

United States History and Government Regents

Middle School 181

Mr. Boera

**Reconstruction,**  in U.S. history, the period (1865–77) that followed the [American Civil War](http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/19407/American-Civil-War) and during which attempts were made to equalize the inequities of slavery and its political, social, and economic legacy and to solve the problems arising from the readmission to the Union of the 11 states that had seceded at or before the outbreak of war. Long portrayed by many historians as a time when vindictive [Radical Republicans](http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/488729/Radical-Republican) fastened African American supremacy upon the defeated [Confederacy](http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/131803/Confederate-States-of-America), Reconstruction has since the late 20th century been viewed more sympathetically as an experiment in interracial democracy. Reconstruction witnessed far-reaching changes in America’s political life. At the national level, new laws and constitutional amendments permanently altered the federal system and the definition of American citizenship. In [the South](http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/555542/the-South), a politically mobilized African American community joined with white allies to bring the [Republican Party](http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/498842/Republican-Party) to power, and with it a redefinition of the responsibilities of government.

The Executive Branch and the Congress had two very different ideas about rebuilding the nation.  Please address the following tasks completely:

1. Explain President Lincoln’s plan for Reconstruction.
2. Explain President Johnson’s plan for Reconstruction.
3. Explain the plan proposed by Radical Republican Congress.
4. ­­Determine which branch you agree with more, support your opinion with specific examples?
5. Structure a plan that you would require a Southern State to accomplish for re-admission to the Union?

