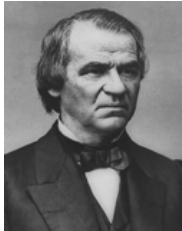


Johnson Administration 1865-1868		Name:	
Time:		Date:	

Early Life



Andrew Johnson as born on December 29, 1808, in Raleigh, North Carolina. Andrew's father worked as a porter for an inn but died in 1811 leaving the

family in extreme poverty. When Johnson turned 14, his mother, unable to provide for her children, sent him to live with a local tailor to learn the trade of making clothes. Johnson worked hard and learned quickly. Four years later, the family moved to Greeneville, Tennessee, where Johnson started his own tailor business. At age 19, Johnson married Eliza McCardle.

Johnson worked hard to make himself successful. He bought property and owned a few slaves. With his wife's help, he learned to read and write better. He saw the value of hard work and appreciated other small business owners and single family farmers, and he came to dislike the wealthy plantation owners.

From his twenties onward, Johnson did well in politics. He became mayor of Greeneville, served in the Tennessee state legislature, was elected to five terms in the House of Representatives, became the governor of Tennessee, and served in the U.S. Senate. He believed in low taxes, states' rights, and a weak federal government that stayed out of people's lives. Also, being a Southern slave holder, Johnson firmly believed in white superiority and that the United States was a white man's government.

1. Choose the statements that are true of Johnson. (circle two)

- e. supported states' rights
- h. supported rich people
- s. supported slavery

Vice President

After Abraham Lincoln's election to the presidency in 1860, Southern states, including Tennessee, voted to leave the Union. Johnson was the only U.S. Senator from a seceding state who chose to stay in the Senate rather than quit. He made many enemies in the South, but Johnson remained loyal to the United States. In 1862, Federal armies had captured much of Tennessee and Lincoln appointed Johnson to become military governor of that state to run its government.

In the 1864 presidential election, Lincoln chose Andrew Johnson to become his vice president. Since Johnson was a Democrat, Lincoln hoped he could gain some support from other Democrats for his reelection.

About a month after Lincoln won his second term, John Wilkes Booth assassinated Lincoln at Ford's Theater in Washington, D.C. Suddenly, Johnson found himself the president of the United States.

2. Andrew Johnson was (circle two)

- e. elected president
- h. a Democrat
- s. a supporter of the South
- y. loyal to the United States

Presidential Reconstruction

President Andrew Johnson, just like President Lincoln before him, believed that the reconstruction of the South was his job alone. While Congress was out of session, Johnson made the policy for the Southern states to return to the Union.

1. Johnson offered amnesty to most Southerners who took an oath of loyalty to the United States. High ranking Confederate officials had to ask President Johnson personally for a pardon.
2. Johnson appointed governors for each Southern state to oversee the election process to create new state governments.
3. Each state would be allowed back into the Union if they declared secession illegal, ratified the 13th Amendment, abolished slavery, and cancelled all Confederate debts.

Some Southern states met all of the demands while others failed to pass the 13th Amendment, cancel Confederate debts, or declare secession illegal.

The defeat that once had the South begging for mercy began to turn to resistance. Many Southern states elected former Confederate officials to the new state governments. In fact, the state of Georgia elected Confederate Vice President Alexander Stephens to the U.S. Senate. To keep African Americans from political power, Southern state governments began passing black codes to take away the right to vote. In reality, under Johnson's plan, the South was trying to return to the way it was before the war.

3.	What four things did Southern states need to do to return to the Union under Johnson's plan?
<hr/>	
e.	declare secession illegal
h.	declare amnesty illegal
s.	ratify the 13th Amendment
x.	abolish slavery
y.	cancel all Confederate debts

4.	What did new Southern governments do? (circle two)
<hr/>	
e.	elected former Confederates
h.	elected Republicans
s.	passed black codes
y.	seceded from the Union

Radical Reconstruction

When Congress came back into session in December 1865, disturbing reports from the South had alarmed many in the North. The Northern public began questioning Southern loyalty to the Union and criticized the poor treatment of the freedmen. Congress rejected President Johnson's reconstruction plan and moved to take control of Reconstruction.

When Congress passed a bill extending the life of the Freedmen's Bureau and a civil rights bill protecting African American rights, on February 19, 1866, President Johnson vetoed the bill. He claimed the bills were unconstitutional. Nonetheless, his veto created open hostility between the Congress and the President.

Radical Republicans took the lead in Congress. They overrode presidential vetoes to renew the Freedmen's Bureau and to pass the Civil Rights Act of 1866. On March 2, 1867, when Johnson vetoed the Reconstruction Act giving Congress authority over the South, the Congress overrode Johnson's veto on the same day. Congress had thus

taken control of Reconstruction from the president.

Congress set up its own plan for reconstruction. The South was divided into five districts or sections, each led by a military commander to watch over the making of new state governments. For readmission to the Union, Congress had to approve the new state governments. Also, each state had to approve the 14th Amendment and some states needed to approve the 15th Amendment as well. By 1870, all the Southern states had returned to the Union.

5.	Who gained control of Reconstruction? (circle one)
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e.	the president
h.	the Senate
s.	the Congress
y.	the Supreme Court

6.	What did states have to do to rejoin the Union? (circle three)
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e.	pay off all Civil War debts
h.	approve the 14th Amendment
s.	approve the 15th Amendment
y.	Congress had to approve new state governments

Impeachment

Andrew Johnson turned his back on the Republicans that put him in office and sided with the Democrats. Congress now viewed President Johnson as a barrier to changing the South. Already, Congress had threatened the Supreme Court to stay out of Reconstruction and now Radical Republicans wanted to weaken the presidency. When Johnson fired Secretary of War Edwin Stanton in February 1868, Congress claimed Johnson broke the Tenure of Office Act that required Senate approval for presidential terminations. The House impeached Johnson immediately and the Senate put him

on trial from March 25 to May 26, 1868. Johnson avoided conviction and removal from office by one vote. Nonetheless, Johnson had little political power for the rest of his term in office.

Despite losing control of Reconstruction, Johnson's support of white Southerners and his racism toward African Americans allowed Reconstruction to fall short of its goals. Johnson succeeded in delaying the civil rights movement for nearly a hundred years.

7.	How did Congress try to weaken the presidency? (circle one)
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e.	pass an amendment
h.	threaten the Supreme Court
s.	remove Johnson from office
y.	limit presidential terms