**1.2**

Reconstruction Lecture Handout

Key Terms:

13th amendment

14th amendment

15th amendment

Poll tax

Literacy Test

Jim Crow Laws

Defacto segregation

Dejure segregation

Plessy v. Ferguson

Brown v. Board of Education

Freedman’s Bureau

Radical Republican

Carpetbagger

Sharecropper

“The slave went free, stood a brief moment in the sun; then moved back again toward slavery.”  
  
 -- W.E.B Du Bois

**Essential Questions**

* Is America a land of opportunity?
* Was it possible to have a peace of reconciliation after the Civil War?
* What should the United States government have done in order to give freed slaves equal opportunity?
* Why did Reconstruction fail?
* Why did Jim Crow laws exist for 100 years in America?

**After the Civil War 3 amendments were ratified:**

•**13th Amendment** – abolished slavery

•**14th Amendment** - African Americans given citizenship & due process

•**15th Amendment** - African American **men** given right to vote

But…

•Most white Southerners resented the new rights of African Americans

•White Southerners did everything they could to infringe on their new rights

**African Americans Lost *Economic Power***

•40 Acres & a mule- After slavery, many African Americans thought they would get this, but didn’t

•Sharecropping - Instead work on land owned by whites & share profits from crops

**African Americans Lost *Political Power***

•Poll taxes - had to pay to vote

•Literacy Test - Had to read to vote

•Grandfather Clause - Could get around the first two if your grandfather could vote before 1870

**Jim Crow Laws – ANY LAW THAT DISCRIMINATES AGAINST AFRICAN AMERICANS**

Segregation

* began as customs (defacto), but ended up as laws (dejure)
* Named after “Jim Crow” song & dance from minstrel shows

What parts of society were segregated?

* Schools, cemeteries, courts, hospitals, mental institutions, orphanages, prisons, & Bibles to swear on in trials

**Plessy vs. Ferguson (1896):**

• **What happened?** Homer Plessey tried to sit in a whites-only train car

• **How did the Supreme Court Rule?** Segregation is ok as long as the facilities are equal

• “Separate but Equal”

Separate but Equal is **Never** Equal

* Example: Whites would **never** fund black schools equally.
* Being denied access into a building because of the color of your skin is NOT equality
* Goes against 14th Amendment

**Jim Crow Violence:**

How else did Southern Whites enforce Jim Crow?

* **Ku Klux Klan -** secret terrorist society that beat, raped, and murdered African Americans. The KKK was formed by white southerners to help them regain power & to keep African Americans and White Republicans out of office.
* **Lynching -** a mob puts someone to death without a trial

Between 1880-1968 nearly 5,000 blacks were lynched

**Why**?

* “incorrect behavior”
* economic competition between blacks and whites a.k.a. jealously

**How did African Americans resist?**

* Spoke out against discrimination
* Organized sit-ins of segregated facilities
* Tried to improve segregated facilities

**When did it end?**

* WWII (1941-1945) jumpstarted the Civil Rights movement in the US
* CIVIL RIGHTS ERA in 1950s and 1960s
* 1954 case Brown V. Board of Education declared segregation in schools illegal
* Schools desegregated with “All deliberate speed”

***However…***

Public Schools in Tulsa not desegregated until 1974

**Rebuilding the Nation**

* After the war the south lay in ruins (destroyed)
* Nearly 4 million freedmen (freed slaves) needed food, clothing, & jobs
* President Lincoln planned for Reconstruction, the rebuilding of the South

**Lincoln’s Plan for Reconstruction**

* Reunite Union quickly
* Southern state could form a new government after 10 % of its voters swore loyalty to U.S.
* States also had to abolish slavery
* Many in Congress didn’t like Lincoln’s plan & wanted a stricter form of Reconstruction

**Freedman’s Bureau**

* Freedman’s Bureau was created by Congress
  + It gave food, clothing, & other kinds of help to the freedman.

**The Great Emancipator is murdered**

* Lincoln is assassinated by John Wilkes Booth on April 14, 1865
* Andrew Johnson became 17th President.
* He was a Southern Democrat and Republicans did not like him.

**Andrew Johnson’s Plan for Reconstruction**

* In each southern state, a majority of voters must swear loyalty to the U.S.
* Each state must approve the 13th Amendment
* Then each state could rejoin the Union

**Radical Reconstruction**

* After the war, most southern states quickly ratified the 13th Amendment (ended slavery)
  + Then passed Black Codes or Jim Crow Laws, which limited the rights of African Americans.
* Radical Republicans in Congress decide to take over Reconstruction
  + Radical Republicans were a wing of the Republican Party organized around an uncompromising opposition to slavery before and during the Civil War and a vigorous campaign to secure rights for freed slaves during Reconstruction.
  + They wanted to break the power of the southern planters and to make sure African Americans had the right to vote.
  + They helped pass the 14th and 15th amendments as well as the Reconstruction Acts
  + One of the Reconstruction Acts divided the South (except Tennessee) into five military districts in which the authority of the army commander was supreme.

**Civil Rights Act of 1866**

* Enacted April 9, 1866, was the first United States federal law to define US citizenship and affirmed that all citizens were equally protected by the law. It was mainly intended to protect the civil rights of African-Americans.

**Carpetbaggers**

* Carpetbaggers were Northerners who came to the South during Reconstruction to take advantage of the people in the South.
* They went to the South after the Civil War to profit from the Reconstruction
* They were called Carpetbaggers because many of them carried bags made from old carpet. Southerners disliked & resented them.

**Sharecroppers**

* Landless black and white sharecroppers became locked in a *cycle of poverty*.
* Sharecroppers: person who farms land owned by another in exchange for a share of the crops

**Reconstruction officially ends in 1877**

* Reconstruction ended after presidential candidate Rutherford B. Hayes made a private deal with southern politicians.
* After Reconstruction, a new industrial economy began to emerge in the South.
* Reconstruction largely considered a failure due to the struggles that African Americans face in this country, especially in the South, for years to come.

Booker T. Washington and W.E.B. Du Bois



Directions:

1. I will assign you Booker T. or W.E.B
2. Read the description you are assigned
3. Fill out your side of the Venn Diagram
4. We will discuss as a class and fill out the rest of the diagram

Booker T. Washington-

Born a slave in Virginia. After emancipation he moved west and became educated. He attended college and then became the leader of the Tuskegee Institute. The Tuskegee Institute was a college for African Americans with programs for job training and vocational skills. He felt that black people should work to gain economic security before equal rights. He believed black people will “earn” equality. He asked whites to give job opportunities to black people. He was popular with white leaders in the North and South.

W.E.B. Du Bois-

Born in 1868 in Great Barrington, Massachusetts

He was very well educated and became the first African American to receive a Ph.D. from Harvard University.

His best-known book is *The Souls of Black Folk* written in 1903. He strongly opposed Booker T. Washington’s tolerance of segregation. He demanded immediate equality for blacks. He felt talented black students should get a classical education. He felt it was wrong to expect citizens to “earn their rights.” He founded the NAACP along with other black and white leaders in 1909.

Booker T. and W.E.B.

"It seems to me," said Booker T.,

"It shows a mighty lot of cheek

To study chemistry and Greek

When Mister Charlie needs a hand

To hoe the cotton on his land,

And when Miss Ann looks for a cook,

Why stick your nose inside a book?"

"I don't agree," said W.E.B.

"If I should have the drive to seek

Knowledge of chemistry or Greek,

I'll do it. Charles and Miss can look

Another place for hand or cook,

Some men rejoice in skill of hand,

And some in cultivating land,

But there are others who maintain

The right to cultivate the brain."

"It seems to me," said Booker T.,

"That all you folks have missed the boat

Who shout about the right to vote,

And spend vain days and sleepless nights

In uproar over civil rights.

Just keep your mouths shut, do not grouse,

But work, and save, and buy a house."

"I don't agree," said W.E.B.

"For what can property avail

If dignity and justice fail?

Unless you help to make the laws,

They'll steal your house with trumped-up clause.

A rope's as tight, a fire as hot,

No matter how much cash you've got.

Speak soft, and try your little plan,

But as for me, I'll be a man."

"It seems to me," said Booker T.--

"I don't agree,"

Said W.E.B.

Dudley Randall (1914 - 2000)