

The Effects of Reconstruction 1876

**Middle School 8th grade
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DIRECTION: Analyze the following documents. Use the documents and your knowledge of American history, to answer the questions that follow each document. Your answers will help you write a short essay related to the documents.

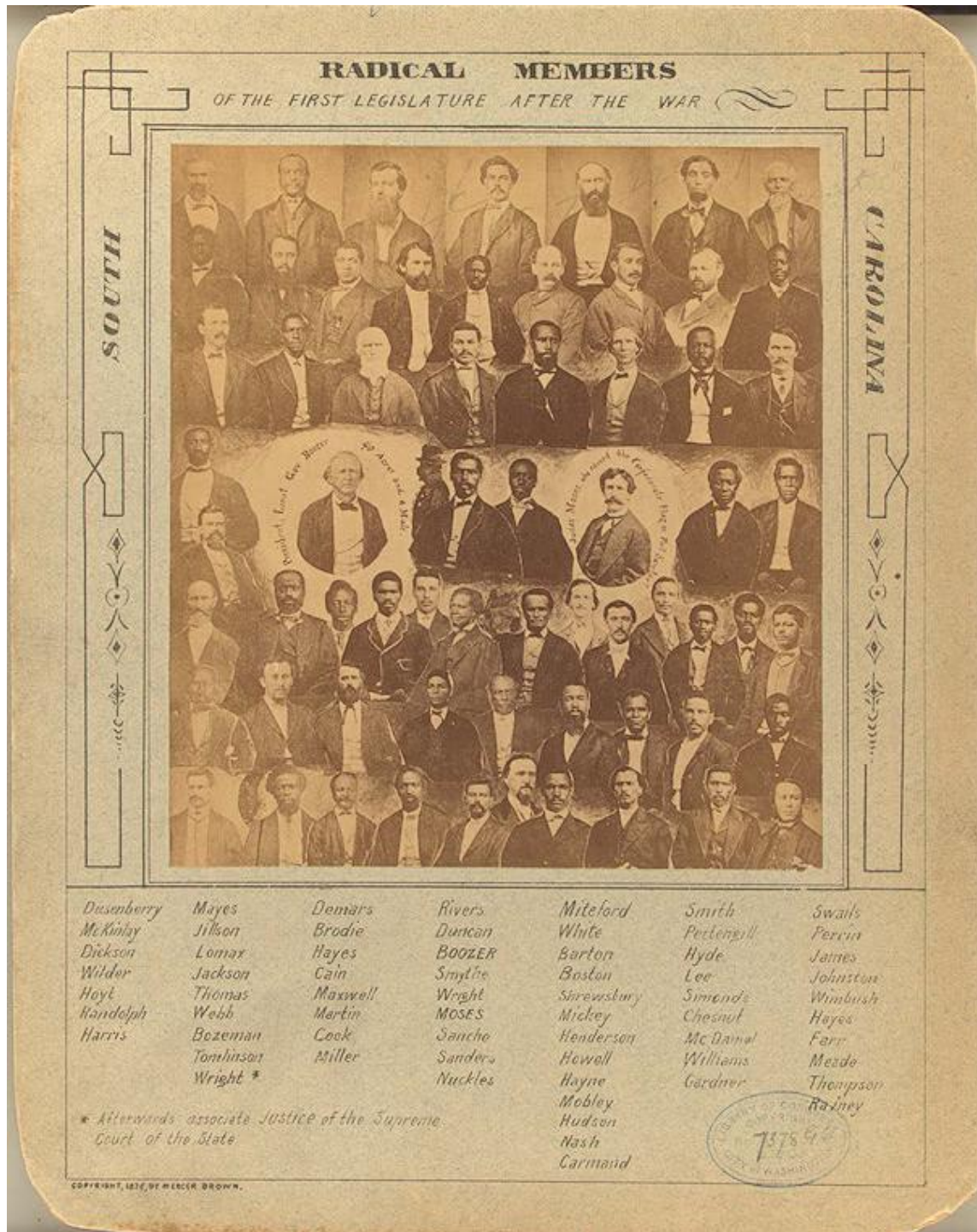
HISTORICAL CONTEXT:

In the 1870's, many violent acts were committed in the South and the North because of the nation's commitment to equality. This resulted in the end of Reconstruction. By 1876, the nation was prepared to abandon its commitment to equality for all citizens no matter what the race.

QUESTION:

Consider why it was necessary for the nation to end reconstruction. Examine the idea that blacks gained the right to vote. What issues arose in the North and South which caused the Nation to abandon the idea of equality for all people?

Document 1



http://images.google.com/imgres?imgurl=http://whgbetc.com/mind/reconstruction_nc.jpg&imgrefurl=http://whgbetc.com/mind/reconstruction1.html&h=750&w=603&sz=123&tbnid=MATwFgk_Pc334M:&tbnh=141&tbnw=113&prev=/images%3Fq%3Dpictures%2Bof%2Breconstruction%26um%3D1&start=2&sa=X&oi=images&ct=image&cd=2

1a. What cultural changes were in the First Legislature after the war?

1b. Based on the photograph, how many members were Radical members?

Document 2



Feb. 1866 - Laura M. Towne

http://www.digitalhistory.uh.edu/reconstruction/section1/section1_14.html

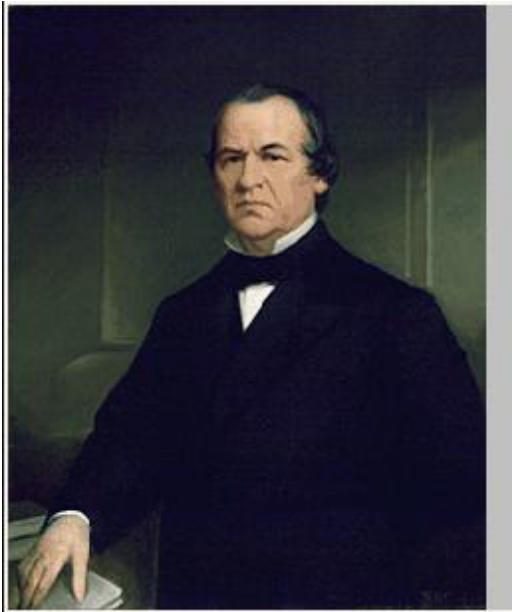
2a. Examine the photograph and explain what the lady is doing with these children?

2b. What year was this picture taken?

2c. Who is the woman sitting in the photograph?

Document 3

Andrew Johnson
Cleveland speech
September 3, 1866



And let me say tonight [swing around the circla. Not only were his remarks undignified, but he permitted himself to be drawn into exchanges with hecklers, probably planted in the audience by Radical leaders. Cleveland's Radical newspaper, the Leader, gleefully pronounced this speech the most disgraceful ever delivered by any president of the United States.](#)"note

that my head has been threatened. It has been said that my blood was to be shed. Let me say to those who are still willing to sacrifice my life [derisive laughter and cheers], if you want a victim and my country requires it, erect your altar, and the individual who addresses you tonight, while here a visitor, ["No," "No," and laughter,] erect your altar if you still thirst for blood, and if you want it, take out the individual who now addresses you and lay him upon your altar, and the blood that now courses his veins and warms his existence shall be poured out as a last libation to Freedom. I love my country, and I defy any man to put his finger upon anything to the contrary. Then what is my offence? [Voices, "You ain't a radical," "New Orleans," "Veto."] Somebody says "Veto." Veto of what? What is called the Freedmen's Bureau bill, and in fine, not to go into any argument here tonight, if you do not understand what the Freedmen's Bureau bill is, I can tell you. [Voice, "Tell us."] Before the rebellion there were 4,000,000 called colored persons held as slaves by about 340,000 people living in the South. That is, 340,000 slave owners paid expenses, bought land, and worked the negroes, and at the expiration of the year when cotton, tobacco, and rice were gathered and sold, after all paying expenses, these slave owners put the money in their pockets- [slight interruption]-your attention-they put the property in their pocket. In many instances there was no profit, and many came out in debt. Well that is the way things stood before the rebellion. The rebellion commenced and the slaves were turned loose. Then we come to the Freedmen's Bureau bill. And what did the bill propose? It proposed to appoint agents and sub-agents in all the cities, counties, school districts, and parishes, with power to make contracts for all the slaves, power to control, and power to hire them out-dispose of them, and in addition to that the whole military power of the government applied to carry it into execution.

Now [clamor and confusion] I never feared clamor. I have never been afraid of the people, for by them I have always been sustained. And when I have all the truth, argument, fact and reason on my side, clamor nor affront, nor animosities can drive me from my purpose.

3a. What year was Andrew Johnson President?

3b. Based on the Cleveland speech what did the Freedmen's Bureau bill propose?

3c. Explain the quote, "It has been said that my blood was to be shed. Let me say to those who are still willing to sacrifice my life [derisive laughter and cheers], if you want a victim and my country requires it, erect your altar,...."

Document 4

<http://www.learner.org/biographyofamerica/prog12/maps/index.html>



- - UNION STATES
- - CONFEDERATE STATES WITH DATES OF READMISSION
- ✕ - BATTLES
- - CITIES

4a. Name 3 States that pulled out of the United States because of the debate of abolishing slavery?

4b. Which state in the south had the most battles to occur because of the abolishment of slavery?

Document 5

<http://chnm.gmu.edu/courses/122/recon/whittlesey.html>

**Testimony of Colonel Whittlesey before
the Joint Committee on Reconstruction.**

The following excerpt is from Colonel Whittlesey's testimony before the Joint Committee on Reconstruction in 1866. In this testimony he describes his experiences in the South regarding the condition of the Freedmen and in this excerpt, the acts of violence against them by Southerners.

"The Sunday night following six men, with faces painted black and coats turned wrong side out, entered several negro dwellings by smashing in the doors, frightening the women and injuring the men. In one instance a woman, who started to alarm her neighbors, was shot at: the ball passing through her clothes grazed her sides. Her son was beaten and bruised because he had been known to have a pistol.

"Another case is that of Charles Everett, late 2d sergeant in the United States colored troops. Mr. Everett, since his discharge, has lived in this town, a quiet, peaceful citizen, has taken to himself a wife, and attended to his own business. He has had no quarrel nor unpleasant controversy with anyone, white or black. Hence his colored neighbors were surprised at the attack upon him, and feel that no one can have any assurance of safety if such an outrage is allowed to be passed over unnoticed. His dwelling was forced open. He was ordered to get up. He came out of his bedroom, when one inquired, 'Is this Sergeant Everett?' He replied, 'Yes'. Then the same man, or one of the others--he is not certain which--lighted a match, that he could make more sure of his aim, and felled him to the floor by striking him over the head with the butt of his gun. He knew nothing more, and lay for some time insensible and nearly dead. It was a severe wound, though the skull was not fractured, as first thought. He is still confined to his house from the effect of it. Mr. Everett recognized, disguised as they were, two or three of his assailants, and reported their names to the proper officers in charge here. Yet no action, as we can learn, has been taken to bring them to justice. Neither Mr. Everett nor his neighbors can divine any cause for this unprovoked and uncalled for attack, only that he has been a faithful soldier in the Union army, and since his return home has been called by his friends and neighbors by the title he bravely won while in service.

5a. According to the testimony, what happened to the blacks to provide the KKK were violent?

5b. According to the testimony's introduction why did Colonel Whittlesey testify?

5c. What was the Colonel's position in the government?

Now you are ready to write your essay, using your own knowledge and the answers you have found in the documents.

Rubric Checklist

Does your essay:

- **Address all aspects of the question by analyzing, and interpreting at least four documents.**
- **Include information provided by the document.**
- **Incorporate relevant background information that addresses your theme**
- **Support your arguments with facts.**
- **Include a clear and logical format**
- **Have a summation of the theme.**