**Study Guide for Reconstruction Test**

The period following the Civil War is known as Reconstruction. This was supposed to help the nation recover after so much had been destroyed. (1865-1877)

13th Amendment – This amendment abolished slavery everywhere in the United States and all territories.

This amendment was needed because the Emancipation Proclamation only freed slaves in those states that were in rebellion against the United States, meaning the states that had joined the Confederacy.

14th Amendment – This amendment said that all men should have equal rights or all the rights of citizenship regardless of their race.

This means that they shouldn’t be kept from owning property, running for office, or any other rights of citizenship.

15th Amendment – This amendment said that you couldn’t be denied the right to vote because of race, color, or if you had been a slave.

The Freedmen’s Bureau was set up following the Civil War to help former slaves with all of the following:

* Set up schools to help former slaves and their families learn to read and write;
* Help them gain ownership of land to farm or find jobs;
* Help many slaves to reunite with their families;
* Help them find housing.

Many Southern whites felt that the Freedmen’s Bureau was organizing the former slaves against their former masters.

Sharecropping – Many former slaves became sharecroppers after the war. Landowners would let them live on and farm some of their land. The land owners would provide seed, tools, and some farm equipment. In return, sharecroppers would have to share the proceeds of the crop with landowners.

This way of life was not much better than slavery. They still made little or no money and barely made enough to survive on.

Jim Crow Laws a/k/a Black Codes– These were laws passed by many states to limit the rights of former slaves. Some wouldn’t let them own property, travel freely, vote, work in certain businesses, go to school or work without pay if they couldn’t find other jobs. Sometimes these were called “black codes.” These laws kept former slaves separate from whites and treated them unfairly. These laws took away most of the rights and freedoms given to former slaves under the 13th, 14th, and 15th amendments.

Adding Amendments to the Constitution – In order for an amendment to be added to the Constitution, the following must happen:

* 2/3 of the House of Representatives must vote to pass the new amendment;
* 2/3 of the Senate must vote to pass the new amendment.
* ¾ of the states must vote to pass the new amendment;

After the 15th amendment was passed giving freed slaves the right to vote, many states passed laws to keep former slaves from voting. Some of them included:

* Literacy tests – They had to be able to read in order to vote.
* Poll taxes – They had to pay a tax to vote.
* Grandfather Clauses – They could only vote if their grandfather had voted.

Compare and Contrast the effect the Civil War had on the North and South.

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| North: | South: |
| * benefited from the new factories and railroads built during the war; * railroads allowed for increased business between cities; * most battles had been fought in the South so there was less destruction in the North; * lost thousands of soldiers. | * most of the railroads were destroyed; * most of the battles were fought in the South, so many of the farms and towns were destroyed; * Southern economy had been based on farming, and with the slaves freed they lost their free workforce; * racist attitudes and hatred were still very common and made it difficult for races to work together; * lost thousands of soldiers; * Southern economy didn’t recover as quickly as in the North. |