

Chapter 15 Guided Reading Questions

Reconstruction: 1865-1877

Identify the Big Idea: What goals did Republican policy-makers, ex-Confederates, and freed-people pursue during Reconstruction? To what degree did each succeed?

1. How did Lincoln and Johnson approach Reconstruction differently?
2. Under what circumstances did the Fourteenth Amendment win passage, and what problems did its authors seek to address?
3. How and why did federal Reconstruction policies evolve between 1865 and 1870?
4. Abolitionists and women's suffrage advocates were generally close allies before 1865. What divisions emerged during Reconstruction and why?
5. Why did sharecropping emerge, and how did it affect freedpeople and the southern economy?
6. What policies did southern Reconstruction legislators pursue, and what needs of the postwar South did they seek to serve?
7. Compare the results of African Americans' community building with their struggles to obtain better working conditions. What links do you see between these efforts?
8. How did ex-Confederates, freedpeople, Republicans, and classical liberals view the end of Reconstruction?