America’s Reconstruction: A Failed Experiment in Equality and Justice

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Hamilton-Wenham Regional High School
10th Grade U.S. and World History, Honors and A1
USI.41 Explain the policies and consequences of Reconstruction, the presidential election of 1876 and the end of Reconstruction (1896)
A. Presidential and Congressional Reconstruction
B. the impeachment of President Johnson
C. the 13th, 14th, and 15th Amendments
D. the opposition of Southern whites to Reconstruction
E. the accomplishments and failures of Radical Reconstruction
G. the rise of Jim Crow laws
H. the Supreme Court case, Plessy v. Ferguson
Lesson One: Decisions and Conflicting Goals

• Begin with Winslow Homer artwork
• Students will engage in a decision making activity
  – Goal is to get students to consider the major issues at stake prior to learning about the events of Reconstruction
Winslow Homer
A Veteran in a New Field
1865
Winslow Homer
*Prisoners from the Front, St. Petersburg*
1865
Lesson Two: Early Hope and Opportunity

- Discuss and interpret primary quotations
  - Illustrate views of different groups
- Primary Sources: *Special Field Order 15 and Slavery is Over*
- Political cartoons in support of African American equality
- Scenes from PBS documentary, *Reconstruction: The Second Civil War*
  - Sea Islands community
Thomas Nast
(Harper’s Weekly)
August 5, 1865
Lesson Three: Opposing View Points

• Winslow Homer artwork to illustrate new roles
• Compare and contrast primary sources, Jourdon Anderson (former slave) and George Barnwell (plantation owner)
• PBS documentary, scene showing southern fears of racial violence
Winslow Homer
A Visit from the old Mistress
1876
Lesson Four: Slavery Without the Chain

• Begin with Louisiana Plantation image
• Discuss a sharecropping contract
• Winslow Homer artwork and images of sharecropping
• PBS documentary segment, “Slavery without the Chain”
"The Sugar Harvest in Louisiana,
Harper's Weekly, October 30, 1875.
The Cotton Pickers,
Winslow Homer
1876
Dressing for the Carnival
Winslow Homer
1877
“Five Generations of an African American Family”
1862
Library of Congress
Lesson Five: Fear, Intimidation, and Violence

- Begin with political cartoon, "The Great Labor Question From a Southern Point of View,"
- Discuss primary sources: Create a Found Poem
  - “Not Free Yet”
  - Mississippi Black Codes, 1865
  - “Laws Fail to Protect Us”
- Images of Violence, in groups with cartoon analysis wkst.
- PBS documentary, scene on the rise of the KKK
"The Great Labor Question From a Southern Point of View,"

Caption:
"My boy, we've toiled and taken care of you long enough - now, you've got to work!"
• Supplement coverage of impeachment of Andrew Johnson
Thomas Nast (Harper’s Weekly)
“One Less Vote”
July, 1868
• "Is This a Republican Form of Government? Is This Protecting Life, Liberty, or Property? Is This the Equal Protection of the Laws?"
Thomas Nast (Harper’s Weekly)
March 23, 1867
Thomas Nast
“Visit of the Ku Klux Klan”
Feb. 22, 1874
Thomas Nast (Harper’s Weekly)
“EVERYTHING POINTS TO A DEMOCRATIC VICTORY THIS FALL”
Oct. 31, 1874
Thomas Nast (Harper’s Weekly)
“Worse Than Slavery”
October 24, 1874
Thomas Nast (Harper’s Weekly)
“Colored Rule in a Reconstruction State”
March 14, 1874
Lessons Not Included, but in Existence

• Myths of Reconstruction
• Legacy of Reconstruction: Successes and Failures
  – Reconstruction DBQ Essay:
• Racial Stereotypes and the impact of Plessy v. Ferguson
Full Bibliography Attached, but especially useful sources…

- Digital History website
  - Eric Foner, Reconstruction: The People and Politics After the Civil War
- PBS.org, Reconstruction: The Second Civil War
- Gilder Lehrman website, Reconstruction Module and interview with Eric Foner
- Edsitement lesson plans