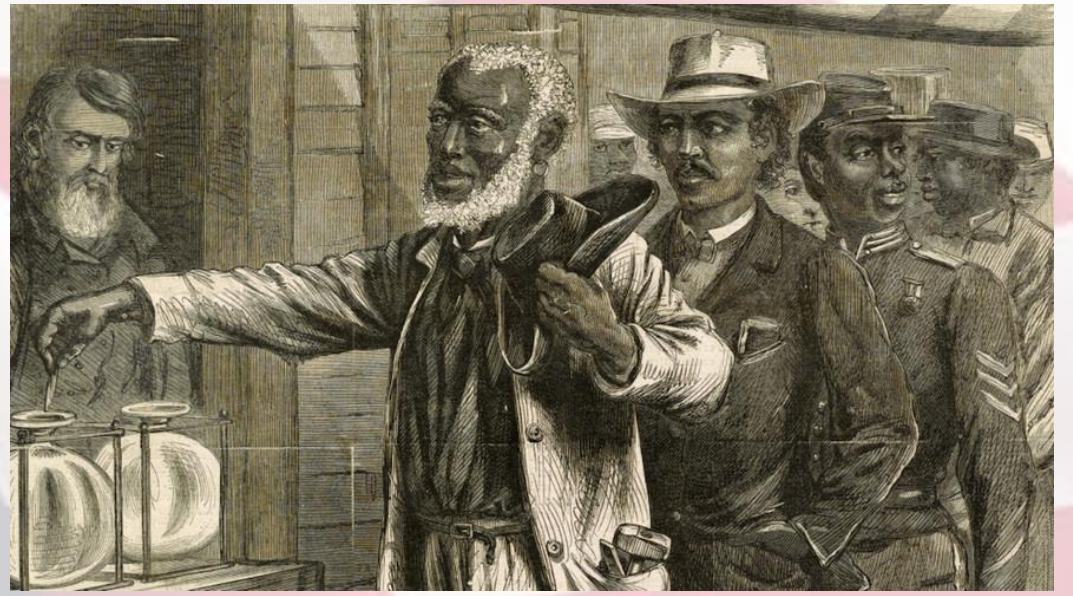


# Reconstruction





Take a minute to discuss these images with your table.

What stands out to you?

How do these images show us about the potential struggles of the nation post-war?

# Reconstruction Overview

- Reconstruction (1865-1877), the turbulent era following the Civil War, was the effort to reintegrate Southern states from the Confederacy and 4 million newly-freed slaves into the United States.



# Changes to the Constitution

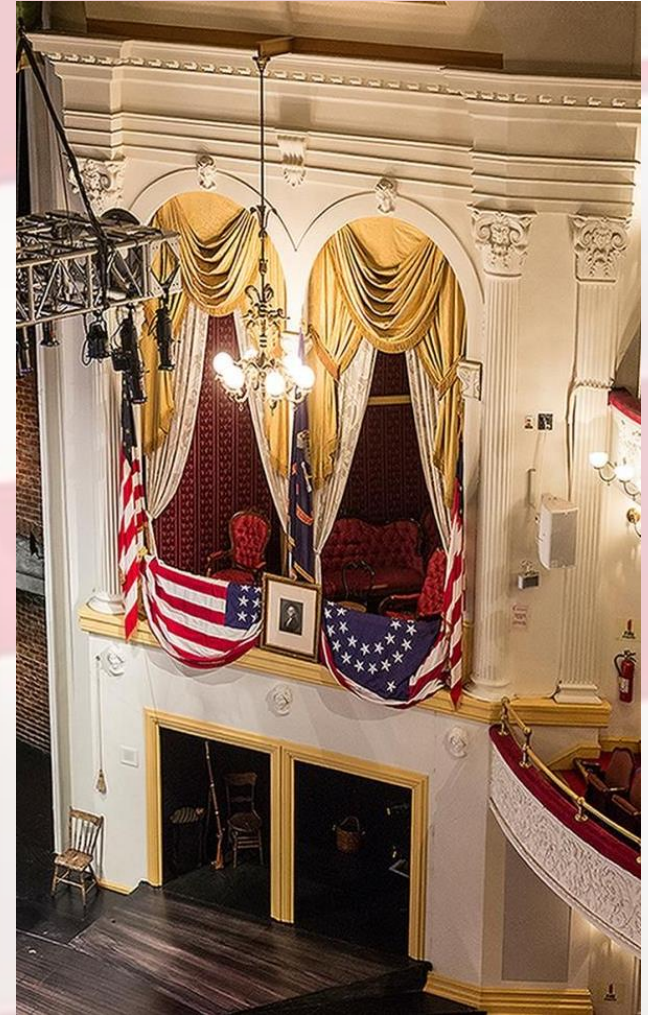
- Over the years of reconstruction, we would see multiple changes to the Constitution. These include:
  - 13<sup>th</sup> Amendment: officially made slavery illegal across the US
  - 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment: guarantees citizenship to all persons born in the US
  - 15<sup>th</sup> Amendment: guaranteed all free **men** the right to vote. (sorry ladies, our Amendment will come in 1920)

# Lincoln's Plan Following the War

- First, it allowed for a full **pardon** for and **restoration** of property to all engaged in the rebellion with the exception of the highest Confederate officials and military leaders.
- Second, it allowed for a new state government to be formed when 10 percent of the eligible voters had taken an oath of allegiance to the United States, otherwise they're at the mercy of the Federal Government.
- Third, the Southern states admitted in this fashion were encouraged to enact plans to deal with the freed slaves **so long as their freedom was not compromised.**

# The Death of Lincoln

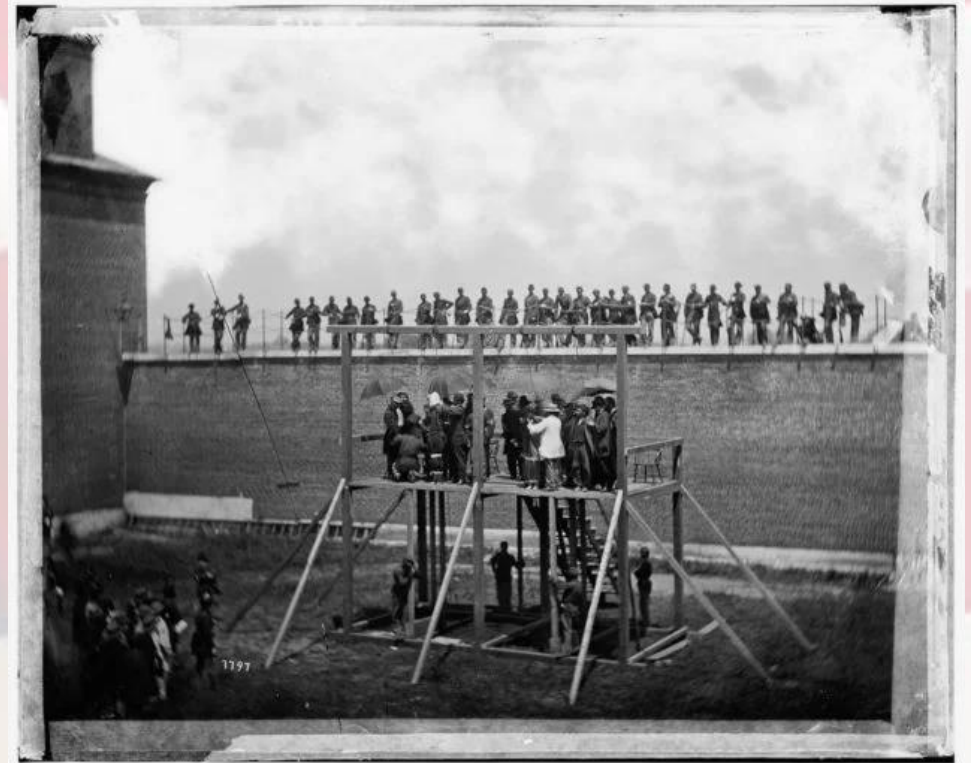
- On the evening of April 14, 1865, John Wilkes Booth, a famous actor and Confederate sympathizer, assassinated President Abraham Lincoln at Ford's Theatre in Washington, D.C. The attack came only five days after Confederate General Robert E. Lee surrendered his massive army at Appomattox Court House, Virginia, effectively ending the American Civil War.
- The assassination of Lincoln, however, left the vulnerable Andrew Johnson, a Southerner and former slave owner with no college education, President. Could he live up to Lincoln's ideals? Would he be allowed the opportunity? That is the question.







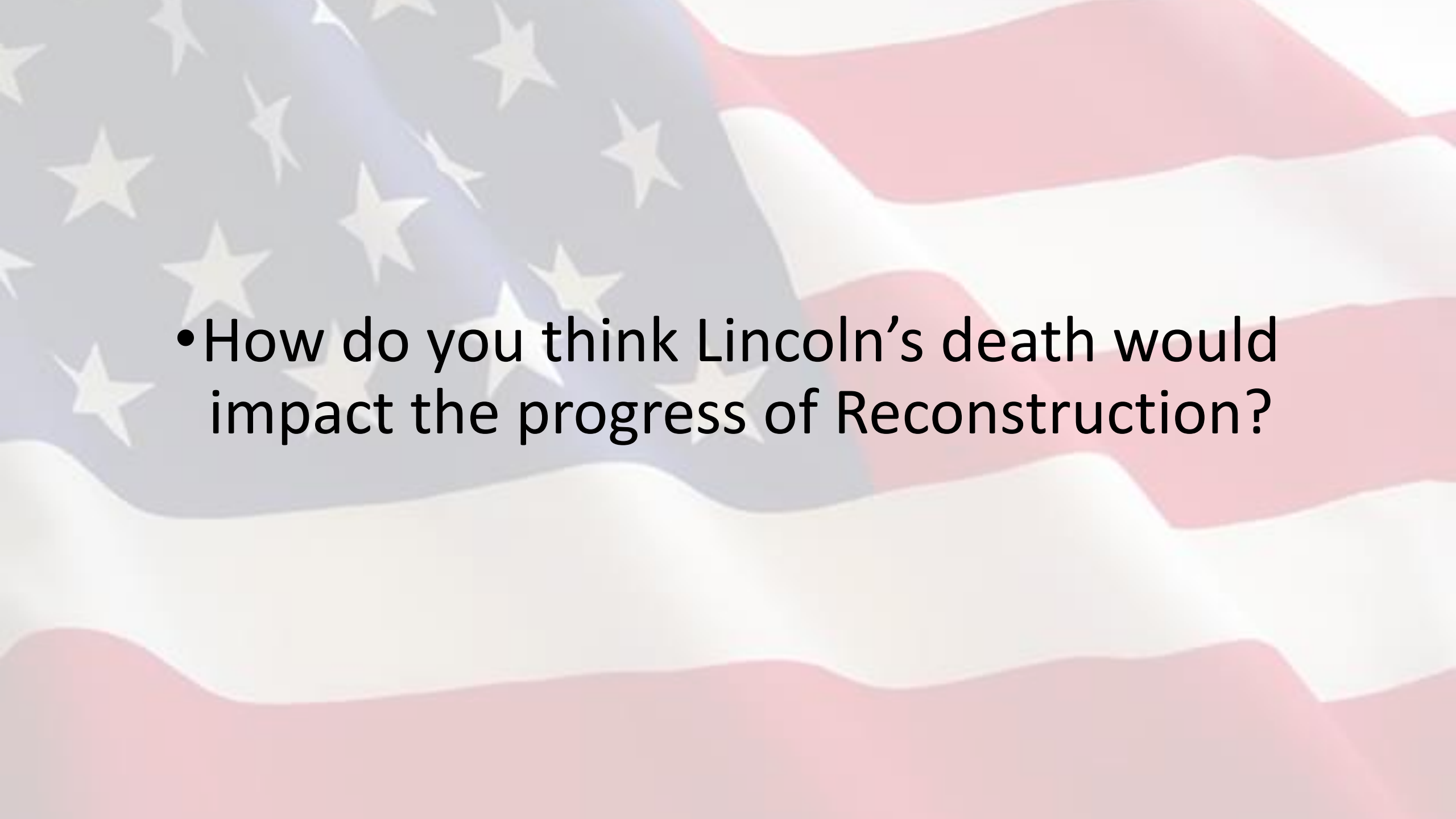
- What feelings do these images **invoke** in you?



Imagine with your group that you were in attendance the night of Lincoln's assassination: What sights/sounds/feelings are you experiencing? Discuss

<https://www.thevintagenews.com/2016/06/13/eerie-portraits-lincoln-assassination-conspirators-1865/>



- 
- How do you think Lincoln's death would impact the progress of Reconstruction?



# What Now?

- Andrew Johnson would succeed Lincoln as president when Lincoln was assassinated.
- The problem with Andrew Johnson is that he was too **lenient**, which means too relaxed. He allowed southern states to **rebuild their own governments**, as long as they followed the three rules:
  - Follow the 13<sup>th</sup> Amendment and keep slavery abolished
  - Swear loyalty to the Union
  - Pay off war debts.
- New southern state legislatures started passing restrictive “**black codes**” which were laws to control the labor and behavior of former slaves and other African Americans. This was a major violation of Lincoln’s third point of his plan.

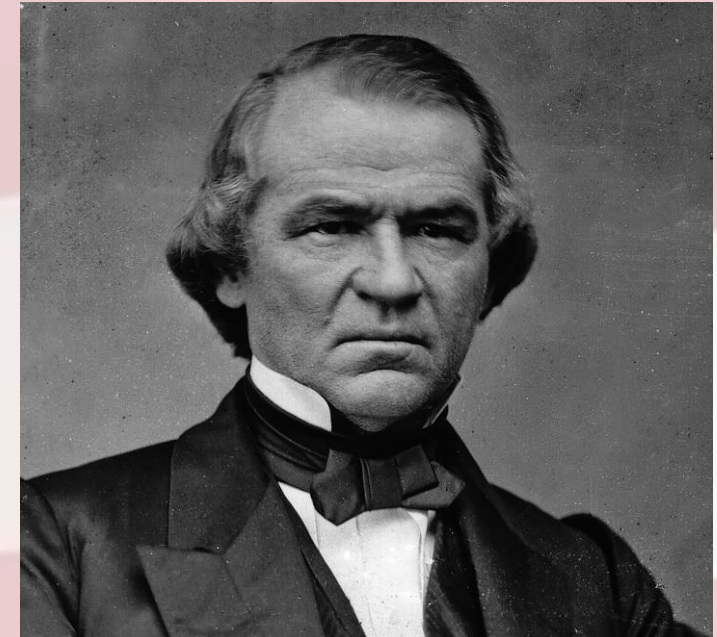
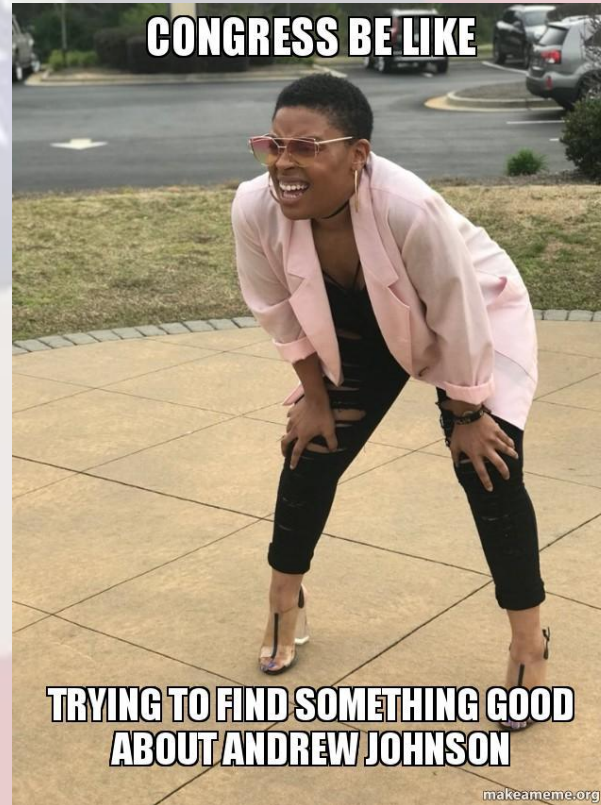
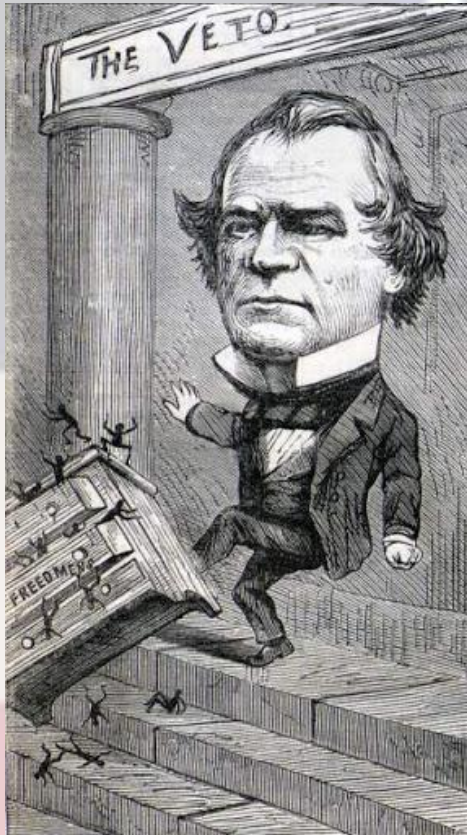


# The Saga of Andrew Johnson

- In early 1866, Congress passed the Freedmen's Bureau and Civil Rights Bills and sent them to Johnson for his signature.
- The first bill would extend the life of the Freedman's Bureau, which was an organization charged with assisting refugees and freed slaves
- The second bill defined all persons born in the United States as national citizens who were to enjoy equality before the law (this would become the 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment).
- Johnson **vetoed** (stopped) the bills, which really angered the Congress.
- Congress fought for his **impeachment** (criminal charges against a government official) in 1868 and the Civil Rights Act became the first major bill to become law over presidential veto.



- Johnsons inaction would lead to his impeachment, proving he was slowing progress of reconstruction. He was not convicted, but Congress was no longer on his side.
- **Radical Republicans** in Congress took firm hold of Reconstruction in the South. This time would become known as Radical Reconstruction.





# Radical Reconstruction

- Radical Reconstruction started with the passage of the **Reconstruction Act of 1867**
  - This Act would require the newly admitted states to follow specific rules:
    - Every male, regardless of color could vote.
    - Every male, regardless of color could participate in government.
    - Every state must follow the **14<sup>th</sup> Amendment**, which said everyone born in the United States was a citizen, regardless of color.
- For the first time in our history, blacks gained a voice in government for the first time in American history, winning election to southern state legislatures and even to the U.S. Congress.
- In less than a decade, however, reactionary forces—including the Ku Klux Klan—would **reverse** the changes wrought by Radical Reconstruction in a violent backlash that restored white supremacy in the South.

# Examples of Black Codes and Response

- These **Black Codes** would restrict the rights of Blacks.
  - Examples include: barring interracial marriages (not federally overturned until 1967), dictating where blacks could/couldn't live, voting restrictions.... The punishment for such an violating these laws was **death**.



# Literacy Tests

- Many southern states would come up with ways to keep black Americans from voting.
- These would be Literacy Tests, which were to be taken in 10 minutes flat, and a single wrong answer meant a failing grade and an inability to vote.
- What would you expect these tests to look like?



The State of Louisiana

Literacy Test (This test is to be given to anyone who cannot prove a fifth grade education.)

Do what you are told to do in each statement, nothing more, nothing less. Be careful as one wrong answer denotes failure of the test. You have 10 minutes to complete the test.

1. Draw a line around the number or letter of this sentence.
2. Draw a line under the last word in this line.
3. Cross out the longest word in this line.
4. Draw a line around the shortest word in this line.
5. Circle the first, first letter of the alphabet in this line.
6. In the space below draw three circles, one inside (engulfed by) the other.

7. Above the letter X make a small cross.
8. Draw a line through the letter below that comes earliest in the alphabet.

Z V S B D M K I T P H C

9. Draw a line through the two letters below that come last in the alphabet.

Z V B D M K T P H S Y C

10. In the first circle below write the last letter of the first word beginning with "L".



11. Cross out the number necessary, when making the number below one million.

10000000000

12. Draw a line from circle 2 to circle 5 that will pass below circle 2 and above circle 4.



13. In the line below cross out each number that is more than 20 but less than 30.

31 16 48 29 53 47 22 37 98 26 20 25

14. Draw a line under the first letter after "h" and draw a line through the second letter after "j".

a b c d e f g h i j k l m n o p q

15. In the space below, write the word "noise" backwards and place a dot over what would be its second letter should it have been written forward.

16. Draw a triangle with a blackened circle that overlaps only its left corner.

17. Look at the line of numbers below, and place on the blank, the number that should come next.

2 4 8 16 \_\_\_\_

18. Look at the line of numbers below, and place on the blank, the number that should come next.

3 6 9 \_\_\_\_ 15

19. Draw in the space below, a square with a triangle in it, and within that same triangle draw a circle with a black dot in it.

20. Spell backwards, forwards.

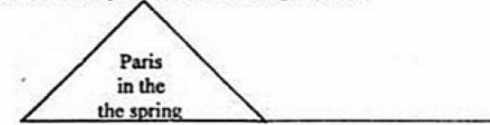
21. Print the word vote upside down, but in the correct order.

22. Place a cross over the tenth letter in this line, a line under the first space in this sentence, and circle around the last the in the second line of this sentence.

23. Draw a figure that is square in shape. Divide it in half by drawing a straight line from its northeast corner to its southwest corner, and then divide it once more by drawing a broken line from the middle of its western side to the middle of its eastern side.

24. Print a word that looks the same whether it is printed frontwards or backwards.

25. Write down on the line provided, what you read in the triangle below:



26. In the third square below, write the second letter of the fourth word.



27. Write right from the left to the right as you see it spelled here.

28. Divide a vertical line in two equal parts by bisecting it with a curved horizontal line that is only straight at its spot bisection of the vertical.

29. Write every other word in this first line and print every third word in same line, (original type smaller and first line ended at comma) but capitalize the fifth word that you write.

30. Draw five circles that one common inter-locking part.

# An Increase in Racial Violence

- There would be an increase in local violence in the years immediately following the war, usually over etiquette.
- The Freedman's Bureau in Texas has a register of murders with over a thousand in 1865-66. The Bureau would find out it was for reasons like: a "Black man didn't tip his hat so I shot him."
- There would be a rise in White Supremacist groups, who had the goal of intimidation. They wanted to terrify people into not participating in the government or politics. These groups were and still are **Terrorist** groups.





SCENES IN MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE, DURING THE RIOT—BURNING A FREEDMEN'S SCHOOL-HOUSE.

[SKETCHED BY A. R. W.]





# The KKK

- Violence was on the rise, making danger a regular aspect of African American life. Black schools were vandalized and destroyed, and bands of violent whites attacked, tortured, and **lynched** (hanged) black citizens in the night. Families were attacked and forced off their land all across the South.
- The KKK would start in Pulaski, Tennessee as a private group of former Confederate soldiers.
- The KKK grew into a secret vigilante society terrorizing black communities and seeping through white Southern culture, with members at the highest levels of government and in the lowest levels of criminal back alleys.

# Burning of a Freedman's Schoolhouse



Did emancipation end the problems African Americans faced in America?

Why were southerners so resistant against freed slaves?

What motivates this violence?

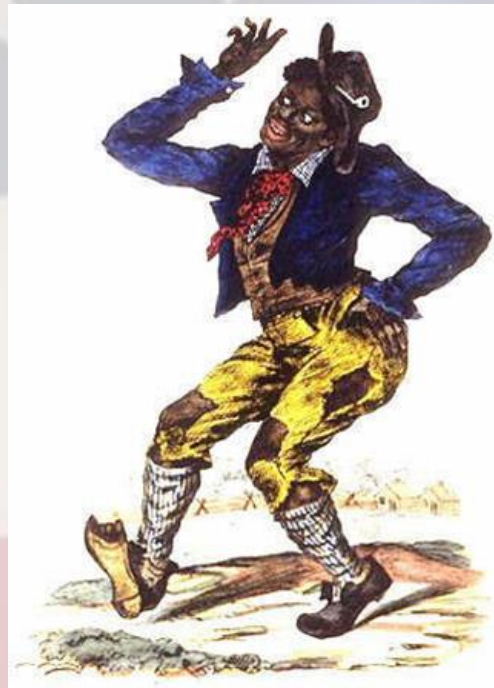
- During three days of racial violence in Memphis in May, 1866, white mobs destroyed hundreds of structures in the black community, including a freedman's school.

At least forty-six blacks (most of them Union veterans) died and more than 70 were wounded. 5 black women were physically assaulted, and 12 schools and 4 churches were burned. Two whites also died in the disturbance, one was shot over talking to a black friend.

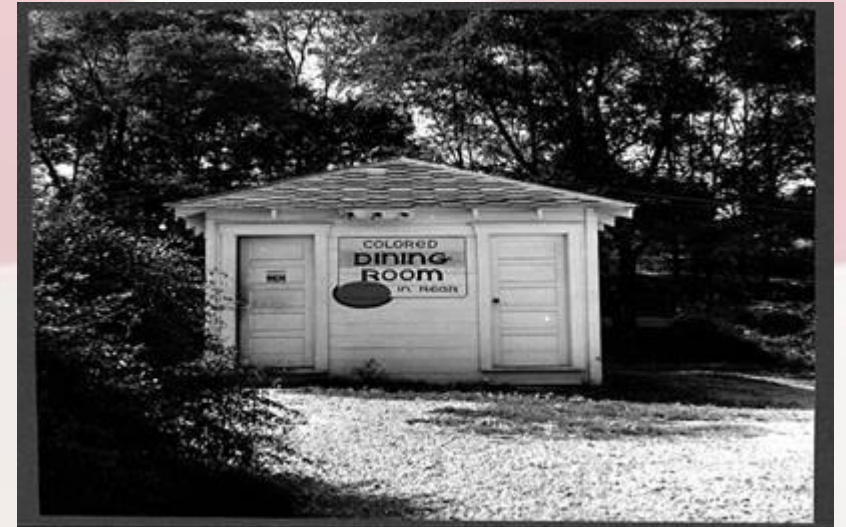


# Jim Crow

- Eventually, Black Codes would be deemed unconstitutional and would evolve into what would be known as Jim Crow Laws.
- Named after a white actor who appeared in Black Face as a character named Jim Crow. Even the name is rooted in racism.
  - Jim Crow Laws would create legal segregation, or the separation of the races.



- Jim Crow ended up being constitutional because of the terminology associated with it: “Separate But Equal.”
  - The idea behind Jim Crow is that whites and people of color would have separate resources, institutions, facilities but that it was all equal.
  - Examples of separate places: cemeteries, bathrooms, swimming pools, transportation, hospitals, schools...
    - Knowing what we know about the treatment of African Americans in the time of Reconstruction, do you agree that these facilities would be EQUAL?



- We will get even more in depth into Jim Crow when we discuss the Civil Rights Movement of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.