

Radical Reconstruction Student Worksheet

Introduction:

After the Civil War ended in 1865, the nation was faced with a difficult task of how to reunite the North and South. Several radical members of the Republican Party felt that Southern states should be treated as conquered provinces and occupied as any other enemy conquered by U.S. forces would be.

The struggle between radicals and moderates would continue throughout the rest of the 1860s into the 1870s, and would spill over beyond the halls of Congress; for example, cartoonist Thomas Nast would use *Harpers' Weekly* as a sounding board for radical ideas.

Various Opinions and Views on the Reconstruction

1. First, look at the quote from Benjamin Wade (Quote #1). Would Wade have been considered a radical or a moderate? Explain your answer.
2. Look at Quote #4 (by Andrew Johnson). Based on this quote, what were Johnson's views about giving freedmen voting rights? Do you believe Johnson's views about voting rights for freedmen were common? Why or why not?
3. Compare the two other quotes by Johnson (Quote #10 and #12). Why do you think Johnson opposed Radical Reconstruction legislation and what were his views about how the South should be treated in Reconstruction?
4. Read Quote #11, from Democrat Samuel Tilden. Explain how Tilden's view of Reconstruction differed from that of the Radicals.

"Reconstruction and How It Works": Thomas Nast

5. What date did this cartoon appear in Harper's? In your view, what is the overall theme of this cartoon?
6. How does the cartoon reflect the personalities and application of Radical Reconstruction? Is it critical of Johnson, the Radicals, or both? Use examples to support your answer.