**Reconstruction Simulation**

**Overall Goal:** To reconstruct the nation, torn apart by the Civil War. The groups that we will represent are:

1. Radical Republicans: The victorious northerners of the Republican Party who want to make radical reforms to punish the South and guarantee the rights of the newly freed slaves.
2. Defeated Southern Leaders: The war has been lost and the north has freed the slaves. They had to decide whether to heal old wounds or fight for what was lost.
3. Moderate Republicans: Leaders like President Lincoln and Vice President Johnson who wish to take it easy on the South so that they will peacefully rejoin the Union without too much resentment.

**Day 1: Mrs. Lacks will assign you one of the four roles above. Write a proposal for how you want to rebuild the nation BASED ON YOUR ROLE. Use the guided questions on your role sheet to help you.**

**Day 2: Mrs. Lacks will assign you to a group. With the other representatives, decide the solutions on how the country will be** **run. You will each read your proposal to the group, and then work to make a plan for reconstruction. You must PLAY YOUR ROLE. Argue your main points. You must come up with a written compromise to present to the class.**

**Important Points…**

1. If members of your group disagree upon a particular solution record both responses and indicate that some will do one thing and some will do another. *You are representing a whole class of society, so not everyone will respond to challenges the same way.*
2. Please keep in mind that you must be as specific as possible in your proposed solutions. For example, it is not enough just to say, “We will create schools to educate Freed Blacks.” Which level of government will do this, local, state or Federal? Who will pay for it?
3. Keep in mind the time period you are dealing with. There are no income taxes, the Federal Government is relatively small and not used to dealing directly with social problems. There are no civil rights laws dealing with race or gender. Only white males with property can vote, for example. There are no government agencies that give financial aid to minorities of any kind.
4. ***Most importantly: try to think as people would have thought in the late 1860’s. Don’t try and insert your own modern ideas of what is right. Be faithful to the role you are playing even if you disagree with the views of the group you are representing.***

**Grades:**

* **Individual Grade: Each person should have an individual proposal written expressing their view based on their assigned role.**
* **Group Grade: Each group must have a written compromise that addresses the questions listed for each role.**

Here are the problems you must discuss in your proposal and then solve together:

1. How will you treat the leaders of the old Confederate government? Some of them would like to run for office and rejoin your government.
2. What do you do with the occupied areas of the South? What rules do you make for states that want to rejoin the Union? How do people get back their citizenship in the Union?
3. How will you guarantee the rights of free blacks? Many southerners are still very prejudiced against blacks and do not want to give them their rights. They want to bring back the old way of life before slavery was abolished. How do you educate the blacks and teach them job skills? Most of them only knew farming before they got their freedom, how can they farm if they don’t own land? You would like to have blacks vote and participate in government like other men, but how can they vote and run for office if most can’t read and don’t have any political experience? What are their rights as far as education, jobs, and politics are concerned?
4. How will you rebuild the economy of the South? How will you make up for the loss of free labor now that slaves are not considered property?
5. How will blacks get along with whites peacefully? How can each group solve their differences when some say that blacks will never be treated equal and want to restore things to the way they were before the Civil War?
6. How will you deal with the collapsed economy of the south? Will you rebuild it with northern money or let them fend for themselves? What do you do with the numerous unemployed former slaves? How will you treat the free blacks that want to move to the North and the West?