Life in Virginia After the Civil War
SOL VS 8a - 8c

Jennifer Amores-Kalich
Sugarland Elementary
Reconstruction (noun) - the time period after the Civil War when Congress passed laws designed to rebuild the country and bring the southern states back into the Union.
There were *many problems* during Reconstruction:

Millions of freed slaves needed...

- housing
- clothing
- jobs
Virginia’s economy was in ruins:
Money had NO VALUE . . .
Since Virginia was part of the Confederacy, the Union did not accept Virginia’s Confederate money

Virginia banks were closed
Virginia’s railroads, bridges, plantations, and crops were destroyed!
The government had to come up with solutions to all these serious problems!

The Freedmen’s Bureau was a government agency that provided:

a. Free money and vacations

b. Free food, schools, and medical care

c. Discounts on groceries

d. Coupons for the mall
Sharecropping was another solution…

**Sharecropping** was a system common in Virginia after the Civil War in which freedmen and poor white farmers:

a. Worked on farms for free

b. Were given seeds to start farms

c. Allowed to live on farms for 5 yrs

d. Rented land and promised to pay the landowner with a share of the crop
During Reconstruction, African Americans began to have power in Virginia’s government.

Men of all races could vote!
However, after Reconstruction, these positive actions were lost when “Jim Crow” Laws were passed by southern states.

Jim Crow Laws established ___________________ or

segregation

*separation* of the races and reinforced ________________ held

prejudices

by some white people.
SEGREGATION (noun) - the separation of people, usually based on race or religion
Discrimination (noun) - an unfair difference in the treatment of people
“Jim Crow” Laws had an effect on African American life.

**Unfair poll taxes** and **voting tests** were established to keep African Americans from voting.

I have to pay money and take a test to be allowed to vote???
“Jim Crow” Laws also made it difficult for African Americans to do other things:

African Americans did **not** have an easy time getting elected to hold a public office or to have an official position in the government.
African Americans and white children were forced to go to different schools!
African Americans were forced to use separate drinking fountains!
Fortunately, there were some positive things that happened after Reconstruction . . .
Virginia began to grow in many areas during the Civil War and Reconstruction.

Virginia’s cities grew with people, businesses, and factories.
Railroads were a key to the expansion of businesses, agriculture, and industry.
Railroads helped make it possible for small towns to grow into big cities.
Railroads centers stimulated the growth of factories where clothing, furniture, and other useful items were made.
Roanoke became a railroad center.

Richmond, Norfolk, and Newport News were bustling with activity as the railroad brought new jobs and people to the areas.
Many other parts of Virginia grew as other industries developed.

The cities of Alexandria, Lynchburg, and Petersburg also grew because of the railroad systems.
After the Civil War, industries, technology, transportation, and cities began to grow and contribute to Virginia’s economy.
Coal deposits were found after the Civil War... this became a source of livelihood for residents of southwest Virginia.

Many other parts of Virginia grew as other industries developed.
Tobacco farming and tobacco products became important Virginia industries.

Many other parts of southwestern Virginia grew as other industries developed.
Virginians faced many problems after the Civil War. During Reconstruction, Congress passed laws to rebuild the country and bring back the southern states into the Union.  

Millions of freed slaves needed clothing, food, and jobs.  

During Reconstruction, Virginia’s economy was healthy.  

False: Virginia’s banks were closed, southern money had no value, AND railroads, bridges, plantations, and crops were destroyed.  

Sharecropping was a common system in Virginia. Freedmen or poor white farmers could rent farm land and pay the landowner with a share of the crop.
What was the **Freedmen’s Bureau**?

A government agency that provided **food**, **clothing** and **medical care** for freed slaves.

**During Reconstruction**, African Americans began to have power in Virginia’s government. What were African American men allowed to do?

They were allowed to **vote** and **be elected to** a government position, or hold a public office.

**After Reconstruction**, these positive actions were lost when what type of laws were passed in the southern states?

**Jim Crow** laws enforced **segregation** or the separation of the races and reinforced prejudices held by some southern whites.
Jim Crow laws affected African American life by having unfair poll taxes and voting tests.

African Americans found it difficult to be elected to a government position when Jim Crow laws were in effect.

During Segregation, African Americans were forced to share public restrooms, water fountains, and restaurants with white people.

False: During Segregation, African Americans were forced to use separate facilities from white people. Even African American and white children were forced to go to separate schools.

Jim Crow laws had a negative effect on many African Americans.
Fantastic Fourth Graders !!!

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