
RECONSTRUCTION IN THREE ACTS

— Chattel Slavery Ends. Now What? —

Personal Connections

1. Have you ever had to recover from an injury? What was challenging about it?
2. Have you ever gotten into a fight with a friend? Did you try to fix it? How?
3. How does it feel when someone breaks a promise they made to you?

Connection to Today...

Someone comes and says to you, "Racism ended when slavery ended. Racism is a thing of the past."

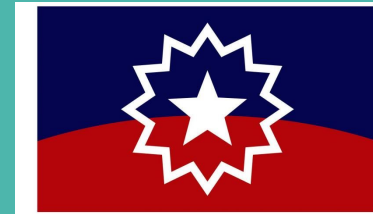
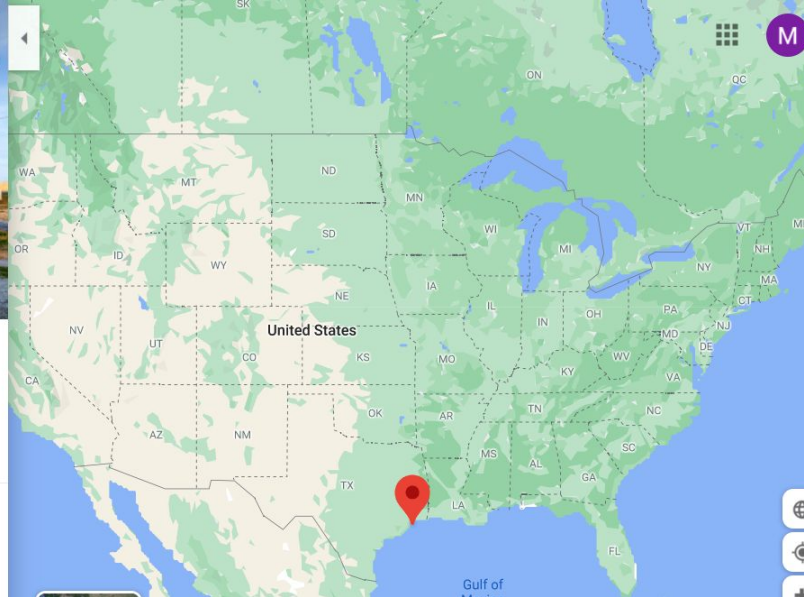
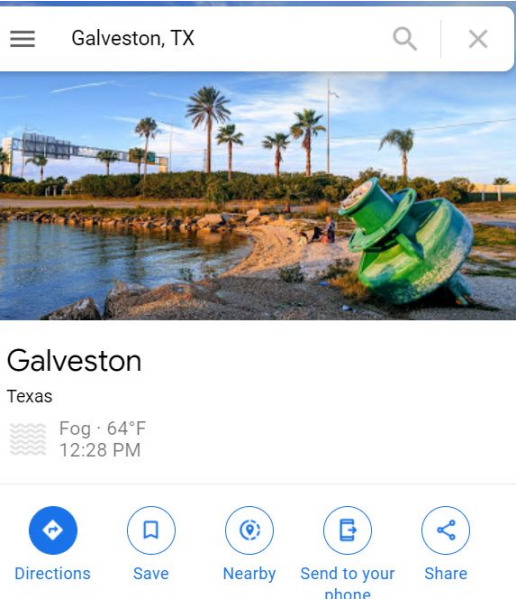
How might you respond to this person?

1834-1865: Chattel
Slavery Ends. Now
What?

Juneteenth and the End of Chattel Slavery

On June 19th, 1865, soldiers from the Northern army arrived in Galveston, Texas, and told enslaved people there that they, and all other enslaved people in the US, were free.

The enslaved people in Galveston were among the last to receive this news. This date is celebrated as Juneteenth.



Speculate...

1. What do you think freed Black people did immediately after learning of their freedom?
2. What challenges might freed Black people have faced right after emancipation?

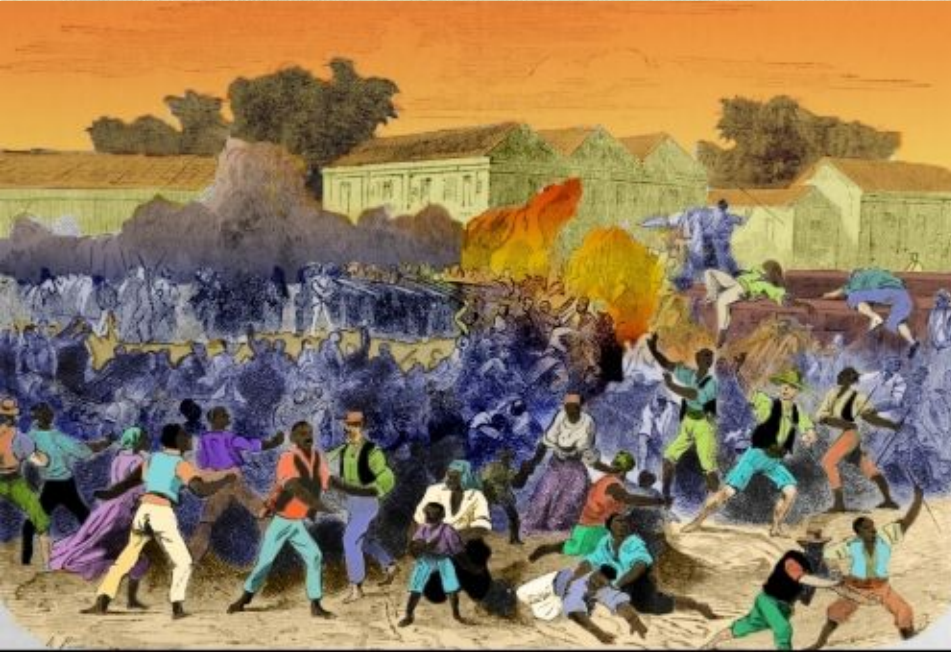
The End of Chattel Slavery in the Americas-- Conflict Around the World in the 1860s

British territories in the Caribbean, 1914



Jamaica, Guyana, Barbados, and other British Colonies

- **August 1, 1834:** Slavery ends, but Black people are required to stay and work on the plantations for 4-6 as “apprentices.” Black people could not leave sugar plantations without permission.
- **1838:** Full “freedom” but most people still worked for low wages on plantations, were restricted from voting and owning land. They still faced random violence from whites.



1865-- The Morant Bay Rebellion in Jamaica

- Conditions were so unfair for the Black population in the West Indies that rebellions occurred.
- Paul Bogle helped lead the Morant Bay Rebellion in Jamaica in 1865--the same year the US Civil War Ended



Dominican War of Independence 1863-1865

- In 1861, Dominican government **annexes the country to Spain, ignoring the fears of formerly enslaved in both countries**
- Spanish soldiers arrived in Santo Domingo with . the intention of the Spanish crown was re-establishing slavery to make Hispaniola profitable.
- **In 1863, all out warfare by Dominican rebels of color, with Haitian support and arms.**
- The [redacted] leader, **Gregorio Luperon**, leads the the country in a **war for independence**
- This was an anti-colonial and anti-slavery war and the second Black Revolution in Ayiti.

1865: DR Wins a War Against Spain--With Haiti's Help. Slavery has been illegal on the island of Hispaniola since the Haitian rebels ended it in 1801. Darker skinned people and Haitians still face discrimination in DR.

Summarize: How free
were Black people in
the West Indies by
1865?

The First Reconstruction Period--1865-1877

Reconstruction and Backlash

What Was Reconstruction?

“reconstruction”

The period between 1865 and 1877 in the United States. Reconstruction was the process of re-constructing the United States after the Civil War. More generally, Reconstruction was the process of turning the U.S. from a slave society to a place of freedom and equal opportunity for all its people.

Vocabulary

“amendment”

A change or addition to a law

Practice:

If you could make an amendment to the “laws” of your school or your house, what would it be and why? (Answer in a complete sentence!)

Reconstruction or Backlash?

“Reconstruction” is the process of creating freedom, equity, equality, and power for Black Americans (and all Americans).

“Backlash” is any step taken to limit freedom, equity, equality, and power for Black Americans (and all Americans).

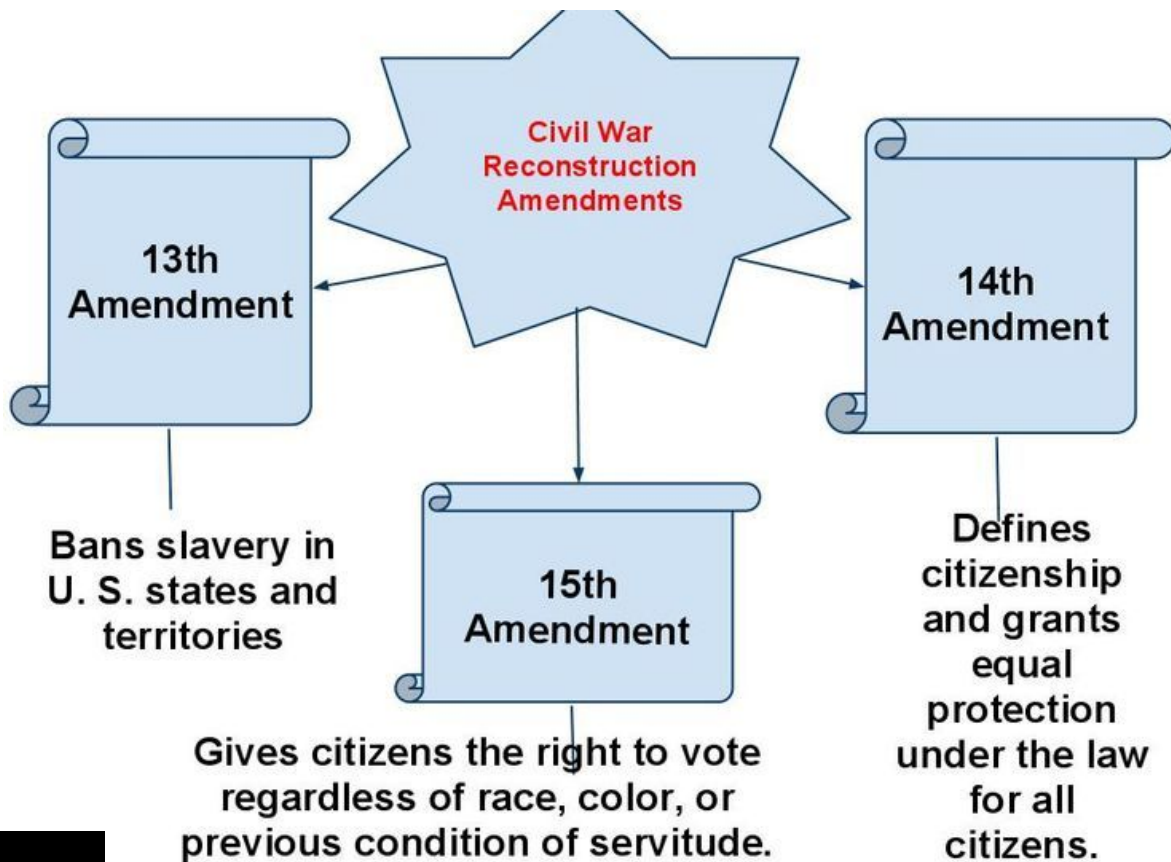
Key Events: The 13th, 14th, and 15th Amendments

13th Amendment: 1865

14th Amendment: 1868

15th Amendment: 1870

Summarize: what problems does each amendment fix? How might this amendment be good for Black people (and all people) in the US?



Reconstruction or Backlash?

Key Events: Political Change

Reconstruction or Backlash?

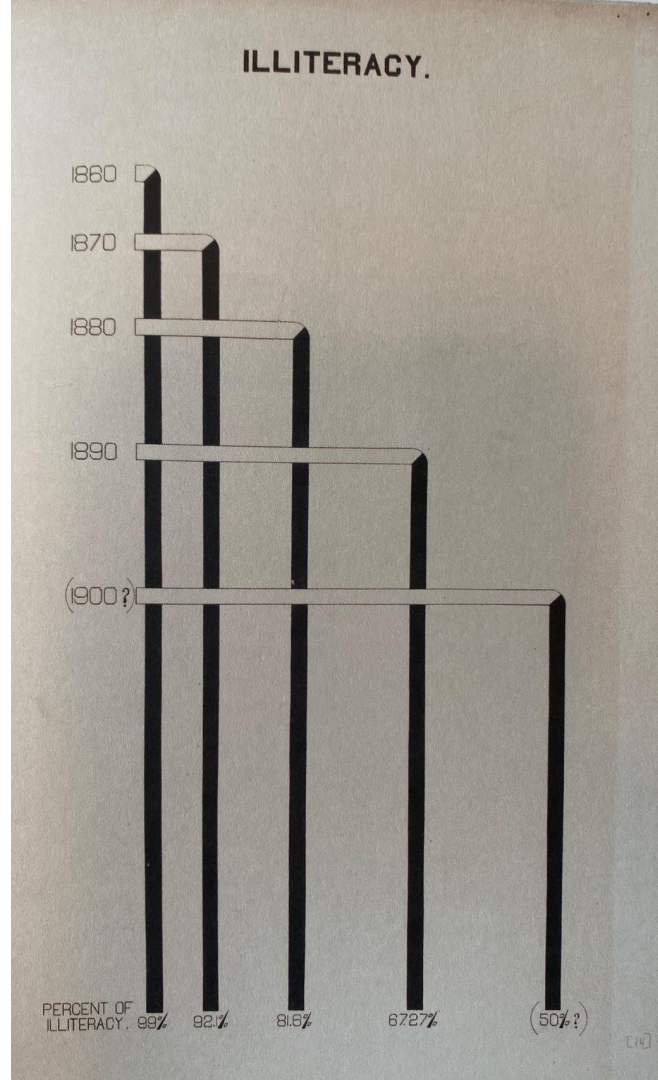


Black men--many formerly enslaved--become lawmakers across the South. Over 1,500 Black people were elected to office across the South during and just after Reconstruction.

Key Events: Education

Free public schools open across the South, due in part to Black lawmakers having power. Literacy increases rapidly. Many of the schools are operated by and for Black people.

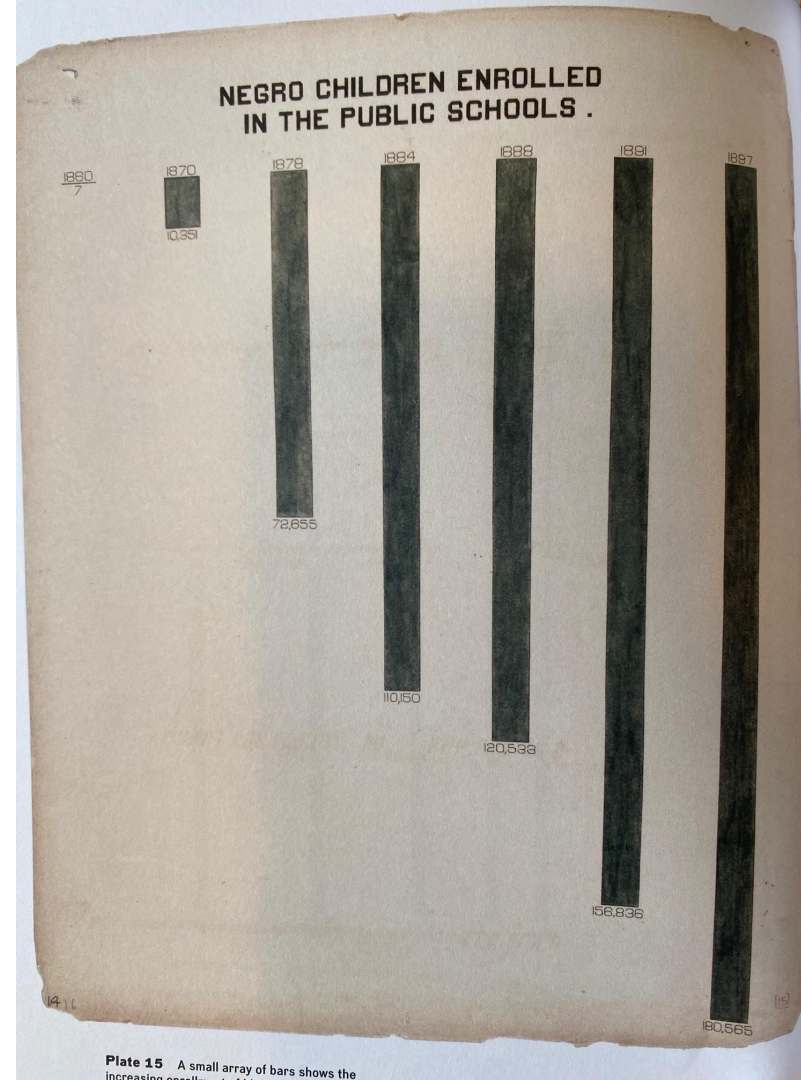
Reconstruction or Backlash?



Key Events: Education

Schools for Black children open across the South.
Literacy increases rapidly.
Many of the schools are operated by and for Black people.

Reconstruction or Backlash?



Key Events: (Re)Building Family

Reconstruction or Backlash?



INFORMATION WANTED
OF A MAN BY THE NAME OF ELIAS LOWERY McDERMIT, who used to belong to Thomas Lyons, of Knoxville, East Tennessee. He was sold to a man by the name of Sherman about ten years ago, and I learned some six years ago that he was on a steamboat running between Memphis and New Orleans, and more recently I heard that he was somewhere on the Cumberland river, in the Federal army. Any information concerning him will be thankfully received. Address Colored Tennessean, Nashville, Tenn. From his sister who is now living in Knoxville, East Tennessee.
je24-1m] MARTHA McDERMIT.

Black people across the South connected and reconnected with their families. They had their marriages legalized. Some walked hundreds of miles to find family members who had been sold away under slavery.

Key Events: Black Americans Exercise Freedom-- Building Black Communities & Institutions



Independent Black communities formed in many parts of the South, including the Georgia Sea Islands. These communities had some level of freedom from white interference.



Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) started during reconstruction.

**Reconstruction or
Backlash?**

Summarize: What are
four ways Black people
exercised freedom during
Reconstruction? Which
do you think is the most
important?

Key Events/Topics: The 13th Amendment and the White Terror

13th Amendment

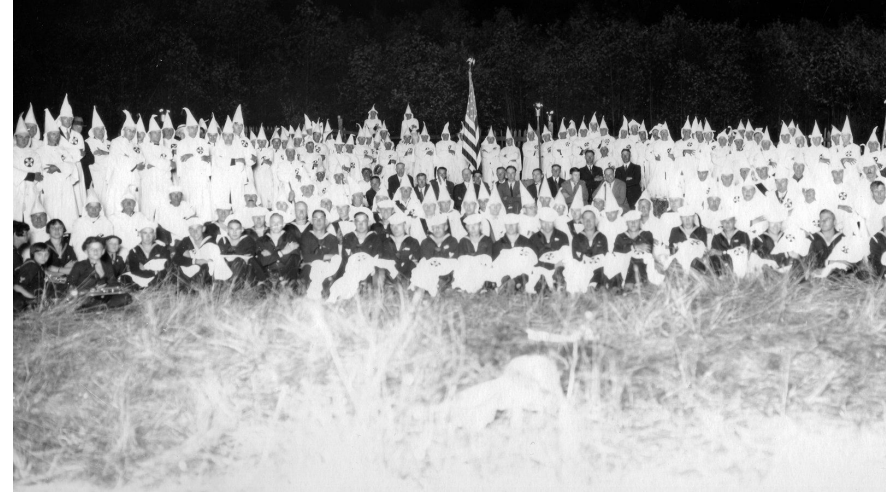
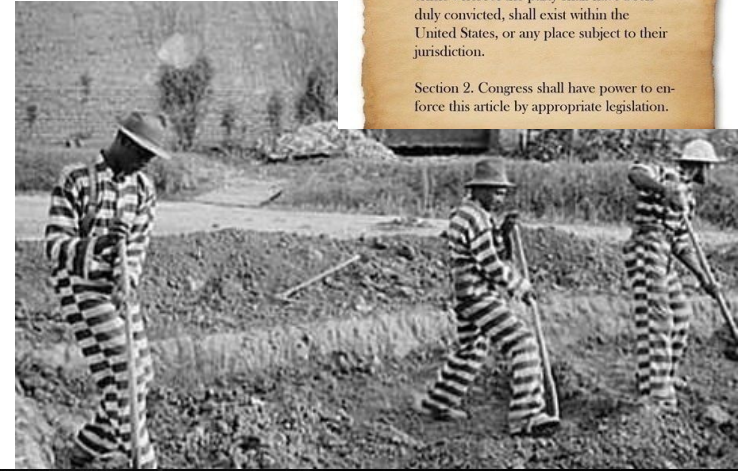
Section 1. Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for crime whereof the party shall have been duly convicted, shall exist within the United States, or any place subject to their jurisdiction.

Section 2. Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.

1. **Broken Promise 1: Ending Slavery**--The 13th Amendment made slavery illegal, except for people convicted of crimes. Black people were targeted for mass arrests and forced to work as prisoners.

Reconstruction or Backlash?

2. **Broken Promise 2: Equal Protection**--Violent white organizations like the KKK targeted Black people with violence. They rarely faced consequences.

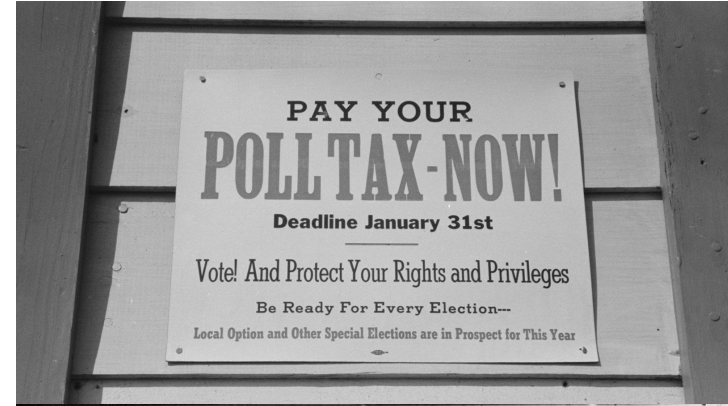


Key Topics: Voting Rights

3. Broken Promise 3: The Right To Vote--Southern states made laws that blocked the voting rights of Black people.

Reconstruction or Backlash?

4. Broken Promise 4: Equal Protection--Sharecropping was a system of farming that kept wealthy whites in power and blocked many (but not all) Black people from owning their own land.



Summarize: Retell the
main ideas you
learned in this
presentation.