

Legacy and Reconstruction

Part One



Part One

Part Two

Part Three

Thematic Icons



Economics



Geography



Historical concepts



Government

Icons



Flash activity (these activities are not editable)



Teacher notes included in the Notes page

For more instructions, see the *User Guide*.



Timeline





The Union's victory proved the supremacy of the federal government. Never again would a state secede.



War taxes and the draft demonstrated how much impact the government could have on its citizens. Many wondered how Lincoln's administration would deal with the Confederacy.

Throughout the war, Abraham Lincoln had promoted mercy for the South. Generals Grant and Sherman's generosity to surrendering troops made many hope for a peaceful reunion.

How would you treat former Confederates?



Assassination of President Lincoln

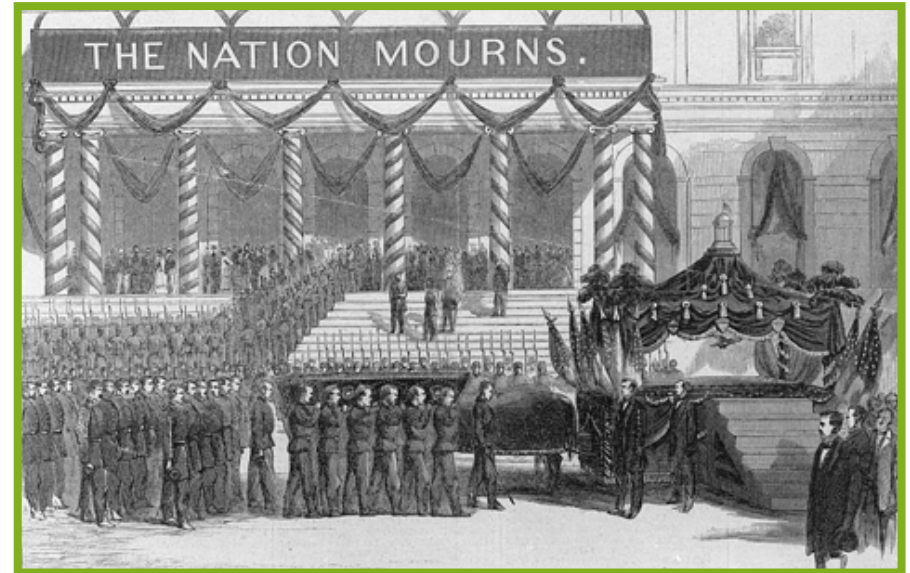


On April 14 1865, five days after General Lee's surrender, President Lincoln and his wife attended a play at Ford's Theater.

During the third act, actor and Southern sympathizer **John Wilkes Booth** crept into the president's box and shot him in the head.

Lincoln died the next morning. It was the first time an American president had been assassinated.

The shocked nation was left to rebuild the Union without its wartime leader.



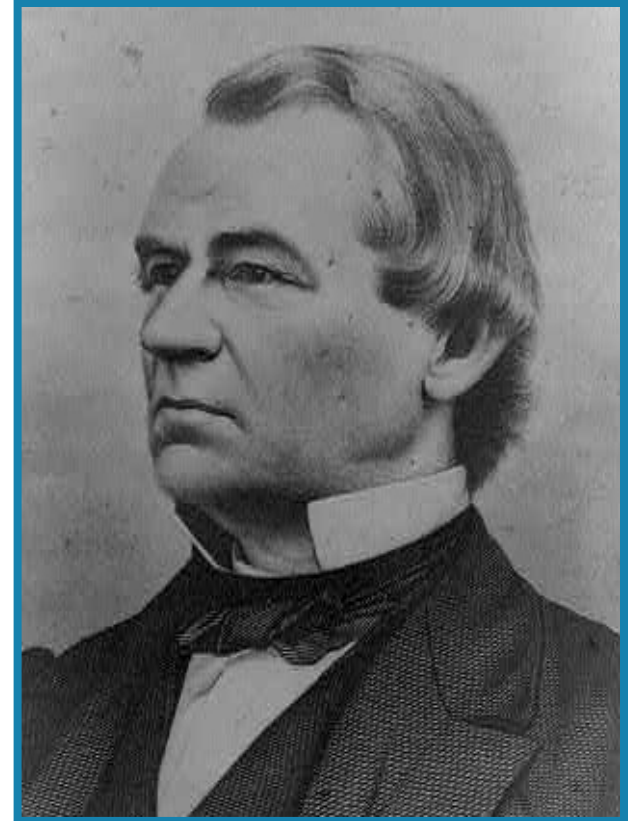
The post-war South





Lincoln was succeeded in office by his vice president, **Andrew Johnson**.
Johnson was:

- a pro-Union Democrat
- a former slaveholder and governor of Tennessee
- raised in poverty and hated the wealth-based “**slaveocracy**” of the South
- sympathetic to poor Southern whites
- rigid and uncompromising.



Are these good qualities for a Reconstruction president?





Thirteenth Amendment

During the war, Republicans drafted the **Thirteenth Amendment** to abolish slavery throughout the United States.

"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."

- Thirteenth Amendment, 1865

It was passed in January of 1865, four months before Lincoln's assassination.



In the immediate aftermath of the Civil War, freedmen pursued two main goals:

- ending injustices of slavery such as separation of families, restricted movement and lack of education
- economic independence from whites.



Thousands of freed slaves moved to cities in search of work. However, many stayed in rural areas, hoping to earn their living by farming.

What did “freedom” mean for former slaves?



Lincoln had created the **Freedmen's Bureau** in 1865 to provide emergency relief to freed slaves and white war refugees.

The Bureau, headed by ex-Union general **Oliver O. Howard**, struggled with broad responsibilities and limited resources.



The Bureau created over 3,000 integrated freedmen schools. Before the war, it had been illegal for slaves to learn to read and write. Now, hundreds of thousands of freed slaves enrolled in elementary schools.



- **Education:** freedmen's schools and other higher education institutions opened their doors to integrated or black-only students.
- **Legislation:** as black Americans gained the right to vote, black Congressmen were elected in several Southern states.
- **Voluntary organizations:** the spread of voluntary associations gave black people an opportunity for fellowship, mutual assistance and above all, leadership.
- **Black churches:** the establishment of black churches led to the emergence of ministers as powerful community leaders.



How might these institutions strengthen the black community?



