

## The Reconstruction Era

### Lesson 1 Planning Reconstruction

#### ESSENTIAL QUESTION

*How do new ideas change the way people live?*

#### GUIDING QUESTIONS

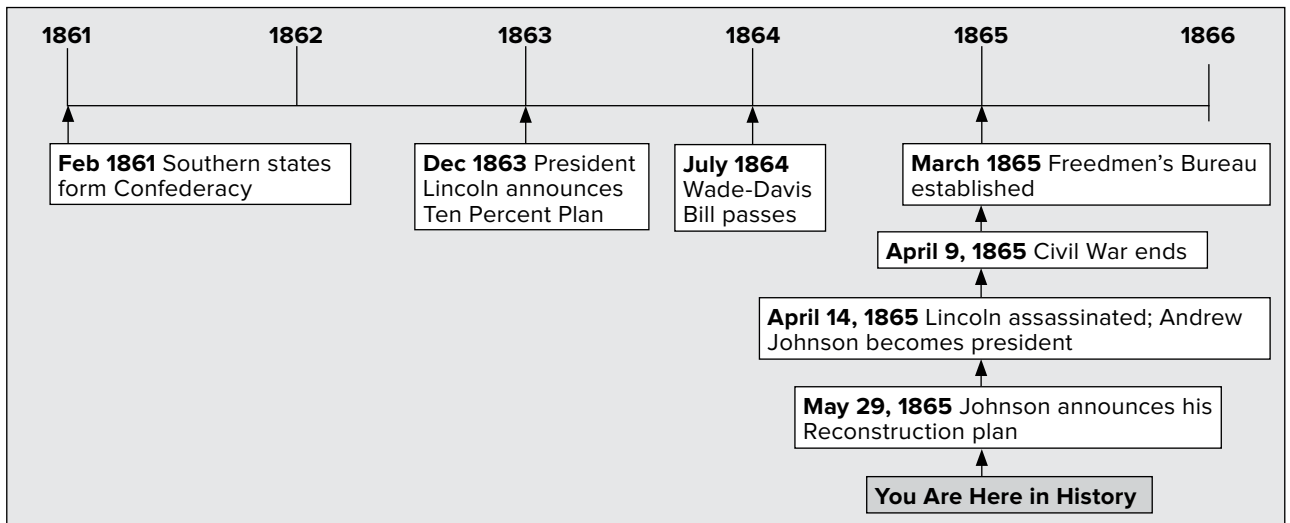
1. *Why did leaders disagree about the South rejoining the Union?*
2. *How did Lincoln's assassination change the plans for the South rejoining the Union?*

#### Terms to Know

**Reconstruction** the period of rebuilding the South and readmitting Southern states into the Union

**amnesty** the granting of a pardon to a large number of persons

### When did it happen?



### What do you know?

In the first column, answer the questions based on what you know before you study. After this lesson, complete the last column.

Now...		Later...
	When did the North begin planning on ways to bring Southern states back into the Union?	
	Who opposed Lincoln's plan?	
	Why was the Thirteenth Amendment to the Constitution important?	

## The Reconstruction Era

### Lesson 1 Planning Reconstruction, *Continued*

#### The Reconstruction Debate

The Civil War was fought from 1861 until 1865. The North, or Union, won the war. Now that the war was over, it was time for the country to become whole again. The states in the South needed to rejoin the states in the North. The nation needed to be rebuilt, or reconstructed.

The period of time that followed the Civil War is called **Reconstruction**. Reconstruction also refers to the plans for bringing the Southern states back into the Union. Northern leaders began forming these plans before the war even ended.

#### RECONSTRUCTION

- *the rebuilding of the South after the Civil War*
- *the plans for bringing the Southern states back into the Union*

The president and Congress did not agree about how to bring the Southern states back into the Union. Some Northern leaders wanted to go easy on the South. Others wanted to punish the South for leaving the Union and starting a war.

President Abraham Lincoln wanted to go easy on the South. He wanted to let the Southern states rejoin the Union if they agreed to these conditions:

- Voters in each Southern state had to take an oath of loyalty to the Union.
- When ten percent of the voters had taken the oath, the state could form a new government.
- The state would have to adopt a new constitution that banned slavery.

Lincoln's plan was called the Ten Percent Plan.

Lincoln went even further. He wanted to give **amnesty** to Southerners who would promise loyalty to the Union. Amnesty means a pardon, or forgiveness. Louisiana, Arkansas, and Tennessee agreed to Lincoln's requirements. However, Congress refused to accept the new states. They also did not allow their senators and representatives in Congress.

There were others who thought the South should be punished. They wanted a more radical, or extreme, approach. This group was called the Radical Republicans, or the Radicals. Thaddeus Stevens, a radical leader, said that Southern



#### Defining

1. What are the two meanings of Reconstruction?

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#### Explaining

2. Who proposed the Ten Percent Plan?

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3. Why was it called the Ten Percent Plan?

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#### Marking the Text

4. Underline the definition of *amnesty*.
5. Circle the definition of *radical*.

**The Reconstruction Era**

**Lesson 1** Planning Reconstruction, *Continued*



**Explaining**

6. Why did the Wade-Davis Bill not become a law?

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**Reading Check**

7. What were the three requirements for rejoining the Union stated in the Wade-Davis Bill?

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8. Use a two-tab Foldable and cut each tab in half to make four tabs. Place it along the dotted line to cover the text beginning with “Meanwhile, Lincoln and Congress...” Write the title *Freedman’s Bureau* on the anchor tab. Label the four tabs *Who*, *What*, *Why*, and *How*. Use both sides of the tabs to write information about the Freedman’s Bureau.

institutions “must be broken up or relaid, or all our blood and treasure will have been spent in vain.”

Radical Republicans in Congress passed their plan for Reconstruction in 1864. The Plan was called the Wade-Davis Bill. The Wade-Davis Bill would make it difficult for Southern states to rejoin the Union.

The Wade-Davis Bill required the Southern states to do three things:

- A majority (more than 50 percent) of the state’s white male adults had to promise loyalty to the Union.
- Only white males who swore they had not fought against the Union could vote for representatives to a convention to write a new constitution.
- All new states had to ban slavery.

The Wade-Davis Bill was harsher than Lincoln’s Ten Percent Plan. The bill passed Congress, but President Lincoln refused to sign it. The bill did not become law. There were still no plans for Reconstruction.

//////////////////// Glue Foldable here //////////////////////

Meanwhile, Lincoln and Congress worked together to create a new government department called the Freedman’s Bureau. The Freedmen’s Bureau helped poor Southerners, especially freed African Americans, adjust to life after slavery. It provided food, clothing, and shelter. It set up schools. It helped people find work. It also helped some people get their own land to farm.

**Johnson’s Reconstruction Plan**

President Lincoln was assassinated on April 14, 1865, as he was watching a play in Washington, D.C. During the play, John Wilkes Booth shot Lincoln in the head. Booth was an actor who sympathized with the South. African Americans and white Northerners mourned Lincoln’s death.

Vice President Andrew Johnson became president. He had different ideas about Reconstruction than Lincoln did.

Johnson wanted to give amnesty to most Southerners. However, he would not give amnesty to Southern leaders unless they asked the president. Johnson wanted to humiliate these leaders. He thought they had tricked ordinary Southerners into the war. Johnson opposed equal rights for African Americans. He said, “White men alone must manage the South.”

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**Lesson 1** Planning Reconstruction, *Continued*

Johnson’s plan for Reconstruction required Southern states to write new constitutions that banned slavery. Johnson’s plan also required Southern states to ratify, or approve, the Thirteenth Amendment to the Constitution. The Thirteenth Amendment banned slavery throughout the United States. By the end of 1865, all the former Confederate states except Texas had set up new governments under Johnson’s plan. They were ready to rejoin the Union.

//////////////////// Glue Foldable here //////////////////////

 **Reading Check**

- 9. What did the Thirteenth Amendment accomplish?

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- 10. Place a three-tab Venn diagram Foldable along the dotted line to cover Check for Understanding. Write the title *Reconstruction* on the anchor tab. Label the tabs *Lincoln*, *Both*, and *Johnson*. Write information about each president’s approach to Reconstruction. What did they have in common? Use the Foldable to help answer Check for Understanding.

**Check for Understanding**

**How did Lincoln and the Radical Republicans disagree over Reconstruction?**

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**List two ways that Lincoln’s Ten Percent Plan and Johnson’s Reconstruction plan were alike.**

- 1. \_\_\_\_\_
- 2. \_\_\_\_\_