

- AMH 2010 & AMH 2020: AMERICAN HISTORY
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2 – RECONSTRUCTION



Miami Dade
College

West Campus



1. Reconstruction was the period after the Civil War. This was a rebuilding period. During Reconstruction, Southern states had to be readmitted into the Union, bring the emancipated freedmen into public life, and rebuild their war-torn economies. Although federal law, particularly the 13th, 14th, and 15th amendments to the Constitution, brought legal equality to African-Americans, local law, particularly in southern states, often undermined such equality over the following 100 years. It was not until the Civil Rights movement of the 1960s that expansive gains in equality began to occur.



<https://www.thoughtco.com/reconstruction-definition-1773394>



https://www.google.com/search?bih=646&biw=1280&dpr=1.5&hl=en&q=reconstruction+era&sa=X&safe=active&url=1&sxrf=APwEdf7a9fw9G3M2abcnt8kgs2GsoHRQ%3A168475662618&tbn=isch&ved=2ahUKEwif4aHT74_AhWmfzABHQ2WAMwQ0pQJegQIDRAB#imgrc=QUB9YHcE03CZVM

2. One of the greatest issues facing the South was the fate of the freedmen (freed slaves). How would four million people, suddenly emancipated from slavery, enter public life and the free market economy? Despite several experiments and promises during the war, the freedmen were not given their own land. The federal government set up the Freedmen's Bureau, with offices throughout the South, to help the freedmen adjust and to set up schools to educate them.



The Bureau built hospitals for the freed slaves and gave direct medical aid to more than 1 million of them. The greatest successes of the Freedmen's Bureau were in the field of education. More than 1,000 African American schools were built and staffed with qualified instructors.



A lack of funding, coupled with the politics of race and Reconstruction, meant that the bureau was not able to carry out all of its initiatives, and it failed to provide long-term protection for Blacks or ensure any real measure of racial equality.



3. The Republicans were the political party of President Lincoln during the war. Republicans became divided over Reconstruction policies. Lincoln had proposed to treat the South leniently. After he was assassinated in April 1865, the next President, Andrew Johnson, at first seemed to be sterner on former Confederates. However, Johnson soon began pardoning almost all former Confederates.

Plans for Reconstruction

[apushcanvas](https://www.apushcanvas.com/) [licensed for non-commercial use only] / The Impending Constitutional Crisis (pbworks.com)

LINCOLN	JOHNSON	RADICAL REPUBLICAN
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Required 10 percent of a state's voters to take an oath of loyalty to the Union in order to form a new government and rejoin the Union• Required states to accept emancipation of slaves• Offered full pardons to all former Confederates	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Required former Confederates with property worth \$20,000 or more to obtain presidential pardon in order to vote or hold office; gave full pardon to others• Required ratification of the Thirteenth Amendment	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Required 50 percent of a state's voters to take an oath of loyalty to the Union in order to call a constitutional convention and elect a new government• Divided South into five military districts• Required state legislatures to adopt new constitutions guaranteeing African American suffrage• Required states to ratify the Fourteenth Amendment in order to seat representatives in Congress

4. Southern state legislatures had to accept the end of slavery, but quickly passed Black Codes, laws based on older slave codes. These laws limited the civil rights and freedom of movement of the freedmen.

BLACK CODES

- Could not own property or guns
- No voting rights
- If no job, could be arrested and forced to work for no pay



5. After the war, the Northern Republicans in Congress were outraged by the election of former Confederates to Congress and by the passage of the Black Codes across the South. Republicans passed the Civil Rights Act, granting freedmen their civil rights. This federal law later became the basis for the Fourteenth Amendment.

The Equal Protection Clause: 14th Amendment

- **The 14th Amendment provides that “no State shall make or enforce any law which shall . . . deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws.”**

6. The Radical Republicans wanted to give African Americans their full civil rights. They gained control of Congress and passed their own program for Reconstruction, dividing the South into five districts—each occupied by the Union army. Former Confederate leaders lost their political rights, while freedmen were given the right to vote.

Congress passed the Reconstruction Act of 1867

The South was divided into 5 military zones with US troops to enforce Reconstruction

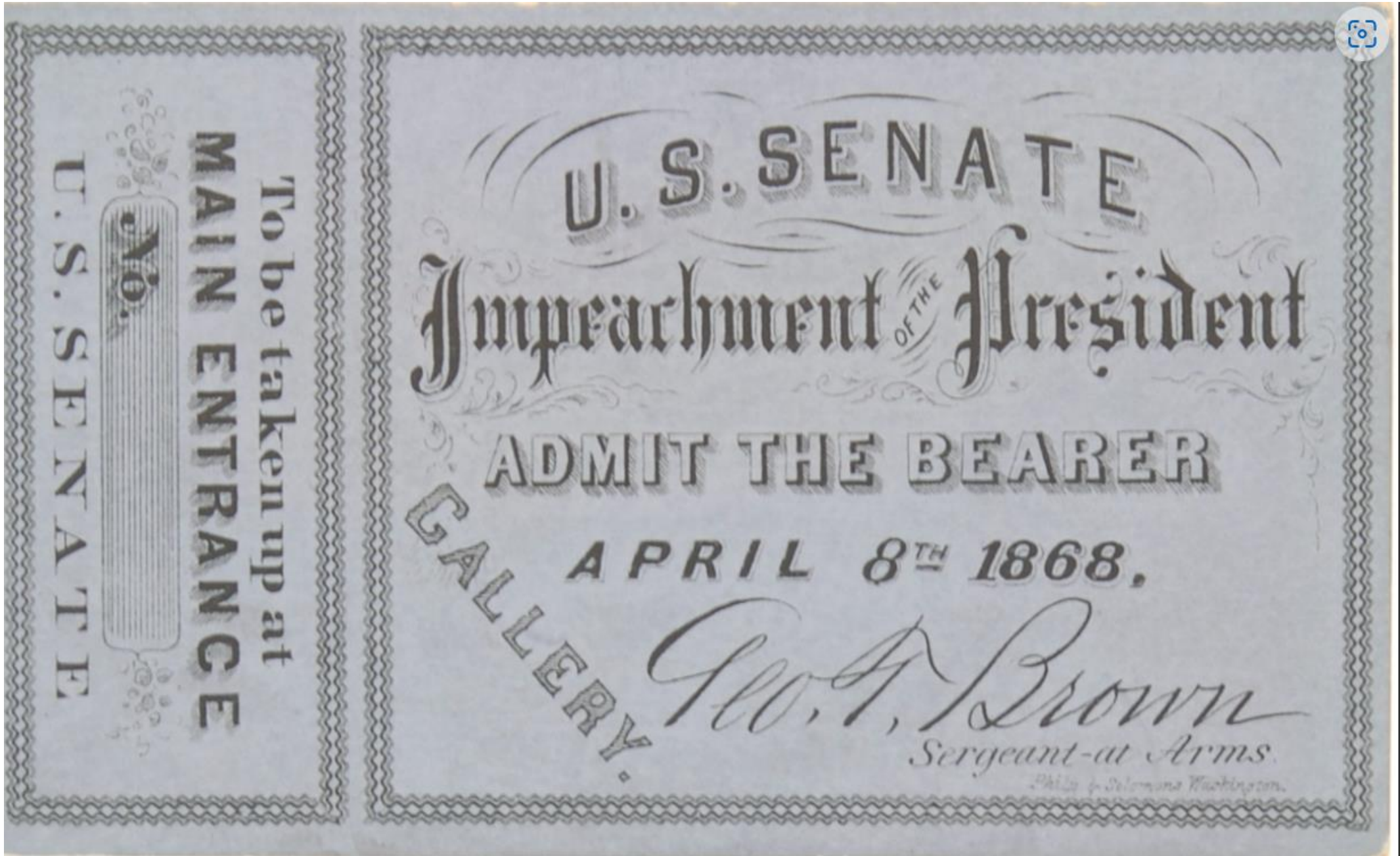
Ex-Confederate states were required to give black men the right to vote at the state level

To be readmitted, states had to ratify the 14th Amendment protecting black citizenship

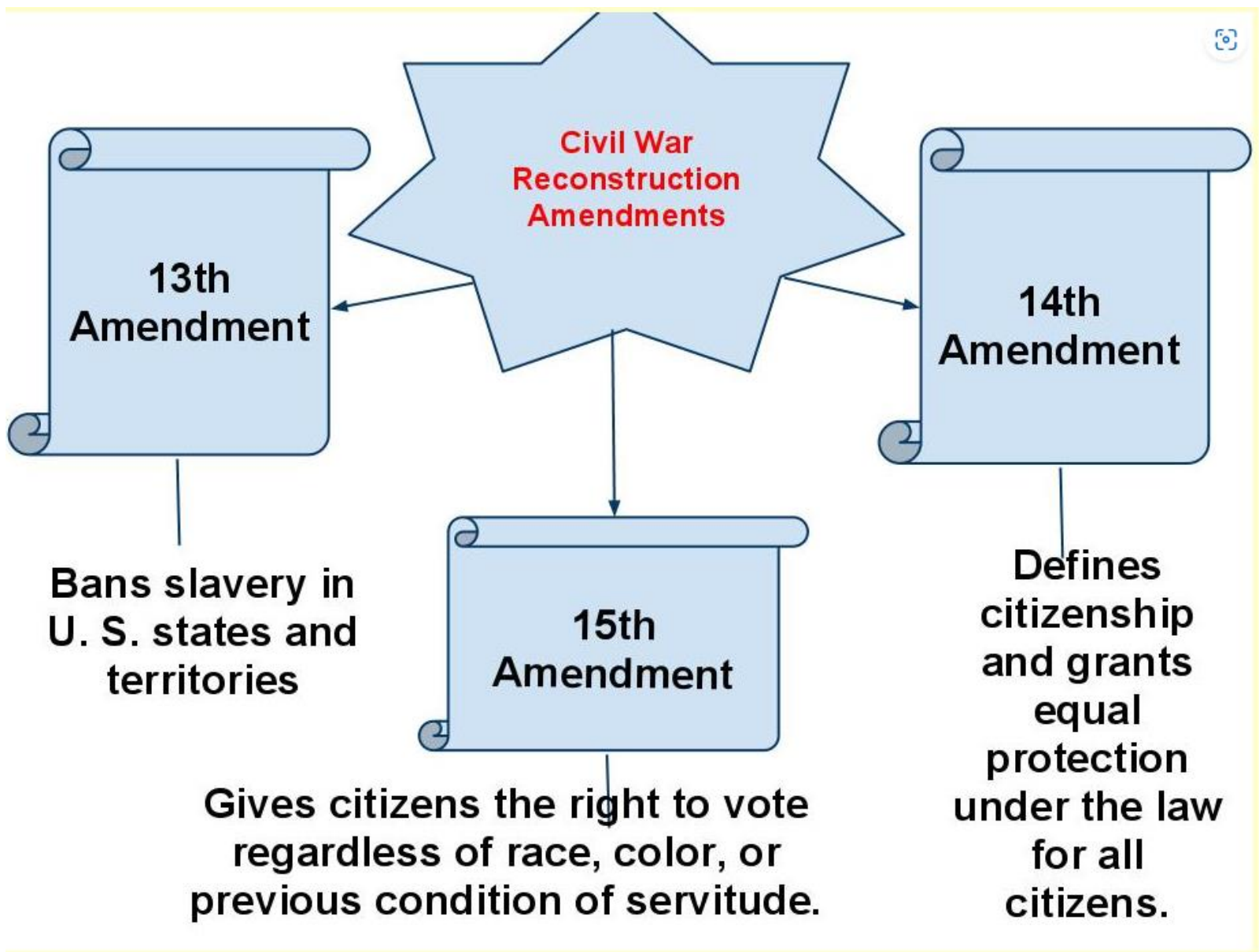


A MAN KNOWS A MAN.

7. The Republicans in Congress impeached President Johnson in the House of Representatives, but the Senate failed to remove him from office.



8. During Reconstruction, three amendments were added to the Constitution. The Thirteenth Amendment abolished slavery. The Fourteenth Amendment defined U.S. citizenship and guaranteed all citizens important rights, such as equality before the law. The Fifteenth Amendment prohibited any denial of suffrage, the right to vote, on the basis of race.



9. During Reconstruction, freedmen, carpetbaggers (Northerners who came south), and scalawags held power in Southern governments. For the first time, African Americans were elected to government office, including Congress.



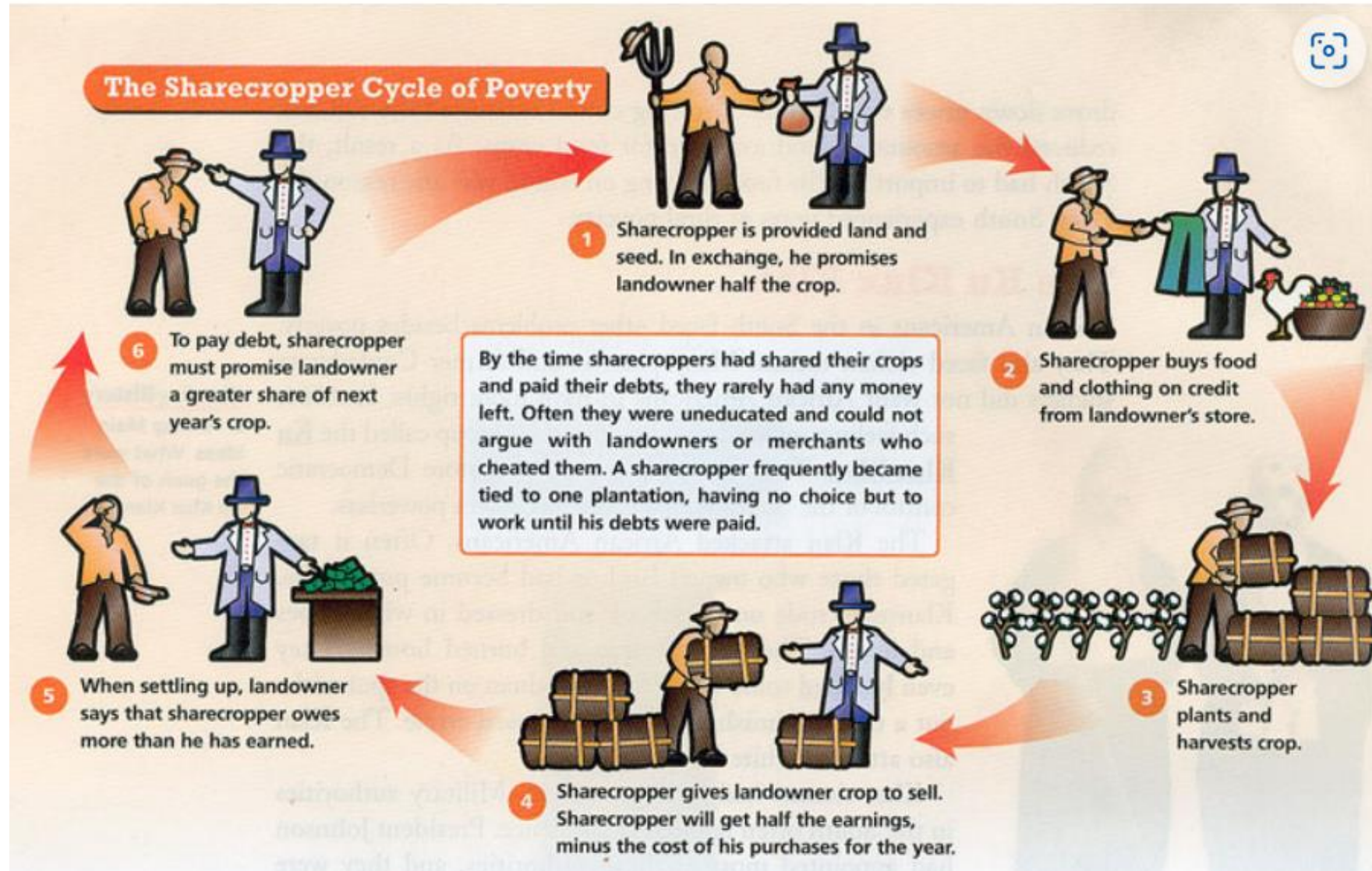
The First Black Members of the U.S. Congress

10. Reconstruction governments built roads and schools and took steps towards racial equality. However, after Northern troops were withdrawn, Southern states started passing segregation laws in the late 1870s.



An October 24th, 1874 Harper's Magazine editorial cartoon by Thomas Nast denouncing KKK and White League murders of innocent Blacks

11. Southerners also developed a new economy during Reconstruction. Former slave owners often did not have money to pay laborers. The emancipated slaves did not have land. Under the new system of sharecropping, the freedmen gave a share of their crops to the landowner in exchange for use of the land. Other freedmen became tenants, and soon owed debts to their landlords. Some fell into debt peonage (in servitude for debts they could not repay). The Reconstruction Era also saw increased African-American migration (moving out of the South).



12. After the end of Reconstruction, Southern state governments passed Jim Crow laws requiring racial segregation (separation of "white" and "colored" in public places).

These laws were upheld by the U.S. Supreme Court in Plessy v. Ferguson (1896). The Ku Klux Klan and similar groups committed violent acts against African Americans and prevented them from exercising their rights.

This was the nadir, or worst period, in relations between the races.

