Reconstruction Study Guide (Answer Key)

**Standard VS.8a:** SWBAT demonstrate knowledge of the reconstruction of Virginia following the Civil War by identifying the effects of Reconstruction on life in Virginia.

**Reconstruction** - The period following the Civil War in which Congress passed laws designed to rebuild the country and bring the southern states back into the Union.

**Problems faced by Virginians during Reconstruction**
- Millions of freed African Americans needed
  - (1) housing (2) education (3) clothing (4) food (5) jobs
- Virginia’s economy was in ruins:
  - Money had no value.
  - Banks were closed.
  - Railroads, bridges, plantations, and crops were destroyed.

**Measures taken to resolve problems**
- The Freedmen’s Bureau was a government agency that provided (1) food, (2) schools, and (3) medical care for freed African Americans and others in Virginia.
- Sharecropping was a system common in Virginia after the war in which freedmen and poor white farmers rented land from a landowner by promising to pay the owner with a share of the crop.

**Standard VS.8b:** SWBAT demonstrate knowledge of the reconstruction of Virginia following the Civil War by identifying the effects of segregation and “Jim Crow” on life in Virginia for whites, African Americans, and American Indians.

**Terms to know**
- Segregation: The separation of people, usually based on race or religion
- Discrimination: An unfair difference in the treatment of people
During Reconstruction, African Americans began to have power in Virginia’s government, and men of all races could vote.

After Reconstruction, these gains were lost when “Jim Crow” Laws were passed by southern states. These laws established segregation or separation of the races and reinforced prejudices held by whites.

“Jim Crow” laws had an effect on the lives of African Americans and American Indians.

- Unfair poll taxes & voting tests were created to keep African American men from voting.
- African Americans found it very difficult to vote or hold public office.
- African American and white children attended separate schools.
- African Americans were forced to use separate poor quality services, such as:
  - drinking fountains
  - restrooms
  - restaurants
- “Jim Crow” laws also had an effect on American Indians.

Standard VS.8c: SWBAT demonstrate knowledge of the reconstruction of Virginia following the Civil War by describing the importance of railroads, new industries, and the growth of cities to Virginia’s economic development.

Virginia began to grow in many areas after the Civil War and Reconstruction.

- Virginia’s cities grew with people, businesses, and factories.
- Railroads were a key to the expansion of business, agriculture, and industry. They facilitated the growth of small towns to cities.
- Other parts of Virginia grew as other industries developed. Coal deposits were discovered in Tazewell County.
- The need for more and better roads increased.
- Tobacco farming and tobacco products became important Virginia industries.
Standard VS.10c: SWBAT to demonstrate knowledge of economics by explaining how advances in transportation, communications, and technology have contributed to Virginia’s prosperity and role in the global economy.

- Virginia’s transportation system (highways, railroads, and air transportation) moves raw materials to factories and finished products to markets. Virginia exports agricultural and manufactured products, including:
  - tobacco
  - poultry
  - coal
  - large ships
- Virginia has a large number of communications and other technology industries.
- Tourism is a major part of Virginia’s economy.
- Because many federal workers live and/or work in Virginia, the federal government has a significant impact on Virginia’s economy.

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