

The Impacts and Effects of Reconstruction in Texas

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

This lesson will examine the political, economic, and social impacts the period of Reconstruction had on Texas. Students will gain an understanding of the challenges faced by Texans during the period directly leading to the end of Reconstruction and directly following. Students will learn about the shifting political climate in Texas and the development of new economic systems such as sharecropping, tenant farming, and convict labor, all used to rebuild the Texas economy. The lesson will also provide context on the development of systems of resistance and repression such as the Ku Klux Klan, with the goal of limiting African American political participation and civil liberties.

Essential Questions

1. How did economic practices of Reconstruction impact Texans, including the newly freed African Americans?
2. In what ways did forced labor continue in Texas following Reconstruction?
3. How did Texans embrace or resist changes in the state resulting from Reconstruction policies?

Lesson Content:

- Governor Edmund Davis in Office
- Education in Texas
- Settlement in Texas
- Sharecropping, Tenant Farming
- Rebuilding the Texas Economy
- Convict Labor
- Constitutional Convention of 1875
- Resistance and Repression

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

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.

Analyze information by applying absolute and relative chronology, sequencing, categorizing, identifying cause-and-effect relationships, comparing, contrasting, finding the main idea, summarizing, making generalizations and predictions, and drawing inferences and conclusions.

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 impact of Reconstruction on Texas. Prior to the start of the Power Point Presentation, provides students with the handout and read the instructions. For more engagement, consider making “analogy bags”, by including real-life object represented on the paper for students to select from.</p> <p><i>Suggested printing: 1 per student</i></p>	7.20(D)
Slideshow presentation	<p>This ready to use slideshow presentation contains essential questions, an outline of key events and issues related to the impacts of Reconstruction, and 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>	7.5(C) 7.22(A)
Guided notes	<p>The printable guided notes were specifically designed to be used in conjunction with the presentation. Students will use the graphic organizer to create an outline of the events and issues related to the impact of Reconstruction and interact with the primary source documents.</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) 7.20(B)

Printable Lesson Materials	Material Description	Lesson Specific TEKS
Image Analysis Activity	<p>This printable primary source document may be used in conjunction with the first “Think-Pair-Share” activity from the PowerPoint presentation (following slide #6) or independently as a student activity. Students will analyze two photographs to provide context for the importance of education in Texas, especially for African Americans.</p> <p><i>Suggested printing: 1 per group</i></p>	<p>7.5(C) 7.20(B)</p>
The Thirteenth Amendment	<p>This printable student document should be used in conjunction with the second “Think-Pair-Share” slide #16 activity or independently as a document analysis.</p> <p><i>Suggested printing: 1 per student</i></p>	<p>7.5(C) 7.20(B) 7.6(A)(C) ELA</p>
Exit Ticket	<p>This printable exit ticket uses the three essential questions above to provide a formative assessment opportunity at the end of the lesson.</p> <p><i>Suggested printing: 1 ticket per student (two tickets per page)</i></p>	<p>7.5(C)</p>