The Reconstruction Era (1865 – 1877)

**The American Civil War waged for four years, 1861 – 1865. Only two days after Robert E. Lee surrendered to Ulysses S. Grant, President Lincoln was assassinated by John Wilkes Booth. This shocked the nation, and made it even more difficult to deal with the many issues faced at the end of the war.**

**Directions: Read and take notes on Chapter 5 in your textbook. Then, complete the following questions in complete, thoughtful, well-organized sentences, unless otherwise indicated (staple this sheet to a separate sheet of paper).**

1. What were some of the main problems the US faced after the Civil War? Please list several.
2. How did southerners (former planters/free blacks/poor whites) get jobs in a devastated economy? (Explain the systems of tenant farming and sharecropping.)
3. If a president is convicted of abusing his power, he may be reprimanded by the House of Representatives (impeached), at which point, the Senate decides by trial if he should be removed from office. The Constitution cites “treason, bribery, or high crimes and misdemeanors” as reasons for impeachment. Why did Andrew Johnson get impeached?
4. What was the KKK? What did the government do to combat this group?
5. How was the Union ultimately reconstructed? How did southern states come back into the Union?
6. Which amendments were added to the Constitution during the Reconstruction Era? Please list and explain each (3 total).
7. What compromise ended Reconstruction? Why was this detrimental to further progress?
8. In the Gettysburg Address, Lincoln wrote that the work of creating a nation “dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal” is “unfinished.” At the end of Reconstruction, to what extent was this still the case?
9. Opinion: Was the experiment with Reconstruction a success or a failure?  In a well-organized paragraph, pick a side, and explain why using as much vocabulary from the reading as possible.
10. Opinion: Some historians argue that the Reconstruction Era can be called the Era of Citizenship.  Do you agree or disagree with this concept? In a well-organized paragraph, pick a side, and explain why using as much vocabulary from the reading as possible.