

## Reconstruction DBQ Packet

Answer the “Document Analysis” questions for all of the documents ON A SEPARATE SHEET OF PAPER. Use COMPLETE sentences!

### Document A

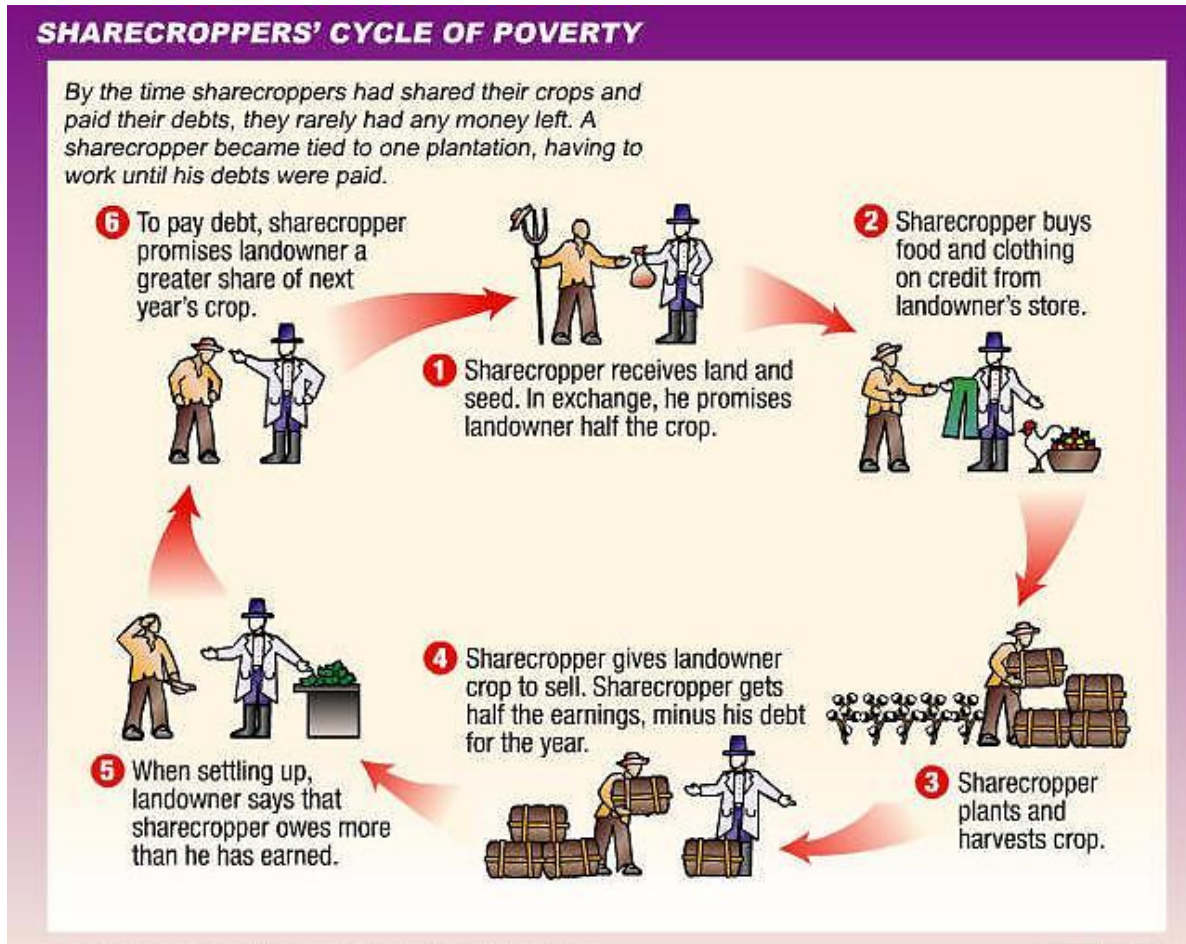
**Source:** In the years following the Civil War - throughout the South -state, city, and town governments passed laws to restrict the rights of free African-American men and women. These laws were often called “Black Codes.” The example below of “Black Codes” comes from laws passed in Opelousas, Louisiana immediately after the Civil War.

1. "No [former slave] or freedmen shall be allowed to come within the limits of the town of Opelousas without special permission from his employers. Whoever breaks this law will go to jail and work for two days on the public streets, or pay a fine of five dollars."
2. "No [former slave] or freedman shall be permitted to rent or keep a house in town under any circumstances. No [former slave] or freedman shall live within the town who does not work for some white person or former owner."
3. "No public meetings of [former slaves] or freedmen shall be allowed within the town."
4. "No freedman shall be allowed to carry firearms, or any kind of weapons. No freedman shall sell or exchange any article of merchandise within the limits of Opelousas without permission in writing from his employer."
5. "Every [former slave] is to be in the service of (work for) some white person, or former owner."

### **Document Analysis**

1. How did black codes restrict the freedom of freedmen?

**Document B**



**Document Analysis**

2. Based on the document above and your knowledge of U.S. history, what was sharecropping similar to?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
3. Do you believe sharecropping was a fair system? Why or why not?

Class Set – Do not write on!

### Document C

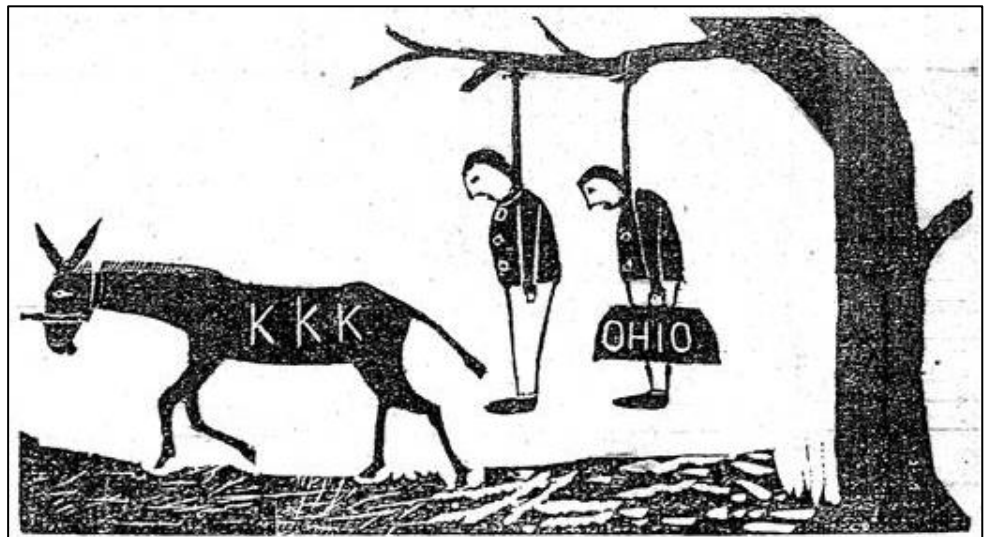
**Source:** Albion Tourgee, Letter on Ku Klux Klan Activities. New York Tribune, May 1870.

*Note: Tourgee was a white, Northern soldier who settled in North Carolina after the War. He served as a judge during Reconstruction and wrote this letter to the North Carolina Republican Senator, Joseph Carter Abbott.*

It is my mournful duty to inform you that our friend John W. Stephens, State Senator from Caswell, is dead. He was foully murdered by the Ku-Klux in the Grand Jury room of the Court House on Saturday... He was stabbed five or six times, and then hanged on a hook in the Grand Jury room... Another brave, honest Republican citizen has met his fate at the hands of these fiends...

I have very little doubt that I shall be one of the next victims. My steps have been dogged for months, and only a good opportunity has been wanting to secure to me the fate which Stephens has just met... I say to you plainly that any member of Congress who, especially if from the South, does not support, advocate, and urge immediate, active, and thorough measures to put an end to these outrages... is a coward, a traitor, or a fool.

**Source:** Independent Monitor, September 1, 1868.



### Document Analysis

4. What group(s) is the KKK threatening?
5. According to Tourgee, what types of people are being attacked by the KKK? Why would the KKK attack these people?

Class Set – Do not write on!

## **Document D**

### **13<sup>th</sup> Amendment:**

#### **Section 1.**

Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for crime whereof the party shall have been duly convicted, shall exist within the United States, or any place subject to their jurisdiction.

#### **Section 2.**

Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.

### **14<sup>th</sup> Amendment**

#### **Section 1.**

Guarantees equal treatment for all citizens.

#### **Section 2**

If a people are denied the right to vote, then the number of representatives in the House of Representatives will also be reduced.

#### **Section 3**

If a person engaged in the Civil War, then he could not serve in congress.

#### **Section 4**

Denied federal payment for the costs of the Confederate rebellion.

### **15<sup>th</sup> Amendment**

#### **Section 1.**

The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of race, color, or previous condition of servitude--

#### **Section 2.**

The Congress shall have the power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.

## **Document Analysis**

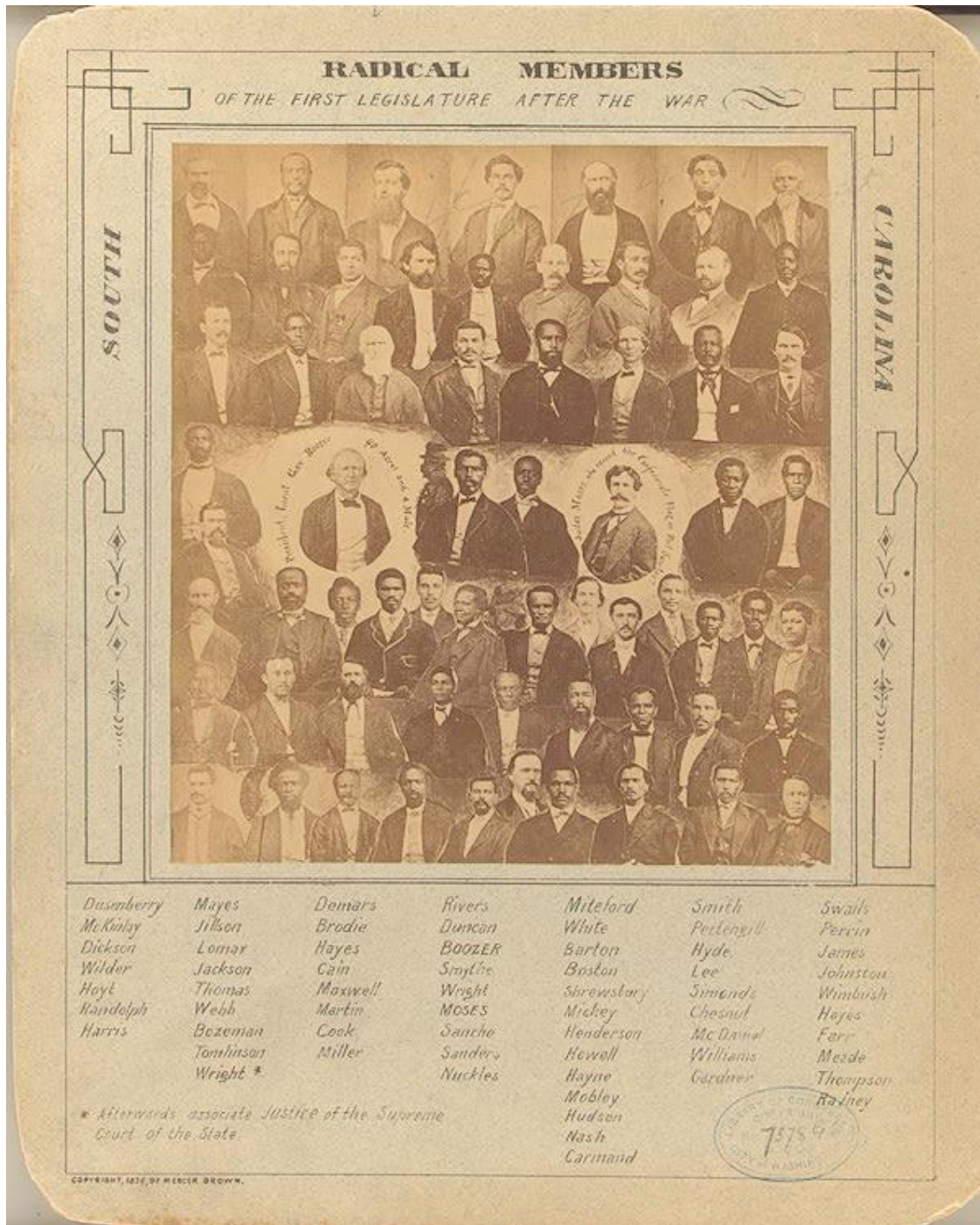
6. Who benefits from these amendments?

7. Why is it important that Congress shall have the power to enforce these amendments?

Class Set – Do not write on!

## Document E

Source: First Black Legislature in South Carolina 1878



### Document Analysis

8. What does this picture show? Why is this important?

Class Set – Do not write on!

**Document F:**

**Source:** Abram Colby, testimony to a joint House and Senate Committee in 1872.

Note: Colby was a former slave who was elected to the Georgia State legislature during Reconstruction.

**Colby:** On the 29th of October 1869, [the Klansmen] broke my door open, took me out of bed, took me to the woods and whipped me three hours or more and left me for dead. They said to me, "Do you think you will ever vote another damned Radical ticket?" I said, "If there was an election tomorrow, I would vote the Radical ticket." They set in and whipped me a thousand licks more, with sticks and straps that had buckles on the ends of them.

**Question:** What is the character of those men who were engaged in whipping you?

**Colby:** Some are first-class men in our town. One is a lawyer, one a doctor, and some are farmers... They said I had voted for Grant and had carried the [former slaves] against them. About two days before they whipped me they offered me \$5,000 to go with them and said they would pay me \$2,500 in cash if I would let another man go to the legislature in my place. I told them that I would not do it if they would give me all the county was worth... No man can make a free speech in my county. I do not believe it can be done anywhere in Georgia.

**Source:** Harper's Weekly, October 21, 1876.

Caption: "Of Course he wants to vote the Democratic ticket."



Class Set – Do not write on!

**Document Analysis**

9. Why did the KKK attack Abram Colby?
  
10. According to Colby, what types of people make up the KKK?
  
11. What seems to be the ultimate goal of the KKK?
  
12. What is the main idea of the cartoon?

**Pick a Side**

13. Do you believe Reconstruction was a success or failure? Why?
  
14. What documents prove Reconstruction was a success?
  
15. What documents prove Reconstruction was a failure?

Answer the following in essay form.

**Using at least two documents from above, determine whether Reconstruction was a success or failure.**