

Sample Lesson #3

Reconstruction: Radical Republicans, the Civil Rights Act, and Jim Crow Laws

Although slavery had been prohibited in 1865, southern states quickly put the Black Codes into place; these laws continued to institutionalize racism. In response to the Black Codes, a group known as the **Radical Republicans** helped to move the **Civil Rights Act** through Congress. The Civil Rights Act was meant to end any dispute about the citizenship of black Americans. It declared that all people born in the United States (other than Indians) were citizens, and therefore, entitled to equal rights. Among other rights and protections, the Civil Rights Act prohibited employers from discriminating against blacks when hiring. President Johnson vetoed the bill, but Congress voted to override the veto, and the bill became a law in 1866. The Civil Rights Act was a powerful statement by the United States Congress in support of civil rights. However, while this legislation ended the Black Codes, it guaranteed African Americans neither the right to vote nor any other significant rights.



Hiram Rhodes Revel,
First African American Senator

The Black Codes were soon replaced by the **Jim Crow Laws**, which lasted much longer. These laws mandated segregation of the races by requiring separate schools, parks, and restaurants. Drinking fountains, restrooms, and seating areas on buses and trains were labeled “colored” or “whites only.” Public facilities for blacks were often unavailable, and if available, they were nearly always of poor quality. Although the Fourteenth and Fifteenth Amendments had given African Americans the right to vote, Jim Crow Laws and violence against blacks stood in the way. The laws imposed literacy tests and poll taxes, and there were even “whites-only” political parties. All of these prevented African Americans from exercising their right to vote. Jim Crow Laws lasted from the late 1800s into the 1950s, when they were found to be in violation of the Fourteenth and Fifteenth Amendments.

1. What did Black Codes and Jim Crow laws institutionalize?

black suffrage racial equality women’s rights Christianity racism

2. To segregate is to _____.

unify separate equalize praise forgive

3. Which act legally freed all the slaves in the Confederacy?

- | | |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| A) the Treaty of Paris of 1783 | C) the Thirteenth Amendment |
| B) the Judiciary Act of 1789 | D) the Emancipation Proclamation |

4. Which were four acts that made the colonists angry with Great Britain?

Quartering Act Sugar Act Tea Act Townshend Acts Kansas–Nebraska Act

5 – 6. Fill in the chart using the terms listed below.

Torah Qur’an Jesus Vedas Muhammad

Religion	Spiritual Ancestor	Where Founded	Scriptures	Practitioners Called
Hinduism	Ancient Seers	India	C)	Hindus
Judaism	Abraham	Middle East	D)	Jews
Buddhism	Siddhartha Gautama	India	Tripitaka	Buddhists
Christianity	A)	Middle East	New Testament	Christians
Islam	B)	Middle East	E)	Muslims

7. Write each letter in the appropriate column.

- A) American Revolutionary War
- B) French and Indian War
- C) War of 1812
- D) French Revolutionary Wars

America fought against Britain	America fought alongside Britain	America remained neutral

8. Which of the following best describes judicial review, a power of the Supreme Court established by *Marbury v. Madison*?

- A) the power of the Supreme Court to decide what books of law are published
- B) the power of the Supreme Court to determine the constitutionality of laws
- C) the power of the Supreme Court to remove members of government
- D) the power of the Supreme Court to do whatever it wants

9 – 10. Match each early leader to something for which he is remembered.

- | | |
|--------------------------|--|
| _____ Ulysses S. Grant | A) winning the American Revolutionary War |
| _____ James Madison | B) leading the Confederates in the Civil War |
| _____ George Washington | C) promoting the first national bank |
| _____ Abraham Lincoln | D) writing the Declaration of Independence |
| _____ Robert E. Lee | E) assassinated by John Wilkes Booth |
| _____ Thomas Jefferson | F) leading the North in the Civil War |
| _____ Alexander Hamilton | G) writing the Bill of Rights |