
Andrew Johnson Vs. The Radical Republicans
Lesson Plan

**Standards:** 3.05 - Evaluate the degree to which the civil war and reconstruction proved to be a test of the supremacy of the national government.

4.04 – Evaluate the importance of roles played by individuals at the state and national levels during the civil war and reconstruction period.

**Objective:** Students learn about the radical republicans and their clash with President Andrew Johnson to change reconstruction in the south.

**Teacher Input:** Provide a brief overview of Johnson’s plan from the previous lesson. Explain who the radical republicans were and their view of reconstruction in the south. Describe the events that lead to the radical republicans gaining control of the government. Lastly describe Johnson’s fall from power and impeachment.

**Materials:** Worksheet- Johnson Vs. The Radical Republicans;
Text: The American Nation, Pages 486-491
Cartoon Transparency from 19th century (Andrew Johnson)

**Activities:** Worksheet and journal entry dealing with the conflicting ideas of Johnson and the Radical Republicans

**Guided Practice:** Bring the class together for a class discussion after the lecture. Allow the students to ask questions and gather information from each other along with teacher input in order to grasp the main issues in debate.

**Independent Practice:** Have the students use their notes from lecture and class discussion to fill out a worksheet, Johnson Vs. The Radical Republicans.

**Journal:** Assign each student a position to take, either Johnson’s or the Radical Republicans. Have then write a speech in their journal defending their side, using the worksheets they filled out in class as a guide.
Outline: Jefferson Vs. The Radical Republicans

I. Jefferson's Reconstruction
   A. Brief overview form previous lesson
   B. Southern States who re-entered the union elected men to congress who were high ranking officials in the confederacy

II. Congressional Disapproval
   A. Outraged by Johnson's leniency
   B. Outraged that same people who lead the south out of the union are still leading the south as representatives in congress
   C. Outraged by black codes passed by southern legislature

III. Radical Republicans
   A. Those who led the opposition to President Johnson
      1. Wanted to take reconstruction out of Johnson's hands and place the responsibility on congress
   B. Thaddeus Stevens

IV. Two main goals
   A. Break power of rich planters who ruled south for years
   B. Wanted to insure that freedmen received the right to vote
V. The Clash

A. Radical Republicans introduce civil rights act, April 1866

1. Johnson vetoed act but was overruled by republicans in congress.

B. Republicans introduce 14th amendment

1. However, wasn’t truly enforced for nearly 100 yrs.

C. Election of 1866

1. Johnson opposed 14th amendment

2. Traveled around North to gain support from moderate republicans against radical republicans
   a) Crowds heckled Johnson
   b) Riot in New Orleans
      (1) July 1866
      (2) White mobs killed 34 African Americans
      (3) Riot proved to North that Johnson’s reconstruction was not working

D. Radical Republicans Gained control in both the house and the senate

1. Black Legislators

E. Radical Republicans won each northern governorship and every northern state legislature.
VI. Now that Radical Republicans had the majority vote in congress, they took control of the reconstruction in the south.

VII. Impeachment

A. Feb 24, 1868 – House of Representatives votes to impeach Johnson

B. Impeach – To bring formal charges of wrong doing against an elected official

C. Senate was one vote short of two thirds majority to remove Johnson from office

D. Johnson served the remaining of his term and was not nominated by the democratic party for re-election
## Worksheet

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Journal

Using the worksheet we completed in class, take the side of either the Radical Republicans or Andrew Johnson and write a persuasive speech defending your side.