

reconstruction and 1876 crash course us history 22 worksheet answers

Reconstruction and the 1876 Crash Course in U.S. History represent pivotal moments in American history, shaping the nation in the aftermath of the Civil War and the challenges that followed. Understanding this era is essential for grasping the complexities of American society, politics, and economics in the late 19th century. This article provides a detailed overview of the Reconstruction period, the events surrounding the 1876 presidential election, and a summary of the Crash Course U.S. History 22 worksheet answers related to these topics.

Overview of Reconstruction

Reconstruction refers to the period from 1865 to 1877, following the Civil War, during which the United States grappled with reintegrating the Southern states that had seceded, as well as addressing the status of the newly freed African American population. This era was marked by significant political, social, and economic changes.

Goals of Reconstruction

The main objectives of Reconstruction included:

1. Restoration of the Union: Reintegrating the Southern states into the Union.
2. Civil Rights for Freedmen: Establishing and protecting the civil rights of formerly enslaved people.
3. Economic Recovery: Rebuilding the Southern economy, which had been devastated by the war.
4. Political Stability: Creating a stable political environment in the South.

Phases of Reconstruction

Reconstruction can be divided into three main phases:

1. Presidential Reconstruction (1865-1867): Initiated by President Abraham Lincoln and continued by his successor, Andrew Johnson. This phase was characterized by lenient policies toward the South, allowing for rapid reintegration with minimal requirements.
2. Radical Reconstruction (1867-1877): Led by the Republican majority in Congress, this period saw the implementation of the Reconstruction Acts, which divided the South into military districts and required states to draft new constitutions guaranteeing African American men the right to vote.
3. Redemption (1870s): As Southern Democrats regained power, they implemented measures to suppress African American voting and civil rights, leading to the eventual end of Reconstruction.

Key Legislation of Reconstruction

Several critical pieces of legislation were enacted during Reconstruction, including:

- The Freedmen's Bureau (1865): Established to support newly freed slaves by providing food, housing, education, and medical care.
- The Civil Rights Act of 1866: Aimed to protect the rights of African Americans and counteract the Black Codes implemented by Southern states.
- The Reconstruction Amendments:
 - 13th Amendment (1865): Abolished slavery.
 - 14th Amendment (1868): Granted citizenship to all persons born or naturalized in the U.S. and provided equal protection under the law.
 - 15th Amendment (1870): Prohibited denying the right to vote based on race, color, or previous condition of servitude.

Challenges of Reconstruction

Despite its ambitious goals, Reconstruction faced numerous obstacles:

- Resistance from Southern Whites: Many white Southerners opposed Reconstruction efforts, leading to the formation of groups like the Ku Klux Klan, which used violence and intimidation to suppress African American rights.
- Economic Hardships: The South's economy struggled to recover from the devastation of the Civil War, leading to widespread poverty and unemployment.
- Political Compromise: The desire for national unity often led to compromises that undermined the rights of African Americans, such as the Compromise of 1877, which effectively ended Reconstruction in exchange for resolving the disputed 1876 presidential election.

The 1876 Presidential Election

The 1876 election was one of the most contentious in American history, featuring a close contest between Republican Rutherford B. Hayes and Democrat Samuel J. Tilden.

Background and Context

The election took place against a backdrop of economic turmoil and declining support for Reconstruction. Tilden won the popular vote and appeared to have a clear victory in the electoral vote; however, disputed returns from several Southern states complicated the outcome.

Disputed States and Controversy

The states in question included:

- Florida
- Louisiana
- South Carolina

Each of these states had allegations of electoral fraud, leading to competing sets of electors being sent to Congress.

The Compromise of 1877

To resolve the electoral impasse, a bipartisan commission was created, which ultimately awarded the presidency to Hayes in exchange for several concessions:

- The withdrawal of federal troops from the South, effectively ending Reconstruction.
- The appointment of at least one Southern Democrat to Hayes's cabinet.
- Federal support for internal improvements in the South.

This agreement marked the beginning of the Jim Crow era, as Southern states enacted laws to disenfranchise African Americans and impose racial segregation.

Crash Course U.S. History 22 Worksheet Answers

The Crash Course U.S. History series, hosted by John Green, provides a comprehensive overview of U.S. history in an engaging format. Episode 22 focuses on the Reconstruction era, highlighting key themes, events, and figures.

Key Points from Episode 22

1. Reconstruction as a Failure: The episode emphasizes that despite initial successes, Reconstruction ultimately failed to secure lasting protections for African Americans and led to systemic racism and segregation.
2. Radical Republicans: It discusses the role of Radical Republicans in pushing for civil rights and their eventual decline in power as Southern Democrats regained control.
3. The Role of Violence: The episode highlights the impact of violence and intimidation on African American communities and their voting rights, particularly from groups like the Ku Klux Klan.
4. Economic Factors: The economic challenges faced by the South and the implementation of sharecropping are explored, showing how these systems perpetuated a cycle of poverty.

5. Legacy of Reconstruction: The episode concludes by examining the long-term effects of Reconstruction on American society, including how unresolved issues of race and equality continue to resonate today.

Worksheet Answers Overview

The worksheet associated with Crash Course U.S. History 22 typically includes questions that encourage students to reflect on the material presented in the episode. Key answers might include:

- What were the main goals of Reconstruction?
 - To restore the Union, secure civil rights for freed slaves, and rebuild the Southern economy.
- What factors led to the end of Reconstruction?
 - Rising violence, political compromise, and the withdrawal of federal troops.
- How did the 1876 election impact Reconstruction?
 - It marked the end of federal intervention in the South and the beginning of the Jim Crow era.

In summary, the Reconstruction era and the events of the 1876 presidential election were critical in shaping the trajectory of American history. Understanding this period provides insight into the ongoing struggles for civil rights and equality in the United States. The Crash Course U.S. History 22 episode serves as an invaluable resource for students seeking to grasp the complexities and consequences of Reconstruction and its enduring legacy.

Frequently Asked Questions

What was the main goal of the Reconstruction era after the Civil War?

The main goal of the Reconstruction era was to restore the United States as a unified nation and to integrate formerly enslaved individuals into society as free citizens with equal rights.

What significant events occurred during the Reconstruction period?

Significant events during the Reconstruction period included the passing of the 13th, 14th, and 15th Amendments, the establishment of the Freedmen's Bureau, and various Reconstruction Acts aimed at rebuilding the South.

What was the 1876 crash, and how did it impact the United States?

The 1876 crash, also known as the Panic of 1873, was a financial crisis that led to a major economic depression, causing bank failures, high unemployment, and a halt in economic growth, affecting both the North and the South.

What role did the Compromise of 1877 play in the end of Reconstruction?

The Compromise of 1877 resolved the disputed 1876 presidential election and effectively ended Reconstruction by withdrawing federal troops from the South, allowing Southern states to regain control and implement discriminatory laws.

How did the Reconstruction Amendments impact African Americans?

The Reconstruction Amendments—13th (abolition of slavery), 14th (citizenship and equal protection), and 15th (voting rights)—were intended to protect the rights of African Americans, though many faced significant resistance and discrimination.

What were the Black Codes, and how did they affect Reconstruction?

Black Codes were laws enacted in Southern states that restricted the freedoms of African Americans and aimed to maintain white supremacy, undermining the progress made during Reconstruction and leading to increased tensions.

Why is the term 'Reconstruction' considered controversial?

The term 'Reconstruction' is considered controversial because it evokes differing interpretations of the era, with debates on whether it was a success in integrating African Americans or a failure due to persistent racism and economic challenges.

What was the significance of the election of 1876 in American history?

The election of 1876 was significant due to its disputed results, leading to a compromise that ended Reconstruction and marked a turning point in U.S. politics, resulting in the withdrawal of federal support for civil rights in the South.

How did the economic conditions post-1876 influence racial relations in the South?

Post-1876 economic conditions, marked by depression and hardship, led to increased competition for jobs, which exacerbated racial tensions and contributed to the establishment of Jim Crow laws that enforced racial segregation.

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Worksheet Answers

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