

Reconstruction

A good introduction to this part of history will be to enjoy the following video. It will be a fun way to help you remember what you've learned: [Reconstruction to Ed Sheeran's Shape of You](#)

Below are true images of what parts of America looked like after the Civil War.



As you have learned, the time period after the Civil War is called Reconstruction. During Reconstruction, the United States had to rebuild and bring the states back together.

Reconstruction lasted from 1865 to 1877. Virginia faced many challenges during Reconstruction.

To summarize the problems in Virginia at the time of Reconstruction were:

1. Railroads, bridges, businesses, plantations, and crops were destroyed.
2. Virginia's economic problems forced most banks to close.
3. Hundreds of thousands of newly freed African Americans were in need of housing, education, clothing, food, and jobs.
4. Virginia's currency had no value and Virginia was millions of dollars in debt.

Solutions

What Was the Freedman's Bureau?

The Freedman's Bureau was an important agency that was established by President Abraham Lincoln. In just over 1 minute, see how this agency was created to help solve some of the problems that occurred during Reconstruction: [The Freedman's Bureau](#).

What is a Sharecropper?

As you saw on the previous video, most freed African Americans were forced into sharecropping. Watch the videos and get a first-hand account of what it meant to be and what it was like to be a [Sharecropper](#).

Jim Crow: a symbol for racial segregation

Jim Crow segregation was a way of life that combined a system of anti-black laws and race-prejudiced cultural practices. The term "**Jim Crow**" is often used as a synonym for racial segregation, particularly in the American South. The Jim Crow South was the time when local and state laws enforced the legal segregation (separation) of white and black citizens from the 1870s into the 1960s. In the Jim Crow South, it was illegal for black Americans to ride in the front of public buses, eat at a "whites only" restaurant, or attend a "white" public school.



Virginia Grows

Railroads and Factories

Railroads were key to the growth of business, agriculture, and industry in Virginia. Railroads were used to transport goods throughout the state and into other states.

The railroad allowed small towns to grow into major cities.

As more jobs were created, more people began moving to the cities. Virginia had always been known for its agriculture. Now, it was known for its industries too.

Assignment

Pretend you lived during the Reconstruction period. Write a one page journal entry or a one page letter to a loved one about this this time period. Describe what you see and hear. Describe what your community looks like after the Civil War. How are people treated? What is the government doing to solve the problems caused by the war?