

Unit 8: Reconstruction

SOLs: VS.8 a, b, c

Terms to know:

- **reconstruction:** the period following the Civil War in which Congress passed laws designed to help rebuild the country and bring the southern states back in the Union.
- **segregation:** the separation of people, usually based on race or religion
- **discrimination:** an unfair difference in the treatment of people

| Problems faced by Virginians during Reconstruction | Measures taken to solve problems |
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• millions of freed slaves needed housing, clothing and food• Virginia's economy was in ruins<ul style="list-style-type: none">• money had no value• banks were closed• railroads, bridges, plantations, and crops were destroyed | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Freedmen's Bureau provided food, schools, and medical care for freed slaves and others in Virginia.• Sharecropping allowed freedmen and poor white farmers rented land from a landowner by promising to pay the owner with a share of the crop. |

Reconstruction and Jim Crow Laws

Causes

During Reconstruction, African Americans began to have power in Virginia's government and men of all races could vote.

After Reconstruction, these gains were lost when "Jim Crow" laws were passed by southern states. "Jim Crow" laws legally established segregation, or separation of the races, and reinforced prejudices held by whites.

Effects

Unfair poll taxes and voting tests were established to keep African American men from voting.

African Americans found it difficult to vote or hold public office.

African Americans were forced to use separate, poor-quality facilities and services, such as drinking fountains, restrooms and restaurants

African Americans and white children attended separate schools.

American Indians were also kept separate.

Virginia Growth after the Civil War and Reconstruction

1. **Cities grew** with people, businesses, and factories.



2. More **roads** were needed as cities and population increased.



3. More **railroads** were needed since they were key to expansion of business, agriculture and industry. Railroads made it easy to transport natural resources like cotton and wood to factories. They added growth to small towns and cities.



4. Coal deposits were discovered in Tazewell County. Coal is Virginia's most important mineral resources.



★ Tazewell County

5. Growing tobacco increased and became an important product in Virginia. Tobacco is mostly grown in the Piedmont Region.

Geographic Regions of
Virginia

