

# Reconstruction

1865-1877

How do we put our country back together after the Civil War?

# Restoring the Union

- ❑ Four years of fighting
- ❑ Four million freed blacks
- ❑ What should happen to the southern states that left the union?
- ❑ Who should get to decide? President or Congress?

# The Meaning of Freedom

- ❑ the destruction of slavery made the definition of freedom the central question in Congress
- ❑ Did freedom mean the absence of slavery?
- ❑ Did freedom imply other rights for former slaves? (citizenship, voting, ownership of property)

# Meaning of Freedom

- escaping the injustices of slavery:
  - punishment by whipping
  - separation of families
  - denial of education
  - sexual exploitation of black women by their owners

# Reconstruction.....

- How to restore rebellious states to the union (11 states)
- conquered territory
- lost brother
- Goals: preserve the union; liberate blacks

# Four Plans for Reconstruction

- Lincoln's 10% Plan
- Wade-Davis Plan
- Johnson's Plan
- Radical Republicans Plan

## Three Rounds of Reconstruction

- Round 1: Directed by Lincoln and Johnson. Very lenient and allowed 11 states to come back. Ex-Confederates returned to office and passed "black codes"

# Black Codes.....

- ❑ Restricted the rights and movements of newly freed African Americans
- ❑ prohibited blacks from renting land or borrowing money to buy land
- ❑ forced blacks to sign work contracts
- ❑ prohibited blacks from testifying against whites in court



## Three Rounds of Reconstruction

- Round Two: Congress adopted a plan that was harsher on southern whites and more protective of freed blacks
- proposed 14th amendment (citizenship)
- Round Three: divide the south into 5 military districts under union army control. accept 14 and 15 amendments

# Andrew Johnson

- ❑ 11 months after he took office, all 11 former Confederate states qualified under his plan for reconstruction.
- ❑ states drew up new state constitutions and ratified the 13th Amendment
- ❑ However--no voting rights for AA. Former Confederates elected to Congress
- ❑ Black codes adopted in southern states

# Andrew Johnson

- Johnson alienated Congress by not taking on these issues and pushing for political gains for AA
- 1866 Congressional elections held and Republicans gained the majority in Congress

# Radical Republican Plan

- ❑ 14th Amendment must be ratified (Citizenship)
- ❑ Former Conf. leaders cannot hold office
- ❑ 15th Amendment must be ratified (AA males can vote)
- ❑ Civil Rights Act 1875: equal protection in public places

# How do you enforce this plan?

- Divide the south into five military districts
- martial law
- union army used in each district

# Five Military Districts

