could provide for themselves. • Freedmen will only receive justice and security if they are considered full citizens –just like whites – under the law. Many felt the right to vote was also key. • The military should have control over enforcing all laws helping the freedmen. Without troops in the South, Radical Republicans feared that Southerners would simply ignore the new laws and continue to discriminate against freedmen. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • African Americans should be guaranteed equal rights only if individual states wanted to grant them to the freedmen. The federal government should not force Southern governments to accept new laws regarding the freedmen. Whether or not the freedmen ought to be given land, education, or assistance was up to each state. • African Americans should not be guaranteed the right to vote. Only certain African Americans should be given the vote, like those who could read and right.

