

Reconstruction: The Challenges of Reunification

Extension Lesson Plan for 7th Grade Texas History (45-60 minutes)

This lesson will introduce students to the key concepts, important events, and issues that shaped the history of Texas during the period of Reconstruction following the Civil War. This lesson will be centered on how the United States proceeded in reinstating states such as Texas back into the Union and the conditions that were in place to deal with seceding states. An emphasis will be placed on the important amendments such as the 13th, 14th, and 15th amendments so that students can gain an understanding of how African Americans became free and equal citizens in Texas. The aftermath of the war itself – and therefore questions of “what becomes of the ex-Confederates?” and “how do you bring a seceded state like Texas back into the Union?” -- will also be central to the battles of Reconstruction, which were all about who would hold power in post-Civil War Texas.

Essential Questions

1. What were the conditions that faced newly freed people during Reconstruction?

Table 1. Lesson Materials, Descriptions, and TEKS for Lesson Content

| Printable Lesson Materials | Material Description | Lesson Specific TEKS |
|---|---|-----------------------------|
| Letter from Samuel Richardson to Governor Hamilton | As enrichment, students can research the role of the Freedmen’s Bureau in Texas. Students will review a primary source letter to determine some of the problems that the Freedman’s Bureau were expected to resolve. <i>Suggested printing: 1 per student or group</i> | 7.5(C) |