

Reconstruction: The Civil War Ends and Reconstruction Begins

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

Following the Civil War, Texas, as well as the other Southern states, was faced with many challenges in the aftermath of war. Property damage, loss of wages and workforces sent the Texas agrarian economy into a downturn while the government balanced on the brink of collapse. An influx of migrants in search of land and new life provided a stark contrast to the outlook of the newly freed men and women who were met with lingering injustices and limited opportunities.

The era of Reconstruction, overlapping with the end of the Civil War, was met with many obstacles by the government as they sought to reunite the nation. This lesson will focus on the aftermath of the Civil War in Texas including the political, economic, and social effects that the war had on Texas. Topics covered in the lesson include the effect of the Civil War in Texas: economic, political, social; population changes in Texas; and Emancipation comes to Texas.

Essential Questions

1. What were the conditions in Texas following the Civil War?
2. How did Texans respond to Presidential plans to bring them back into the Union?
3. What were some of the key challenges Texas faced following the Civil War and during Reconstruction?
4. How had the population of Texas changed after the end of the Civil War?

Students will know the following information based on previous TEKS standards:

Identify the major eras in Texas history, describe their defining characteristics, of Texas during Reconstruction.

Explain the political, economic, and social effects of Reconstruction in Texas.

Explain how the diversity of Texas is reflected in a variety of cultural activities and celebrations.

Students will develop the following skills during this unit based on the TEKS standards:

Use social studies terminology correctly.

Identify bias and points of view from the historical context surrounding an event that influenced the participants.

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

Printable Lesson Materials	Material Description	Lesson Specific TEKS
Hook Exercise	<p>This printable hook exercise focuses on the emancipation of the enslaved population of the United States, their past experiences, and their future. Students will analyze a drawing from Harper’s Weekly illustrating Emancipation.</p> <p>This exercise can be used along with the interactive materials inside of the PowerPoint presentation. Instead of an independent activity, the teacher can project the slide and have students point out features to support their response to the questions provided.</p> <p><i>Suggested printing: 1 per student</i></p>	<p>7.1(A) 7.20(B)</p>
Slideshow presentation	<p>This ready to use slideshow presentation contains essential questions, an outline of events and issues that took place in Texas following the Civil War beginning with the end of the war up to the Constitution of 1866.</p> <p>This presentation also includes two primary source documents with guided questions to promote discussion among students (see lecture notes within the slides for specific details).</p> <p><i>Suggested printing: 1 per student as needed for note taking accommodations</i></p>	<p>7.5(C) 7.18(A)</p>

Printable Lesson Materials	Material Description	Lesson Specific TEKS
Graphic organizer	<p>This printable graphic organizer – Effects Chart (Slide #5 and Page #1 of Student Handout) was designed to be used in conjunction with the slideshow presentation.</p> <p>Students will use the graphic organizer to outline the political, social, and economic effects in Texas after the Civil War.</p> <p><i>Suggested printing: 1 per student or allow students to create a three-column chart of their own</i></p>	7.5(C)
President Lincoln’s Second Inaugural Address	<p>This printable primary source document should be used in conjunction with the first “Think-Pair-Share” activity in the slideshow (slide 6) or independently as a student activity to provide context for the plans for Reconstruction held by President Lincoln and followed by Johnson.</p> <p><i>Suggested printing: 1 per group</i></p>	7.5(C) 7.20(B)(D) 7.6(A)(C) ELA
General Gordon Granger’s General Order No. 3	<p>This printable primary source document should be used in conjunction with the second “Think-Pair-Share” activity in the slideshow (slide 10) or independently as a document analysis.</p> <p><i>Suggested printing: 1 per student</i></p>	7.20(D) 7.6(A)(C) ELA
Exit Ticket	<p>This printable exit ticket provides a formative assessment opportunity at the end of the lesson that addresses the main essential question - What are the political, economic, and social effects of the Civil War?</p> <p><i>Suggested printing: 1 ticket per student (two tickets per page)</i></p>	7.5(C)