



THE Civil War Curriculum

by the CIVIL WAR TRUST | Civilwar.org/curriculum

GOAL 8 | LESSON PLAN | HIGH SCHOOL Post-1865: Effects of the War

GRADES: High School

APPROXIMATE LENGTH OF TIME: 50 minutes

GOAL: Students will be able to compare the United States before the war to the United States after the war.

OBJECTIVES:

1. After reviewing primary source documents students will be able to evaluate Lincoln's plans for Reconstruction, including plans for the readmission of Southern states, amnesty, and freemen.
2. Students will be able to identify the purpose of the 13th, 14th, and 15th Amendments
3. After reviewing various proposals, students will be able to hypothesize what changes will take place in the country during Reconstruction.
4. Students will be able to discuss in writing the effects of the Civil War on the United States today.

MATERIALS:

1. Effects of the War PowerPoint
2. 1865 Newspaper Excerpts (*Franklin Repository*)
3. Abraham Lincoln's Second Inaugural Address (1865)
4. U.S. Constitutional Amendments, 1870
5. 1863 State of the Union Address
6. Lincoln's Last Public Address
7. Lincoln's Proclamation of Amnesty and Reconstruction
8. Speech of the Hon. Reverdy Johnson
9. Graphic organizer

ANTICIPATORY SET/HOOK

1. Remind your students that at this point, the war is over and the Army of Northern Virginia has surrendered.
2. Begin with the *Effects of the War PowerPoint*, moving through the slides without comment up to question mark slide. The images show the devastating effects of the war and the assassination of Lincoln.
3. At the “Now what?” slide, students either need to ask a question about the immediate future after the war or make a statement about their expectations.
4. If the following questions are not asked by the students, you can ask:
 - a. How do individuals recover from war?
 - b. How does a country recover from civil war?
 - c. If you were a slave, what would you expect at this point? What would you hope for?
 - d. If you were a Confederate, what would you expect at this point? What would you hope for?
 - e. If you were a Union supporter, what would you expect at this point? What would you hope for?
5. Hold the PowerPoint at the question mark.
6. Place a large piece of masking tape on the floor long enough for students to align themselves along the taped line.
7. Designate one end as “definitely not” and the other end a “definitely yes” to illustrate varying opinions on the following questions: (each question is asked separately and students may need to change positions depending on their answers)
 - a. You are a former Confederate state, do you want to return to the Union? (students move) Ask: Why or why not? How would you feel?
 - b. You are from the North, do you want the South to be punished for the war? (students move) Ask: Why or why not?
 - c. You are a white Southerner who was a staunch Confederate. Would you swear an oath of amnesty (loyalty) to the Union? (students move) Ask: Why or why not?
 - d. You are an African American veteran of the Civil War, do you want the South to be allowed back into the Union? (students move) Ask: Why or why not?

PROCEDURE:

Print out the PowerPoint with notes prior to class. There are notes included with the slides that can be on the printed slides, but won't be seen by your students during the presentation.

Activity 1

1. Continue the *Effects of the War PowerPoint* presentation.

Activity 2

2. After you have read the 1865 Reconstruction Issues slide break students into seven groups and provide each group with one of the following:

- a. *1865 Newspaper Excerpts (Franklin Repository)*
- b. *Abraham Lincoln's Second Inaugural Address (1865)*
- c. *1863 State of the Union Address*
- d. *Lincoln's Last Public Address*
- e. *Lincoln's Proclamation of Amnesty and Reconstruction*
- f. *US Constitutional Amendments, 1870*
- g. *Speech of the Hon. Reverdy Johnson*

3. Have each group analyze their document and answer the questions on the *Graphic Organizer*.
4. Have each group present their document and answers from the *Graphic Organizer* while the rest of the class fills in the sections for the documents they did not have.
5. Continue to follow the PowerPoint presentation to the end.

CLOSURE:

1. Have students complete an essay on the following topic:
 - a. Consider the state of America today and determine if the Civil War achieved its aims. Does the United States today embody the key ideals of the democratic republican form of government: individual human dignity, equality and the rule of law? List specific examples to support your stance.

ASSESSMENT IN THIS LESSON:

1. Informal assessment in the anticipatory set of student's understanding of the war at this point and what is to come in Reconstruction.
2. Completed *Graphic Organizer* evaluating Lincoln's plans for Reconstruction.
3. Informal assessment through discussion questions asking students to hypothesize the outcome of Reconstruction.
4. Completed essay describing the effects of the war on the United States today.



1865 Newspaper Excerpts

Franklin Repository: May 10, 1865

Political Intelligence

(Column 4)

Summary: With 21 states having ratified the 13th Amendment abolishing slavery, including Louisiana, Tennessee, and Arkansas, only one more state is required to approve the measure to make it into law. In addition to the remaining Southern states, there are several Union states that have yet to approve the proposed constitutional change—New Hampshire, Connecticut, Iowa, Oregon, and California—all of which, the editors optimistically assert, will soon consent as well.

Franklin Repository: January 25, 1865

The Prospect of Peace

(Column 1)

Summary: Celebrates the collapse of slavery and speculates hopefully that peace may be on the horizon, reconstituting the Union.

Full Text of Article:

Again the National heart beats with tremulous anxiety because of the ray of hope that breaks upon the dark horizon of bloody war. There is hope of peace! It may be a delusion. It may have been but a snare on one side or the other, and end in disappointment; but we believe that never before, since the commencement of this fearful, desolating struggle, has the question of peace been so favorably entertained by the insurgents as now. Their army of the South-west is shattered, and confessedly unable for an offensive spring campaign. Charleston is menaced the port of Wilmington is closed, by the capture of Fort Fisher, thus cutting off the last avenue for foreign supplies; Lee's army is wasting under the gloom with which multiplied disasters have shadowed it; Richmond cannot long be held with the powerful armies of Grant, Sherman and Sheridan gathering around it, and with it surrendered, the leaders of the rebellion would be without a resting place. It is most natural therefore that the question of peace should distract their councils and array their victims against the colossal crime that has wantonly deluged our land with fraternal blood.

.....

The question of Slavery has ceased to be an issue North and South. By common consent it must die. The North demands it; the world demands it; the desolated South demands it; the graves of our hundreds of thousands of martyred dead demand it, and it must bow to the retributive

stroke it has so wickedly, wantonly invited. It may die to-morrow, or it may linger for a term of years; but the seal of death must be indelibly planted upon its mutilated form. There is therefore little to impede adjustment.and the amnesty proclamations of the President quiet all apprehensions of vindictiveness on the part of the government. There is therefore nothing for the South to do but submit--to dethrone their leaders who have given them war for peace; desolation for prosperity; bereavement for happiness, and the work of reconstruction, as it is called, is effected.

.....

We have abiding faith that President Lincoln will assent to no negotiation or adjustment that is not entirely consistent with the honor, the dignity and the supremacy of the government; and we therefore welcome every ray of light that dawns upon us, came whence it may, and hope soon to greet the noontide of victory bearing with it a restored and regenerated Union and an honored and ending Nationality.



Abraham Lincoln's Second Inaugural Address

MARCH 4, 1865 | ABRAHAM LINCOLN

The following is Abraham Lincoln's Second Inaugural Address given a little over a month before his assassination and the end of the American Civil War.

Fellow Countrymen

At this second appearing to take the oath of the presidential office, there is less occasion for an extended address than there was at the first. Then a statement, somewhat in detail, of a course to be pursued, seemed fitting and proper. Now, at the expiration of four years, during which public declarations have been constantly called forth on every point and phase of the great contest which still absorbs the attention, and engrosses the energies of the nation, little that is new could be presented. The progress of our arms, upon which all else chiefly depends, is as well known to the public as to myself; and it is, I trust, reasonably satisfactory and encouraging to all. With high hope for the future, no prediction in regard to it is ventured.

On the occasion corresponding to this four years ago, all thoughts were anxiously directed to an impending civil-war. All dreaded it -- all sought to avert it. While the inaugural address was being delivered from this place, devoted altogether to saving the Union without war, insurgent agents were in the city seeking to destroy it without war -- seeking to dissolve the Union, and divide effects, by negotiation. Both parties deprecated war; but one of them would make war rather than let the nation survive; and the other would accept war rather than let it perish. And the war came.

One eighth of the whole population were colored slaves, not distributed generally over the Union, but localized in the Southern ~~half~~ part of it. These slaves constituted a peculiar and powerful interest. All knew that this interest was, somehow, the cause of the war. To strengthen, perpetuate, and extend this interest was the object for which the insurgents would rend the Union, even by war; while the government claimed no right to do more than to restrict the territorial enlargement of it. Neither party expected for the war, the magnitude, or the

duration, which it has already attained. Neither anticipated that the cause of the conflict might cease with, or even before, the conflict itself should cease. Each looked for an easier triumph, and a result less fundamental and astounding. Both read the same Bible, and pray to the same God; and each invokes His aid against the other. It may seem strange that any men should dare to ask a just God's assistance in wringing their bread from the sweat of other men's faces; but let us judge not that we be not judged. The prayers of both could not be answered; that of neither has been answered fully. The Almighty has His own purposes. "Woe unto the world because of offences! for it must needs be that offences come; but woe to that man by whom the offence cometh!" If we shall suppose that American Slavery is one of those offences which, in the providence of God, must needs come, but which, having continued through His appointed time, He now wills to remove, and that He gives to both North and South, this terrible war, as the woe due to those by whom the offence came, shall we discern therein any departure from those divine attributes which the believers in a Living God always ascribe to Him? Fondly do we hope -- fervently do we pray -- that this mighty scourge of war may speedily pass away. Yet, if God wills that it continue, until all the wealth piled by the bond-man's two hundred and fifty years of unrequited toil shall be sunk, and until every drop of blood drawn with the lash, shall be paid by another drawn with the sword, as was said three thousand years ago, so still it must be said "the judgments of the Lord, are true and righteous altogether"

With malice toward none; with charity for all; with firmness in the right, as God gives us to see the right, let us strive on to finish the work we are in; to bind up the nation's wounds; to care for him who shall have borne the battle, and for his widow, and his orphan to do all which may achieve and cherish a just, and a lasting peace, among ourselves, and with all nations.

[Endorsed by Lincoln:]

Original manuscript of second Inaugural presented to Major John Hay.

A. Lincoln

April 10, 1865



U.S. Constitutional Amendments, 1870

ARTICLE I.

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; of the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.

ARTICLE II.

A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed.

ARTICLE III.

No Soldier shall, in time of peace be quartered in any house, without the consent of the Owner, nor in time of war, but in a manner to be prescribed by law.

ARTICLE IV.

The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated, and no Warrants shall issue, but upon probable cause, supported by Oath or affirmation, and particularly describing the place to be searched, and the persons or things to be seized.

ARTICLE V.

No person shall be held to answer for a capital, or otherwise infamous crime, unless on a presentment or indictment of a Grand Jury, except in cases arising in the land or naval forces, or in the Militia, when in actual service in time of War or public danger; nor shall any person be subject for the same offence to be twice put in jeopardy of life or limb; nor shall be compelled in any criminal case to be a witness against himself, nor be deprived of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor shall private property be taken for public use, without just compensation.

ARTICLE VI.

In all criminal prosecutions, the accused shall enjoy the right to a speedy and public trial, by an impartial jury of the State and district wherein the crime shall have been committed, which district shall have been previously ascertained by law, and to be informed of the nature and cause of the accusation; to be confronted with the witnesses against him; to have compulsory process for obtaining witnesses in his favor, and to have the Assistance of Counsel for his defense.

ARTICLE VII.

In Suits at common law, where the value in controversy shall exceed twenty dollars, the right of trial by jury shall be preserved, and no fact tried by a jury, shall be otherwise re-examined in any Court of the United States, than according to the rules of the common law.

ARTICLE VIII.

Excessive bail shall not be required, not excessive fines imposed, nor cruel and unusual punishments inflicted.

ARTICLE IX.

The enumeration in the Constitution, of certain rights, shall not be construed to deny or disparate others retained by the people.

ARTICLE X.

The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people.

ARTICLE XI.

The Judicial power of the United States shall not be construed to extend to any suit in law or equity, commenced or prosecuted against one of the United States by Citizens of another State, or by Citizens or Subjects of any Foreign State.

ARTICLE XII.

The Electors shall meet in their respective states, and vote by ballot for President and Vice-President, one of whom, at least, shall not be an inhabitant of the same state with themselves; they shall name in their ballots the person voted for as President, and in distinct ballots the person voted for as Vice-President, and they shall make distinct lists of all persons voted for as President, and of all persons voted for as Vice-President, and of the number of votes for each, which lists they shall sign and certify, and transmit sealed to the seat of the government of the United States, directed to the President of the Senate;—The President of the Senate shall, in the presence of the Senate and House of Representatives, open all the certificates and the votes shall then be counted;—The person having the greatest number of votes for President, shall be the President, if such number be a majority of the whole number of Electors appointed; and if no person have such majority, then from the persons having the highest numbers not exceeding three on the list of those voted for as President, the House of Representatives shall choose immediately, by ballot, the President. But in choosing the President, the votes shall be taken by states, the representation from each state having one vote; a quorum for this purpose shall consist of a member or members from two-thirds of the states and a majority of all the states shall be necessary to a choice. And if the House of Representatives shall not choose a President whenever the right of choice shall devolve upon them, before the fourth day of March next following, then the Vice-President shall act as President, as in the case of the death or other constitutional disability of the President.¹⁴—The person having the greatest number of votes as Vice-President, shall be the Vice-President, if such number be a majority of the whole number of Electors appointed, and if no person have a majority, then from the two highest numbers on the list, the Senate shall choose the Vice-President; a quorum for the purpose shall consist of two-thirds of the whole number of Senators, and a majority of the whole number shall be necessary to a choice. But no person constitutionally ineligible to the office of President shall be eligible to that of Vice-President of the United States.

ARTICLE XIII.

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.

ARTICLE XIV.

SECTION 1. All persons born or naturalized in the United States, and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United States and of the State wherein they reside. No State shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States; nor shall any State deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws.

SECTION 2. Representatives shall be apportioned among the several States according to their respective numbers, counting the whole number of persons in each State, excluding Indians not taxed. But when the right to vote at any election for the choice of electors for President and Vice President of the United States, Representatives in Congress, the Executive and Judicial officers of a State, or the members of the Legislature thereof, is denied to any of the male inhabitants of such State, being twenty-one years of age, and citizens of the United States, or in any way abridged, except for participation in rebellion, or other crime, the basis of representation therein shall be reduced in the proportion which the number of such male citizens shall bear to the whole number of male citizens twenty-one years of age in such State.

SECTION 3. No person shall be a Senator or Representative in Congress, or elector of President and Vice President, or hold any office, civil or military, under the United States, or under any State, who, having previously taken an oath, as a member of Congress, or as an officer of the United States, or as a member of any State legislature, or as an executive or judicial officer of any State, to support the Constitution of the United States, shall have engaged in insurrection or rebellion against the same, or given aid or comfort to the enemies thereof. But Congress may by a vote of two thirds of each House, remove such disability.

SECTION 4. The validity of the public debt of the United States, authorized by law, including debts incurred for payment of pensions and bounties for services in suppressing insurrection or rebellion, shall not be questioned. But neither the United States nor any State shall assume or pay any debt or obligation incurred in aid of insurrection or rebellion against the United States, or any claim for the loss or emancipation of any slave; but all such debts, obligations and claims shall be held illegal and void.

SECTION 5. The Congress shall have power to enforce, by appropriate legislation, the provisions of this article.

ARTICLE XV.

SECTION 1. The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of race, color, or previous condition of servitude.

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



State of the Union Address

DECEMBER 8, 1863 | ABRAHAM LINCOLN

Excerpt

I transmit the second annual report of the Commissioner of the Department of Agriculture, asking your attention to the developments in that vital interest of the nation. When Congress assembled a year ago, the war had already lasted nearly twenty months, and there had been many conflicts on both land and sea, with varying results; the rebellion had been pressed back into reduced limits; yet the tone of public feeling and opinion, at home and abroad was not satisfactory. With other signs, the popular elections then just past indicated uneasiness among ourselves, while, amid much that was cold and menacing, the kindest words coming from Europe were uttered in accents of pity that we were too blind to surrender a hopeless cause. Our commerce was suffering greatly by a few armed vessels built upon and furnished from foreign shores, and we were threatened with such additions from the same quarter as would sweep our trade from the sea and raise our blockade. We had failed to elicit from European Governments anything hopeful upon this subject. The preliminary emancipation proclamation, issued in September, was running its assigned period to the beginning of the new year. A month later the final proclamation came, including the announcement that colored men of suitable condition would be received into the war service. The policy of emancipation and of employing black soldiers gave to the future a new aspect, about which hope and fear and doubt contended in uncertain conflict. According to our political system, as a matter of civil administration, the General Government had no lawful power to effect emancipation in any State, and for a long time it had been hoped that the rebellion could be suppressed without resorting to it as a military measure. It was all the while deemed possible that the necessity for it might come, and that if it should the crisis of the contest would then be presented. It came, and, as was anticipated, it was followed by dark and doubtful days. Eleven months having now passed, we are permitted to take another review. The rebel borders are pressed still farther back, and by the complete opening of the Mississippi the country dominated by the rebellion is divided into distinct parts, with no practical communication between them. Tennessee and

Arkansas have been substantially cleared of insurgent control, and influential citizens in each, owners of slaves and advocates of slavery at the beginning of the rebellion, now declare openly for emancipation in their respective States. Of those States not included in the emancipation proclamation, Maryland and Missouri, neither of which three years ago would tolerate any restraint upon the extension of slavery into new Territories, only dispute now as to the best mode of removing it within their own limits.

Of those who were slaves at the beginning of the rebellion full 100,000 are now in the United States military service, about one-half of which number actually bear arms in the ranks, thus giving the double advantage of taking so much labor from the insurgent cause and supplying the places which otherwise must be filled with so many white men. So far as tested, it is difficult to say they are not as good soldiers as any. No servile insurrection or tendency to violence or cruelty has marked the measures of emancipation and arming the blacks. These measures have been much discussed in foreign countries, and, contemporary with such discussion, the tone of public sentiment there is much improved. At home the same measures have been fully discussed, supported, criticised, and denounced, and the annual elections following are highly encouraging to those whose official duty it is to bear the country through this great trial. Thus we have the new reckoning. The crisis which threatened to divide the friends of the Union is past.

Looking now to the present and future, and with reference to a resumption of the national authority within the States wherein that authority has been suspended, I have thought fit to issue a proclamation, a copy of which is herewith transmitted. On examination of this proclamation it will appear, as is believed, that nothing will be attempted beyond what is amply justified by the Constitution. True, the form of an oath is given, but no man is coerced to take it. The man is only promised a pardon in case he voluntarily takes the oath. The Constitution authorizes the Executive to grant or withhold the pardon at his own absolute discretion, and this includes the power to grant on terms, as is fully established by judicial and other authorities.

It is also proffered that if in any of the States named a State government shall be in the mode prescribed set up, such government shall be recognized and guaranteed by the United States, and that under it the State shall, on the constitutional conditions, be protected against invasion

and domestic violence. The constitutional obligation of the United States to guarantee to every State in the Union a republican form of government and to protect the State in the cases stated is explicit and full. But why tender the benefits of this provision only to a State government set up in this particular way? This section of the Constitution contemplates a case wherein the element within a State favorable to republican government in the Union may be too feeble for an opposite and hostile element external to or even within the State, and such are precisely the cases with which we are now dealing.

An attempt to guarantee and protect a revived State government, constructed in whole or in preponderating part from the very element against whose hostility and violence it is to be protected, is simply absurd. There must be a test by which to separate the opposing elements, so as to build only from the sound; and that test is a sufficiently liberal one which accepts as sound whoever will make a sworn recantation of his former unsoundness.

But if it be proper to require as a test of admission to the political body an oath of allegiance to the Constitution of the United States and to the Union under it, why also to the laws and proclamations in regard to slavery? Those laws and proclamations were enacted and put forth for the purpose of aiding in the suppression of the rebellion. To give them their fullest effect there had to be a pledge for their maintenance. In my judgment, they have aided and will further aid the cause for which they were intended. To now abandon them would be not only to relinquish a lever of power, but would also be a cruel and an astounding breach of faith. I may add at this point that while I remain in my present position I shall not attempt to retract or modify the emancipation proclamation, nor shall I return to slavery any person who is free by the terms of that proclamation or by any of the acts of Congress. For these and other reasons it is thought best that support of these measures shall be included in the oath, and it is believed the Executive may lawfully claim it in return for pardon and restoration of forfeited rights, which he has clear constitutional power to withhold altogether or grant upon the terms which he shall deem wisest for the public interest. It should be observed also that this part of the oath is subject to the modifying and abrogating power of legislation and supreme judicial decision.

The proposed acquiescence of the National Executive in any reasonable temporary State arrangement for the freed people is made with the view of possibly modifying the confusion and destitution which must at best attend all classes by a total revolution of labor throughout

whole States. It is hoped that the already deeply afflicted people in those States may be somewhat more ready to give up the cause of their affliction if to this extent this vital matter be left to themselves, while no power of the National Executive to prevent an abuse is abridged by the proposition.

The suggestion in the proclamation as to maintaining the political framework of the States on what is called reconstruction is made in the hope that it may do good without danger of harm. It will save labor and avoid great confusion.

But why any proclamation now upon this subject? This question is beset with the conflicting views that the step might be delayed too long or be taken too soon. In some States the elements for resumption seem ready for action, but remain inactive apparently for want of a rallying point--a plan of action, Why shall A adopt the plan of B rather than B that of A? And if A and B should agree, how can they know but that the General Government here will reject their plan? By the proclamation a plan is presented which may be accepted by them as a rallying point, and which they are assured in advance will not be rejected here. This may bring them to act sooner than they otherwise would. The objections to a premature presentation of a plan by the National Executive consist in the danger of committals on points which could be more safely left to further developments. Care has been taken to so shape the document as to avoid embarrassments from this source. Saying that on certain terms certain classes will be pardoned with rights restored, it is not said that other classes or other terms will never be included. Saying specified way, it is said that reconstruction will be accepted if presented in a not said it will never be accepted in any other way.

The movements by State action for emancipation in several of the States not included in the emancipation proclamation are matters of profound gratulation. And while I do not repeat in detail what I have heretofore so earnestly urged upon this subject, my general views and feelings remain unchanged; and I trust that Congress will omit no fair opportunity of aiding these important steps to a great consummation. In the midst of other cares, however important, we must not lose sight of the fact that the war power is still our main reliance. To that power alone can we look yet for a time to give confidence to the people in the contested regions that the insurgent power will not again overrun them. Until that confidence shall be established little can be done anywhere for what is called reconstruction. Hence our chiefest

care must still be directed to the Army and Navy, who have thus far borne their harder part so nobly and well; and it may be esteemed fortunate that in giving the greatest efficiency to these indispensable arms we do also honorably recognize the gallant men, from commander to sentinel, who compose them, and to whom more than to others the world must stand indebted for the home of freedom disenthralled, regenerated, enlarged, and perpetuated.



Lincoln's Last Public Address

APRIL 11, 1862 | ABRAHAM LINCOLN

Washington, DC

We meet this evening, not in sorrow, but in gladness of heart. The evacuation of Petersburg and Richmond, and the surrender of the principal insurgent army, give hope of a righteous and speedy peace whose joyous expression can not be restrained. In the midst of this, however, He from whom all blessings flow, must not be forgotten. A call for a national thanksgiving is being prepared, and will be duly promulgated. Nor must those whose harder part gives us the cause of rejoicing, be overlooked. Their honors must not be parcelled out with others. I myself was near the front, and had the high pleasure of transmitting much of the good news to you; but no part of the honor, for plan or execution, is mine. To Gen. Grant, his skilful officers, and brave men, all belongs. The gallant Navy stood ready, but was not in reach to take active part.

By these recent successes the re-inauguration of the national authority -- reconstruction -- which has had a large share of thought from the first, is pressed much more closely upon our attention. It is fraught with great difficulty. Unlike a case of a war between independent nations, there is no authorized organ for us to treat with. No one man has authority to give up the rebellion for any other man. We simply must begin with, and mould from, disorganized and discordant elements. Nor is it a small additional embarrassment that we, the loyal people, differ among ourselves as to the mode, manner, and means of reconstruction.

As a general rule, I abstain from reading the reports of attacks upon myself, wishing not to be provoked by that to which I can not properly offer an answer. In spite of this precaution, however, it comes to my knowledge that I am much censured for some supposed agency in setting up, and seeking to sustain, the new State government of Louisiana. In this I have done just so much as, and no more than, the public knows. In the Annual Message of Dec. 1863 and accompanying Proclamation, I presented a plan of re-construction (as the phrase goes) which, I promised, if adopted by any State, should be acceptable to, and sustained by, the Executive government of the nation. I distinctly stated that this was not the only plan which might possibly be acceptable; and I also distinctly protested that the Executive claimed no right to say when, or whether members should be admitted to seats in Congress from such States. This plan was, in advance, submitted to the then Cabinet, and distinctly approved by every member of it. One of them suggested that I should then, and in that connection, apply the Emancipation Proclamation to the theretofore excepted parts of Virginia and Louisiana; that I should drop the suggestion about apprenticeship for freed-people, and that I should omit the protest against my own power, in regard to the admission of members to Congress; but even he approved every part and parcel of the plan which has since been employed or touched by the action of Louisiana. The new constitution of Louisiana, declaring emancipation for the whole State, practically applies the Proclamation to the part previously excepted. It does not adopt apprenticeship for freed-people; and it is silent, as it could not well be otherwise, about the admission of members to Congress. So that, as it applies to Louisiana, every member of the

Cabinet fully approved the plan. The message went to Congress, and I received many commendations of the plan, written and verbal; and not a single objection to it, from any professed emancipationist, came to my knowledge, until after the news reached Washington that the people of Louisiana had begun to move in accordance with it. From about July 1862, I had corresponded with different persons, supposed to be interested, seeking a reconstruction of a State government for Louisiana. When the message of 1863, with the plan before mentioned, reached New-Orleans, Gen. Banks wrote me that he was confident the people, with his military co-operation, would reconstruct, substantially on that plan. I wrote him, and some of them to try it; they tried it, and the result is known. Such only has been my agency in getting up the Louisiana government. As to sustaining it, my promise is out, as before stated. But, as bad promises are better broken than kept, I shall treat this as a bad promise, and break it, whenever I shall be convinced that keeping it is adverse to the public interest. But I have not yet been so convinced.

I have been shown a letter on this subject, supposed to be an able one, in which the writer expresses regret that my mind has not seemed to be definitely fixed on the question whether the seceding States, so called, are in the Union or out of it. It would perhaps, add astonishment to his regret, were he to learn that since I have found professed Union men endeavoring to make that question, I have *purposely* forborne any public expression upon it. As appears to me that question has not been, nor yet is, a practically material one, and that any discussion of it, while it thus remains practically immaterial, could have no effect other than the mischievous one of dividing our friends. As yet, whatever it may hereafter become, that question is bad, as the basis of a controversy, and good for nothing at all--a merely pernicious abstraction.

We all agree that the seceded States, so called, are out of their proper relation with the Union; and that the sole object of the government, civil and military, in regard to those States is to again get them into that proper practical relation. I believe it is not only possible, but in fact, easier to do this, without deciding, or even considering, whether these States have ever been out of the Union, than with it. Finding themselves safely at home, it would be utterly immaterial whether they had ever been abroad. Let us all join in doing the acts necessary to restoring the proper practical relations between these States and the Union; and each forever after, innocently indulge his own opinion whether, in doing the acts, he brought the States from without, into the Union, or only gave them proper assistance, they never having been out of it.

The amount of constituency, so to speak, on which the new Louisiana government rests, would be more satisfactory to all, if it contained fifty, thirty, or even twenty thousand, instead of only about twelve thousand, as it does. It is also unsatisfactory to some that the elective franchise is not given to the colored man. I would myself prefer that it were now conferred on the very intelligent, and on those who serve our cause as soldiers. Still the question is not whether the Louisiana government, as it stands, is quite all that is desirable. The question is, "Will it be wiser to take it as it is, and help to improve it; or to reject, and disperse it?" "Can Louisiana be brought into proper practical relation with the Union *sooner* by *sustaining*, or by *discarding* her new State government?"

Some twelve thousand voters in the heretofore slave-state of Louisiana have sworn allegiance to the Union, assumed to be the rightful political power of the State, held elections, organized a State government, adopted a free-state constitution, giving the benefit of public schools equally

to black and white, and empowering the Legislature to confer the elective franchise upon the colored man. Their Legislature has already voted to ratify the constitutional amendment recently passed by Congress, abolishing slavery throughout the nation. These twelve thousand persons are thus fully committed to the Union, and to perpetual freedom in the state--committed to the very things, and nearly all the things the nation wants--and they ask the nations recognition and it's assistance to make good their committal. Now, if we reject, and spurn them, we do our utmost to disorganize and disperse them. We in effect say to the white men "You are worthless, or worse--we will neither help you, nor be helped by you." To the blacks we say "This cup of liberty which these, your old masters, hold to your lips, we will dash from you, and leave you to the chances of gathering the spilled and scattered contents in some vague and undefined when, where, and how." If this course, discouraging and paralyzing both white and black, has any tendency to bring Louisiana into proper practical relations with the Union, I have, so far, been unable to perceive it. If, on the contrary, we recognize, and sustain the new government of Louisiana the converse of all this is made true. We encourage the hearts, and nerve the arms of the twelve thousand to adhere to their work, and argue for it, and proselyte for it, and fight for it, and feed it, and grow it, and ripen it to a complete success. The colored man too, in seeing all united for him, is inspired with vigilance, and energy, and daring, to the same end. Grant that he desires the elective franchise, will he not attain it sooner by saving the already advanced steps toward it, than by running backward over them? Concede that the new government of Louisiana is only to what it should be as the egg is to the fowl, we shall sooner have the fowl by hatching the egg than by smashing it? Again, if we reject Louisiana, we also reject one vote in favor of the proposed amendment to the national Constitution. To meet this proposition, it has been argued that no more than three fourths of those States which have not attempted secession are necessary to validly ratify the amendment. I do not commit myself against this, further than to say that such a ratification would be questionable, and sure to be persistently questioned; while a ratification by three-fourths of all the States would be unquestioned and unquestionable.

I repeat the question, "Can Louisiana be brought into proper practical relation with the Union *sooner* by *sustaining* or by *discarding* her new State Government?"

What has been said of Louisiana will apply generally to other States. And yet so great peculiarities pertain to each state, and such important and sudden changes occur in the same state; and withal, so new and unprecedented is the whole case, that no exclusive, and inflexible plan can be safely prescribed as to details and colaterals [sic]. Such exclusive, and inflexible plan, would surely become a new entanglement. Important principles may, and must, be inflexible.

In the present "*situation*" as the phrase goes, it may be my duty to make some new announcement to the people of the South. I am considering, and shall not fail to act, when satisfied that action will be proper.



Proclamation of Amnesty and Reconstruction

DECEMBER 8, 1863 | ABRAHAM LINCOLN

Proclamation.

Whereas in and by the Constitution of the United States, it is provided that the President "shall have power to grant reprieves and pardons for offences against the United States, except in cases of impeachment, and

Whereas a rebellion now exists whereby the loyal State governments of several States have for a long time been subverted, and many persons have committed, and are now guilty of treason against the United States, and

Whereas, with reference to said rebellion and treason, laws have been enacted by Congress, declaring forfeitures, and confiscations of property, and liberation of slaves, all upon terms and conditions therein stated, and also declaring that the President was thereby authorized at any time thereafter, by proclamation, to extend to persons who may have participated in the existing rebellion, in any State or part thereof, pardon and amnesty, with such exceptions, and at such time, and on such conditions, as he may deem expedient for the public welfare, and

Whereas the Congressional declaration for limited and conditional pardon, accords with well established judicial exposition of the pardoning power, ~~under the British, and American Constitutions,~~ and

Whereas, with reference to said rebellion, the President of the United States has issued several proclamations, with provisions in regard to the liberation of slaves, and

Whereas it is now desired by some persons heretofore engaged in said rebellion, to resume their allegiance to the United States, and to re-inaugurate loyal State governments within and for their respective States, therefore

I, Abraham Lincoln, President of the United States, do proclaim, declare, and make known, to all persons who have, directly or by implication, participated in the existing rebellion, except

[Space in Manuscript:]

that a full pardon is hereby granted to them and each of them, with restoration of all rights of property, except as to slaves, and upon the condition that every such person shall take and subscribe an oath, and thenceforward keep and maintain said oath inviolate; and which oath shall be registered for permanent preservation and shall be of the tenor and effect following, to wit:

"I ... do solemnly swear in presence of Almighty God, that I will henceforth faithfully support, protect, and defend the Constitution of the United States, and the Union of the States thereunder; and that I will, in like manner, abide by, and faithfully support all Acts of Congress passed during the existing rebellion, with reference to slaves, so long, and so far, as not repealed, modified, or held void by Congress, or by decision of the Supreme Court; and that I will, in like manner, abide by and faithfully support, all proclamations of the President made during the existing rebellion, having reference to slaves, so long, and so far as not modified, or declared void by decision of the Supreme Court, so help me God."

The persons excepted from the benefits of the foregoing provisions are all who are, or shall have been civil or diplomatic officers or agents of the so-called Confederate government; all who have left judicial stations under the United States to aid the rebellion; all who are, or shall have been military or naval officers of said so-called confederate government, above the rank of Colonel in the Army, or of lieutenant in the Navy; all who left seats in the United States Congress to aid the rebellion; all who resigned commissions in the army or navy of the United States, and afterwards aided the rebellion; and all who have engaged in any way, in treating colored persons, or white persons in charge of such, otherwise than lawfully as prisoners of war, and which persons may have been found in the United States service as soldiers, seamen, or in any other capacity.

And I do further proclaim, declare, and make known that whenever, in any of the States of Arkansas, Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Tennessee, Alabama, Georgia, Florida, South-Carolina, and North Carolina, a number of persons, not less than one tenth in number of the votes cast at in such state, at the Presidential election of the year of our Lord, one thousand eight hundred and sixty, each having taken the oath aforesaid, and not having since violated it, and being a qualified voter by the election law of the state, existing immediately before the so-called act of secession, and excluding all others, shall re-establish a State government, which shall be republican, and in no wise contravening said said oath, such shall be recognized as the true government of the State, and the State shall receive thereunder the benefits of the Constitutional provision which declares that "The United States shall guaranty to every State in the Union a republican form of government, and shall protect each of them against invasion, and on application of the legislature, or the executive (when the legislature can not be convened against domestic violence."

And I do further proclaim, declare, and make known that any provision which may be adopted by such State government in relation to the freed people of such State, which shall recognize and declare their permanent freedom, provide for their education, and which may yet be consistent, as a temporary arrangement, with their present condition as a laboring, landless, and homeless class, shall not be objected to by the national executive.

And it is suggested as not improper that in constructing a loyal State government in any State, the name of the State, the boundary, the subdivisions, the Constitution, and the general code of laws, as before the rebellion, be maintained, subject only to the modifications made necessary by the conditions hereinbefore stated, and such others, if any, not contravening said conditions, and which may be deemed expedient by those framing the new State government.

To avoid misunderstanding it may be proper to say that this ~~paper~~ proclamation, so far as it relates to State governments, has no reference to States wherein loyal State governments have

all the while been maintained. And for the same reason it may be proper to further say that whether members sent to Congress from any State shall be admitted to seats constitutionally rests exclusively with the respective Houses, and not to any extent with the executive.

And still further that this proclamation is intended to present the people of the States wherein the national authority has been suspended, and loyal State governments have been subverted, a mode in and by which the national authority and loyal States governments may be re-established within said States, or in any of them; and, while the mode presented is the best the executive can ~~present~~ suggest, with his present impressions, it must not be understood that no other possible mode would be acceptable.

Given under my hand at the City of Washington, the 8th of December, A. D. one thousand eight hundred and sixty three, and of the independence of the United States of America the eightyeighth.

Abraham Lincoln



In Support of the Resolution to Amend the Constitution So As to Abolish Slavery

Delivered in the Senate of the United States

APRIL 15, 1864 | HON. REVERDY JOHNSON OF MD.

Excerpted

After stating his objections to the abolition of slavery under the War Power and under the Legislative War Power, he said:

“...what says the preamble of the Constitution?...What does that preamble state to have been the chief objects that the great, and wise, and good men had at heart in recommending the Constitution, with the preamble, to the adoption of the American people? That justice might be established; that tranquility might be preserved; that the common defense and general welfare might be maintained; and, last and chief of all, that liberty might be secured. Is there no justice in putting an end to human slavery? Is there no danger to the tranquility of the country in its existence? May it not interfere with the common defense and general welfare? And, above all, is it consistent with any notion which the mind of man can conceive of human liberty? The very clause under which we seek to put an end to the institution, the amendatory clause, may have been, and, in all probability was, inserted in the instrument [The Constitution] from a conviction that the time would come when justice would call so loudly for the extinction of the institution [slavery] that her call could not be disobeyed; when the peace and tranquility of the land would demand in thunder tones the destruction of the institution as inconsistent with such peace and tranquility; and when the sentiment of the world would become shocked with the existence of a condition of things in the only free government upon the face of the globe as far as the white man is concerned, and founded upon the principles utterly inconsistent with any other form of government than a government which secures freedom – when the sentiment of the world would be shocked by the continuing existence of human bondage, and we should become the scoff and scorn of Christendom.

.....

There was not one of them....in that great body which formed the [Constitutional] Convention ...who would not have been shocked had he been told that there was a right to make a slave of any human being.

.....

The Savior of mankind...announced the true duty of man was to do to others as he would have others do to him, to all men the world over.

.....

It is to be supposed....that they [slaves] do not know what are the blessings of human freedom? What do we see? Wherever the flag of the United States, the symbol of human liberty, now goes, under it, from their hereditary bondage, are to be found the men, women, and children assembling and craving its protection.....The [black man] is willing to incur every personal danger which promises to result in throwing down his shackles and making him tread the earth which God has created for all as a man and not as a slave. It is the instinct of the soul...it kindles into a flame the very furnace of affliction...vindicates in the very effort, the inextinguishable right to liberty.

.....

Let the institution be abolished.....terminate it...We mean that the Government in the future shall be as it may have been in the past, an example of human freedom for the light and example of the world, and illustrating in the blessings and the happiness it confers the truth of the principles incorporated into the Declaration of Independence, that life and liberty are man's inalienable right.

.....

We owe it not only to ourselves and to those who are to follow us, but to humanity, to bring this war to a successful result.....One single object should ever be before us --- the restoration of the Union; and when it shall, be restored, as I trust in Providence it will be, and unquestionably as it can be, if the power of the Government is exerted as it may be, we shall be restored, I trust, with a Government, National and State, in which human bondage has no place, and when we

shall be able to say to the world: “However late we were in carrying out the principles of our institutions, we have at last accomplished it. The Union is restored and slavery is terminated.”

Author: Johnson, Reverdy, 1796-1876.



Name: _____

Date: _____

Graphic Organizer

Franklin Repository Source “The Prospect of Peace”

<i>How many months before the end of the war is the article written?</i>	
<i>What is the editorial hoping for? Do not cite summary</i>	
<i>Is this a Northern paper or a Southern paper? How can you tell?</i>	
<i>What does the editorial say about slavery?</i>	
<i>How does the editorial think the North will treat the South when the war is over?</i>	
<i>Your notes:</i>	

Lincoln's Second Inaugural Address

What does Lincoln say was the cause for the war?	
What is the tone of the address?	
Your notes:	

1863 State of the Union Address

What does Lincoln say about emancipation and the USCT?	
What does Lincoln say about Reconstruction?	
What does Lincoln say about thinking about Reconstruction at this time (1863)?	
Your notes:	

Lincoln's Proclamation of Amnesty and Reconstruction

<p>What is Lincoln making known that he wants to do for all who are participating in the existing rebellion?</p>	
<p>Who is excluded in his plan?</p>	
<p>What four things do the Southern states need to do to re-establish a state government?</p>	
<p>What provisions does Lincoln want the state governments to adopt in relation to the freed people of the state?</p>	
<p>Your notes:</p>	

Lincoln's Last Public Address

<p>What is the sole object of the federal government in relation to the seceded states?</p>	
<p>What has Louisiana done?</p>	
<p>What happens if Louisiana's government is rejected?</p>	
<p>Your notes:</p>	

“In Support of the Resolution to Amend the Constitution”

Hon. Reverdy Johnson

<p>What comparisons does Johnson make with the Constitution?</p>	
<p>What does Johnson say is the true duty of men?</p>	
<p>What is the instinct of the soul?</p>	
<p>Why do you think Johnson says the government is an example of human freedom?</p>	
<p>Johnson says, “However late we were in carrying out the principles of our institutions, we have at last accomplished it.” Look at America today. Do you agree or disagree with him? Why or why not? Cite examples.</p>	
<p>Your notes:</p>	

Reconstruction Amendments

What is the purpose of the 13 th Amendment?	
What is the purpose of the 14 th Amendment?	
What is the purpose of the 15 th Amendment?	
Your notes:	