



Guess Who's Coming for Dinner

Essential Question: What were the various thoughts and view of how to rebuild the Union following the Civil War? What were the effects of the reconstruction plans on the various social groups that were present during the era?

Setting the stage

This would be a culminating activity for most students, but could be used for an introductory/research based introduction for older or higher achieving students.

Divide class in groups according to the number of characters you choose.

Characters: Abraham Lincoln, Andrew Johnson, former slave, former Confederate Soldier, Union officer, plantation owner, small farm farmer, former plantation owner, Radical Republican, Frederick Douglass

Day One:

Materials:

- Characters listed on individual note cards or paper to tape on each student
- Summaries of each character's views of Reconstruction

Activity:

Have students get into their groups. Tape a character on each student's back. Have the students rotate within their group to ask yes/no questions to determine who they are. Set a timer: (allow about 4 minutes) After 4 minutes give a bonus minute and have students give clues to those who have not correctly determined

their character. This is not necessary, but allows team members to begin conversations.

Give short summaries or sources to each student explaining the thoughts and views of his character. Students are asked to read the summaries for homework, and be prepared for discussion the following day. Or you can have students review unit notes to prepare. Or you can have students do their own research and give a date to be prepared for “dinner”.

Day Two:

Materials:

Tables and chairs grouped

Snack and drink

Topic Cards

Timer

Activity

Have groups gather for “dinner” and review discussion rules. (One person talking at a time, allow others time to talk before talking again, etc.)

Have students begin eating then bring around a topic to each group, set the timer and have the group discuss and debate the topic. Continue with new topics.

Topic ideas: Should all southern plantations acquired by the union be returned to the owners? Should former Confederate soldiers be allowed to vote or hold office? Should a Bureau agent have to sign or approve work contracts?