

# The Reconstruction Era

## Lesson 4 The Post-Reconstruction Era

### ESSENTIAL QUESTION

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

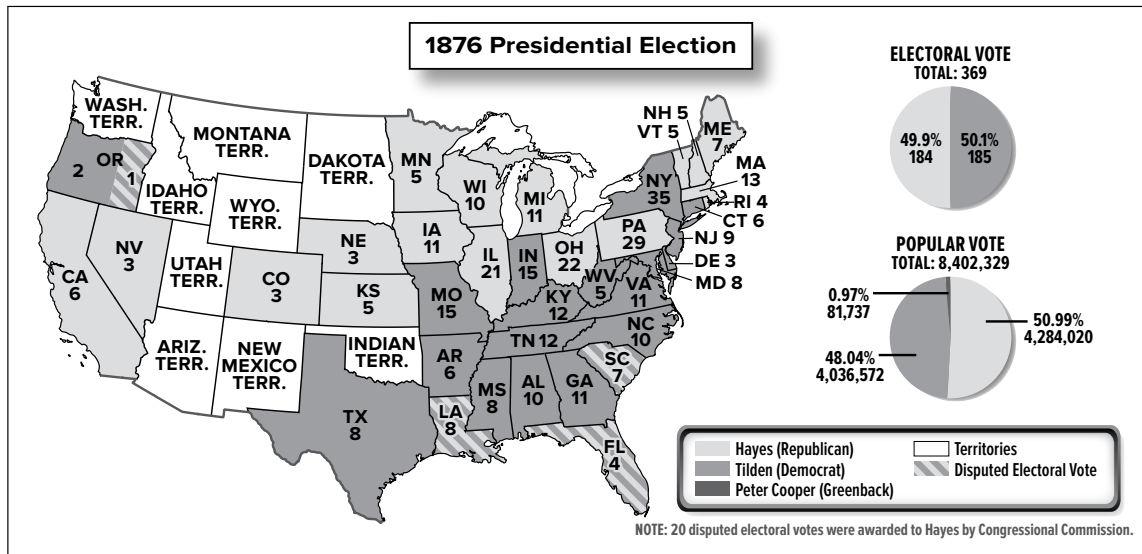
### GUIDING QUESTIONS

1. *How did Democrats regain control of Southern governments?*
2. *Why did freedom for African Americans become a distant dream after Reconstruction ended?*

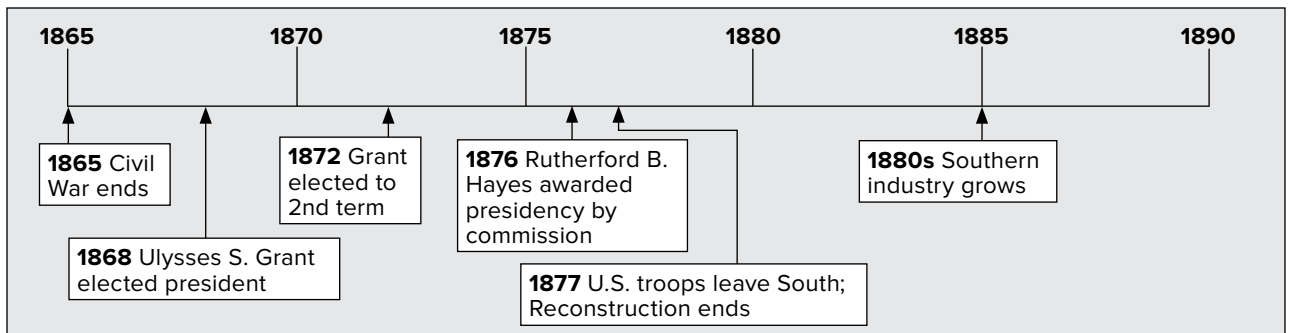
### Terms to Know

- poll tax** a tax a person must pay in order to vote
- literacy test** a method used to prevent African Americans from voting by requiring prospective voters to read and write at a specified level
- grandfather clause** a device that allowed persons to vote if their fathers or grandfathers had voted before Reconstruction began
- segregation** the separation or isolation of a race, class, or group
- lynching** putting to death by the illegal action of a mob

## Where in the world?



## When did it happen?



## The Reconstruction Era

### Lesson 4 The Post-Reconstruction Era, *Continued*

#### Reconstruction Ends

As a general, Ulysses S. Grant had led the North to victory in the Civil War. He was elected president in 1868. He was reelected in 1872.

Grant's presidency had problems with corruption and dishonesty. Then, an economic depression struck: the Panic of 1873. The economy remained bad for years. These factors hurt the Republican Party. Democrats made gains in Congress.

Democrats also made gains at the state level. Southern democrats who came to power called themselves "redeemers." They wanted to redeem, or save, their states from "black Republican" rule.

The presidential election of 1876 was extremely important. President Grant thought about running for a third term. The Republicans wanted a new candidate because Grant was unpopular. They nominated Rutherford B. Hayes. The Democrats nominated Samuel Tilden.

It was a very close election. It was so close that neither candidate got a majority of the electoral votes. To determine who should be president, Congress appointed a commission. A commission is a group of officials chosen for a specific job. The commission said that Hayes, the Republican, should be named president. In return for this, the Republicans made many promises to Democrats. The most important was a promise to withdraw all troops from the South. The last troops left in 1877. This marked the end of Reconstruction.

With the end of Reconstruction, Southern leaders looked forward to a brighter future. They dreamed of a "New South." The New South would have industries that used the region's coal, iron, tobacco, cotton, and lumber resources.

The South did make great gains in industry in the 1880s. The tobacco, iron and steel, and lumber industries all boomed. Southern industry grew because the South had a large supply of natural resources, cheap and reliable labor, and new railroads.

Southern industry grew, but the South still relied mostly on farming. Supporters of the New South hoped that farming would change too. They hoped that huge cotton plantations would be replaced by smaller farms growing a variety of crops.

But those changes did not happen. Instead, the South became a land of sharecroppers and tenant farmers. Most of the



#### Explaining

1. Why did Grant become an unpopular president?

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#### Identifying

2. Why was a commission formed after the election of 1876?

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#### Identifying

3. What marked the end of Reconstruction?

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#### Listing

4. List the important industries that grew in the New South.

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#### Explaining

5. Complete this sentence: The South's economy in the late 1800s still depended mostly on \_\_\_\_\_.

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### Lesson 4 The Post-Reconstruction Era, *Continued*

#### Comparing

6. How was sharecropping similar to slavery?

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#### Explaining

7. Why did white Southerners pass new voting laws?

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#### Marking the Text

8. Underline the definition of *segregation* in the text.

sharecroppers were formerly enslaved persons. They ended up owing large amounts to white landowners. Laws made them stay on the land until their debt was paid—which could take years, or even a lifetime. This system made sharecropping little better than slavery.

### A Divided Society

Reconstruction was over. The Union troops that had protected African Americans in the South left. The dream of freedom and justice for African Americans faded.

Southern government officials passed laws that discriminated against African Americans. African Americans could do little about these government officials. The governments passed laws that made it nearly impossible for African Americans to vote. These laws enforced **poll taxes**, **literacy tests**, and **grandfather clauses**.

Restricting African Americans' Right to Vote in the South

Method	What it Was	How it Worked
poll tax	a fee people had to pay to vote	Many African Americans could not afford the tax, so they could not vote.
literacy test	a requirement that voters must be able to read and write at a certain level	Most Southern African Americans had little education, so literacy tests prevented many from voting.
grandfather clause	A law stating that a voter could vote if his father or grandfather had voted before Reconstruction.	African Americans could not vote until 1867, so they could not meet this requirement. This also allowed poor white Southerners who could not read to vote.

Other laws also discriminated against African Americans. In the late 1800s, **segregation** was common in the South. Segregation is the separation of races. Public places were

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**Lesson 4** The Post-Reconstruction Era, *Continued*

segregated by law. The laws that required segregation were called Jim Crow laws.

Even worse than segregation was the practice of lynching. **Lynching** happens when a mob kills a person, often by hanging. White mobs lynched many African Americans in the South.

Some African Americans managed to escape the South. Many fled to Kansas. They called themselves Exodusters after the biblical book of Exodus which describes the Jews' escape from slavery in Egypt.

Other African Americans escaped the South by joining the army. They fought in the Indian Wars of the late 1800s. The Apache and Cheyenne named these African Americans "Buffalo Soldiers."

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

**Check for Understanding**

List three factors that aided the success of Southern industries in the late 1800s.

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

List three ways that some government officials prevented African Americans from voting.

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

 **Reading Check**

- 9. What were Jim Crow laws?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

 **Marking the Text**

- 10. Underline the definition of lynching in the text.



- 11. Place a two-tab Foldable along the dotted line to cover Check for Understanding. Write the title *Loss of Freedoms* on the anchor tab. Label the tabs *Cause* and *Effect*. Recall and list ways freedoms were lost after Reconstruction. Use the Foldable to help answer Check for Understanding.