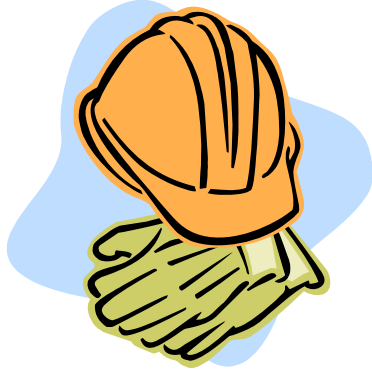


Construction Zone



Rebuilding the Nation

Created by Tami Finley

Purpose: The purpose of this culminating activity is to piece together the various components of Reconstruction including the plans, the events, the effects, and the results. After reviewing the components students will then evaluate Reconstruction as a whole and develop their own thinking of what if anything could have made a difference and made Reconstruction more successful.

Background: Students will need to have a thorough background on Reconstruction. (You can use primary/secondary sources and have groups members become experts at various components within secondary groups, then come and share their learned knowledge with their primary group)

Including: the plans of Congress, Lincoln, and Johnsons, the effects on plantation owners, freed slaves, and small farm farmers, the views of Lincoln's assassination, the Freedman's Bureau, the changes in public education, attitudes of various social and ethnic groups, and the results of government organizations and subsidies.

Activity:

Day 1: After students are familiar with the components of Reconstructions give each group a puzzle packet in an envelope or ziplock bag. The puzzle packet should be in pieces and 2-3 pieces should be missing. Have students write a component on the front side and a short summary (1 to 2 sentences) on the back. (If there are not enough pieces, then groups should evaluate what had the biggest impact and choose those components.

Day 2: Give the puzzle back to the groups and have them put the puzzle together. Students will begin to realize that pieces are missing and the puzzle cannot be completed. Aaaah.... Thus the discussion can begin as to whether or not Reconstruction was successful and why not. What was missing? Was it an impossible task? Was there not enough time? Were the plans too weak? Was it the beginning of an era, or an ending? Were attitudes a key factor? Have students discuss these questions in their groups.

Day 3: Students will write a 1 to 2 page essay on what pieces were missing in the nation's plan for reconstruction. Could anything have made it work better?

Assessment:

Organization:

A clear introduction, a middle section with a logical pattern or flow based on the content, and a concluding summation

Content:

Introduction: A brief opening of Reconstruction and statement of your opinion

Content: A well developed idea which includes references to various components of reconstruction (3 would be a guideline) and gives evidence to support the opinion stated.

Conclusion: A summary of your opinion and evidence

Conventions:

Correct grammar and punctuation

Voice:

Clear, concise and deliberate word choice is used that paints an easy picture for the reader. The reader should be able to feel the passion you have for the stance you take.