

Reconstruction Plans

Essential Question

How did plans to unify the nation differ after the Civil War?

Reading Guide

Content Vocabulary

Reconstruction

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amnesty

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Academic Vocabulary

radical

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adjust

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Key People and Events

Ten Percent Plan (p. 519)

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Reading Strategy

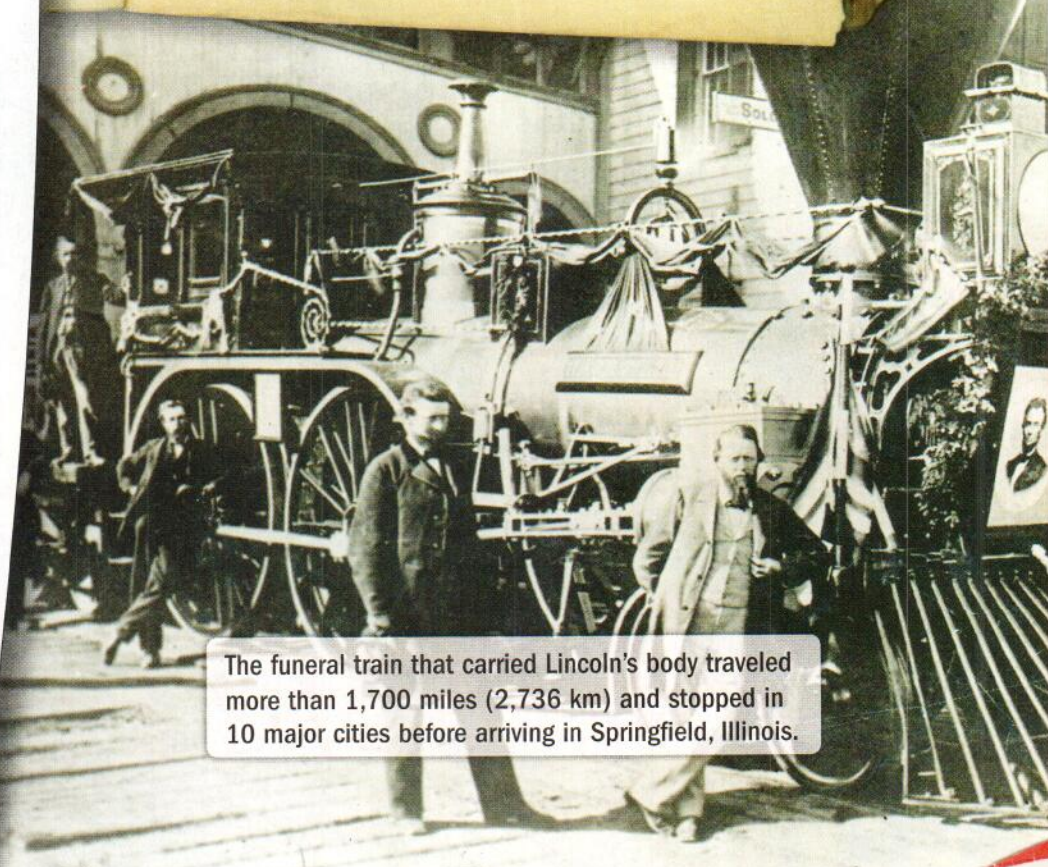
Taking Notes As you read, use a diagram like the one below to describe each Reconstruction plan.

Ten Percent Plan	→	<input type="text"/>
Wade-Davis Bill	→	<input type="text"/>
Restoration	→	<input type="text"/>

American Diary

Major Henry Rathbone tried to seize John Wilkes Booth after Booth shot President Lincoln at Ford's Theater. As Booth leaped over the railing of the presidential box onto the stage, Rathbone cried, "Stop that man." Rathbone later stated: "I then turned to the President. . . . I saw that he was unconscious, and, supposing him mortally wounded, rushed to the door for the purpose of calling medical aid."

—from *The Assassination of President Lincoln and the Trial of the Conspirators*



The funeral train that carried Lincoln's body traveled more than 1,700 miles (2,736 km) and stopped in 10 major cities before arriving in Springfield, Illinois.

Reconstruction Debate

Main Idea Government leaders disagreed about how Southern states could rejoin the Union.

History and You Have you ever had an argument with a friend? How did you resolve your differences? Read to learn how the North and South tried to work out their problems after the Civil War.

Major Henry Rathbone and the rest of the nation were deeply shocked by Abraham Lincoln's assassination. Four years of civil war, followed by the president's death, shook the nation. The Union was saved, but Americans still faced the difficult challenges of reuniting and rebuilding their country.

Southern states, because they had left the Union in 1861, needed to be readmitted. The economy and society of the devastated South also needed to be rebuilt. Americans disagreed bitterly, however, about how to accomplish these tasks. This period of rebuilding is called **Reconstruction**. This term also refers to the various plans for readmitting Southern states to the Union.

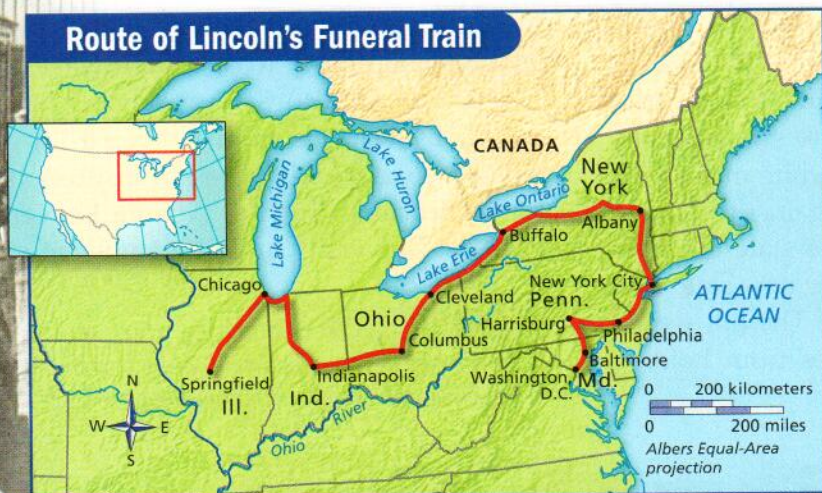
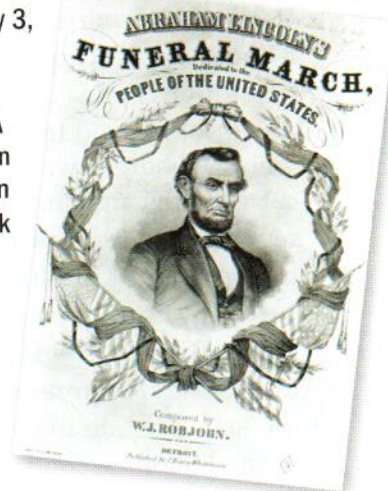
Lincoln's Plan

Before his assassination, President Lincoln offered the first plan for accepting the Southern states back into the Union. In December 1863, during the Civil War, the president announced what came to be known as the **Ten Percent Plan**. When 10 percent of the voters of a state took an oath of loyalty to the Union, the state could form a new government and adopt a new constitution that banned slavery.

Lincoln wanted to encourage Southerners who supported the Union to take charge of the state governments. He believed that punishing the South would serve no useful purpose and would only delay healing the torn nation. Lincoln offered **amnesty**—a pardon—to all white Southerners who were willing to swear loyalty to the Union, except Confederate leaders. In 1864 three states under Union occupation—Louisiana, Arkansas, and Tennessee—set up governments under the plan. These states then became caught in controversy when Congress refused to seat the states' representatives.

If You Were There Viewing Lincoln's Funeral Train

Springfield, Illinois At 9 P.M. on Wednesday, May 3, you stand with a large crowd at Springfield's railroad station. The funeral train carrying President Lincoln's body arrives from Chicago. A horse-drawn carriage takes the president's coffin to the state capitol. Once the coffin is placed on an elaborate platform, thousands of people walk past it, paying their last respects.



Critical Thinking

Identifying Central Issues

As a resident of Springfield, how might you feel about Lincoln's death? If you were a Southerner, would you feel the same way? Explain.

Primary Source Freedmen's Schools

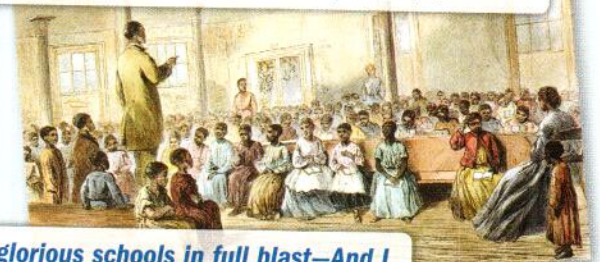
Course of Study African Americans who were enrolled in freedmen's schools learned practical skills such as sewing as well as academic subjects. A popular textbook was Lydia Maria Child's *Freedmen's Book*, a collection of essays and poems used to teach and inspire freed African Americans.

▼ Freedmen's Bureau School,
Edisto Island, South Carolina



"Yesterday . . . my sister and I formally opened school. . . . We had more than one thousand (1,000) children, and seventy-five adults; and found time, after disciplining them, to hear the readers, to instruct the writers, and to teach the multitude from the blackboard."

—Lucy Chase, April 1865



"We have glorious schools in full blast—And I am so satisfied with the work here that nothing in the world could make me wish to be in another place, or doing anything else."

—Sarah Chase, February 1866

Critical Thinking

Analyzing Why do you think practical skills and academic subjects were taught at freed people's schools?

The Radicals' Plan

Some Republicans considered Lincoln's plan too forgiving. They favored a more **radical**, or extreme, approach and were called **Radical Republicans**. Radical Republican **Thaddeus Stevens** declared that Southern institutions "must be broken up and relaid, or all our blood and treasure have been spent in vain." Congress was controlled by the Radical Republicans and voted to deny seats to representatives from any state that was readmitted under Lincoln's plan.

In July 1864, Congress passed the **Wade-Davis Bill**. To rejoin the Union, a state had to meet several requirements. First, a majority of the state's white males had to swear loyalty to the Union. Second, only white males who swore they had not fought against the Union could vote for delegates to a state constitutional convention. Finally, any new state constitution had to ban slavery. The bill would also bar former Confederates from holding public office.

Lincoln refused to sign the bill, but he wanted new state governments to form quickly so that order could be restored in the South as soon as possible. Lincoln realized that he would have to compromise with the Radical Republicans.

The Freedmen's Bureau

In March 1865, Lincoln and Congress set up the **Freedmen's Bureau**. The bureau helped African Americans **adjust**, or adapt, to freedom. It provided food, clothing, and medical services. It helped freed people acquire land or find work for fair wages.

The bureau also set up schools, staffed mostly by teachers from the North. It gave aid to new African American institutions of higher learning, such as Atlanta University, Howard University, and Fisk University.

Reading Check **Contrasting** What were the differences between Lincoln's views and the Radical Republicans' views concerning Reconstruction?

Johnson's Plan

Main Idea After Lincoln was assassinated, Andrew Johnson became president and announced his plan of "Restoration."

History and You How do you think Abraham Lincoln's death might affect plans to unify the nation? Read about President Johnson's Reconstruction plan.

Shortly after the Freedmen's Bureau was founded, a tragic event took place that shocked the nation. On April 14, 1865, President Lincoln attended a play at Ford's Theater in Washington, D.C. **John Wilkes Booth**, an actor and Confederate sympathizer, entered the private box and shot Lincoln in the head. Lincoln died several hours later.

News of the president's assassination swept across the nation. African Americans mourned the man who helped them win their freedom. Northern whites grieved for the leader who had saved the Union.

When Lincoln died, Vice President **Andrew Johnson** became president. Johnson was born in the South but supported the Union

during the war. Johnson soon revealed his plan for Reconstruction. Called "Restoration," his plan would grant amnesty to most Southerners once they swore loyalty to the Union. High-ranking Confederates could be pardoned only by appealing to the president. This provision revealed Johnson's desire to humiliate the leaders who he believed had tricked the South's people into seceding.

Johnson also allowed only loyal, pardoned whites to vote for delegates to the state constitutional conventions. Stating that "white men alone must manage the South," Johnson opposed equal rights for African Americans.

Before a state could reenter the Union, it had to denounce secession and ban slavery. States also had to ratify the Thirteenth Amendment to the Constitution, passed by Congress in January 1865. This amendment abolished slavery throughout the United States. By the end of 1865, all former Confederate states, except Texas, had new governments and were ready to rejoin the Union.

Reading Check **Specifying** What did the Thirteenth Amendment accomplish?

Section 1 Review

History ONLINE
Study Central™ To review this section, go to glencoe.com.

Vocabulary

- Write a short paragraph in which you use all of the following vocabulary terms:
Reconstruction, amnesty, radical, adjust.

Main Ideas

- Explaining** Why did Lincoln disagree with the harsh Reconstruction plan of the Radical Republicans?
- Specifying** Under Johnson's Restoration plan, how could high-ranking or wealthy Confederates gain a pardon?

Critical Thinking

- Contrasting** Using a diagram like the one below, compare the Reconstruction plans of Lincoln and the Radical Republicans.

Reconstruction Plans

Lincoln	Radical Republicans

- Drawing Conclusions** Do you think President Johnson's Southern heritage influenced his Reconstruction plan? Explain your answer.

- Persuasive Writing** Write a one-paragraph response to the Radical Republicans' plan for Reconstruction from Abraham Lincoln's point of view. Explain why you think the South should be treated less harshly.

Answer the Essential Question

- How did plans to unify the nation differ after the Civil War?