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## WEEK 7: 5/11 -5/15: U.S. HISTORY

### **ASSIGNMENT CHECK-LIST: DUE BY MONDAY 5/18**

- MONDAY/TUESDAY:** The Story of Us –Episode 5 – The Civil War
  - Answer the questions as you watch the film. The link is attached to the assignment and linked to Mrs. Sellers' website.
  - Feel free to complete in one sitting or complete over two days as the film is 45 minutes long.
- WEDNESDAY:** Assassination of the President
  - Read the provided text and complete the questions that follow.
- THURSDAY:** CommonLit: Reconstruction
  - Read the provided text and complete the questions that follow.
  - There is also an accompanying video on Mrs. Sellers' website on this topic that is not required to be watched but may serve helpful to understanding the topic and the assignment.
  - There is a set of notes on Mrs. Sellers' website covering this topic if you are interested in further information!
- FRIDAY:** Take today to catch up on any work you might need more time for.

**REMEMBER:** Answers can be done on a print-out of the assignments or on a piece of paper. Pictures of your answers can be sent to your teacher via e-mail or Remind. You can also pick up this work as a packet from Cobb and turn it back to Cobb with your answers if you cannot access our websites, e-mail, or Remind.

Wishing you well! -Mrs. Sellers (SellerstL@leonschools.net), Mr. Allen (AllenClyde@leonschools.net), & Mr. Sears (SearsS@leonschools.net)

**MONDAY/TUESDAY: THE STORY OF US - EPISODE 5 - THE CIVIL WAR:** Directions: Circle or highlight the correct answer (found in the parentheses) as you watch the movie in order to complete each statement. You can type the url below or go to Mrs. Sellers' website and click on the link locate there.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yRCboyn-NF8&list=PLUvgn1rvfmHQ3rCjF\\_0eqJQfkSAhQTld7&index=16](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yRCboyn-NF8&list=PLUvgn1rvfmHQ3rCjF_0eqJQfkSAhQTld7&index=16)

1. A new, deadly weapon in use during the war was the (**Cannon / Bayonet / Minie Ball**).
2. The Civil War is the first (**modern / global / deadly**) war because it happened after the (**Revolution / Democracy / Industrialization**).
3. This was the first war to use (**Trains / Planes / Automobiles**) to move troops and the (**North / South**) had more of them.
4. Communication of information about the war was through (**phone calls, letters, telegraphs**) and was in the form of (**Morse Code / Twitter / invisible ink**).
5. The large number of casualties were caused by using (**new weapons / Native American soldiers / English Soldiers**) against outdated tactics.
6. Soldiers in the Civil War were (**just / twice / three**) times as likely to die from infection as from the actual wound.
7. Clara Barton helped (**escaped slaves / hospitals / communication**) become more modern and founded the (**Anti-Slavery Society / Red Cross / CIA**).
8. For the first time, the average American could see pictures of the war because of (**professional artists / trains / portable cameras**).
9. Lincoln had to deal with public opinion of the war more than ever because of (**Democracy / Newspapers / Telegraphs**).
10. Lincoln decided to officially make the war about (**slavery / states' rights / industry**) when he issued the (**Emancipation Proclamation / Wilmot Proviso / 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment**).
11. African-Americans were allowed to be (**Congressmen / Judges / Soldiers**) during the war and this helped the (**North / South**).
12. A speech made at a cemetery by Lincoln was the (**Emancipation Proclamation / Gettysburg Address**).
13. The last major offensive of the Union was led by (**Lee / Sherman / Lincoln**) and used the concept of (**total war / industrialization / emancipation**) to defeat the Southerners.

# WEDNESDAY: THE ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT LINCOLN

Adapted from history.com

On the evening of April 14, 1865, John Wilkes Booth, a famous actor and Confederate sympathizer, assassinated President Abraham Lincoln at Ford's Theatre in Washington, D.C. The attack came only five days after Confederate General Robert E. Lee surrendered his massive army at Appomattox Court House, Virginia, effectively ending the American Civil War.

## John Wilkes Booth

[John Wilkes Booth](#) was a [Maryland](#) native born in 1838 into a family of noted actors. Booth would eventually take the stage himself, appearing in 1855 in Shakespeare's Richard III in Baltimore. Despite his Confederate sympathies, Booth remained in the North during the [Civil War](#), pursuing a successful career as an actor

## Lincoln at Ford's Theatre

Learning that Lincoln was to attend Laura Keane's acclaimed performance of "Our American Cousin" at Ford's Theatre in [Washington](#), D.C., on April 14, Booth masterminded a plan even more diabolical than kidnapping.

He and his co-conspirators believed the simultaneous assassination of Lincoln, Vice President [Andrew Johnson](#) and Secretary of State [William H. Seward](#)—the president and two of his possible successors—would throw the U.S. government into disarray.

The Lincolns arrived late for the comedy, but the president was reportedly in a fine mood and laughed heartily during the production. Lincoln occupied a private box above the stage with his wife [Mary Todd Lincoln](#), a young army officer named Henry Rathbone and Rathbone's fiancé, Clara Harris, the daughter of [New York](#) Senator Ira Harris.

## The Lincoln Assassination

At 10:15, Booth slipped into the box and fired his .44-caliber single-shot [derringer pistol](#) into the back of Lincoln's head. After stabbing Rathbone, who immediately rushed at him, in the shoulder, Booth leapt onto the stage and shouted, "Sic semper tyrannis!" ("Thus ever to tyrants!"—the [Virginia](#) state motto).

At first, the crowd interpreted the unfolding drama as part of the production, but a scream from the first lady told them otherwise. Although Booth broke his leg in the fall, he managed to leave the theater and escape from Washington on horseback.

Several soldiers carried Lincoln to a boardinghouse across the street and placed him on a bed. When the surgeon general arrived at the house, he concluded that Lincoln could not be saved and would probably die during the night.

## Lincoln's Death and Autopsy

Vice President Andrew Johnson, members of Lincoln's cabinet and several of his closest friends stood vigil by the president's bedside in the boardinghouse. The first lady lay on a bed in an adjoining room with her eldest son, Robert Todd Lincoln, at her side, overwhelmed with shock and grief. Finally, Lincoln was pronounced dead at 7:22 a.m. on April 15, 1865, at the age of 56.

## A Nation Mourns

News of the president's death traveled quickly, and by the end of the day flags across the country flew at half-mast, businesses were closed and people who had recently rejoiced at the end of the Civil War now reeled from Lincoln's shocking assassination.

On April 18, Lincoln's body was carried to the Capitol rotunda to lay in state on a catafalque. Three days later, his remains were boarded onto a train that conveyed him to Springfield, [Illinois](#), where he had lived before becoming president.

Tens of thousands of Americans lined the railroad route and paid their respects to their fallen leader during the train's solemn progression through the North. Lincoln and his son, William Wallace Lincoln ("Willie"), who died in the White House of typhoid fever in 1862, were interred on May 4, 1865, at Oak Ridge Cemetery near Springfield. Mary Todd Lincoln was so devastated that she took to her bed for weeks and missed the funeral. She was soon [outcast from society](#) for her vocal grief.

### **John Wilkes Booth Flees**

As the nation mourned, Union soldiers were hot on the trail of John Wilkes Booth, who many in the audience had immediately recognized. After fleeing the capital, he and an accomplice, David Herold, made their way across the Anacostia River and headed toward southern Maryland.

On April 26, Union troops surrounded the Virginia barn where Booth and Herold were hiding out and set fire to it, hoping to flush the fugitives out. Herold surrendered but Booth remained inside. As the blaze intensified, a sergeant shot Booth in the neck, allegedly because the assassin had raised his gun as if to shoot.

Carried out of the building alive, Booth lingered for three hours before gazing at his hands and uttering his last words: "Useless, useless."

Four of Booth's co-conspirators were convicted for their part in the assassination and executed by hanging on July 7, 1865. They included David Herold and [Mary Surratt](#), the first woman put to death by the federal government, whose boardinghouse had served as a meeting place for the would-be kidnappers. The assassination of Lincoln changed how Reconstruction was handled and how the Secret Service protected presidents.

1. What important event occurred only a few days before the assassination?

2. Why did John Wilkes Booth want to kill President Lincoln?

3. Who else was targeted by the group?

4. In which building was the president shot?

5. What do you think Booth meant when he said "Sic Semper Tyrannis!"

6. How was Booth killed?

7. What do you think Booth meant when he looked at his hands and said "Useless, Useless."?

8. What are some of the effects of the assassination?

## THURSDAY: COMMONLIT: RECONSTRUCTION

### Reconstruction

By USHistory.org  
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*This text discusses Reconstruction, or the period of rebuilding following the Civil War. The Civil War lasted from 1861 to 1865 and was fought between the northern states, known as the Union, and rebellious southern states, known as the Confederacy. The Union won the war and had to decide how to bring the country back together again, leading to the controversial Reconstruction Era. As you read, identify the goals of the Radical Republicans, President Andrew Johnson, and Southern Democrats during the Reconstruction era.*

After the Civil War ended in 1865, The United States needed to rebuild, particularly in the devastated<sup>1</sup> southern states. The period following the Civil War in which this rebuilding took place is referred to as Reconstruction. It lasted from 1865 to 1877. It was a time of great pain and endless questions. On what terms would the Confederacy of southern states be allowed back into the Union? Who would establish those terms: Congress or the President? How would freed blacks be treated in the South? Did the end of slavery mean that black men would now enjoy the same status as white men? What was to be done with the Confederate leaders, who were seen as traitors<sup>2</sup> by many in the North?

### Founding the Reconstruction Era

The military conflict was over. But in many ways, Reconstruction was still a war. Many radical Northerners<sup>3</sup> wanted to punish the South. Many Southerners were desperate to preserve<sup>4</sup> their way of life. The way of life for African-Americans, though, was bound to change. Congress approved three amendments<sup>5</sup> to the Constitution that changed African-American rights. The Thirteenth Amendment formally abolished<sup>6</sup> slavery in all states and territories. The Fourteenth Amendment promised all men, including African-American men, equal protection under the law. And finally, the Fifteenth Amendment gave African-American men the right to vote. For a southern state to be readmitted to the Union, it had to ratify, or approve, these new amendments. Although they were positive steps towards racial equality, they proved difficult to enforce.

In the end, the president chose how to organize Reconstruction. After President Lincoln was assassinated<sup>7</sup>, his successor<sup>8</sup> President Andrew Johnson decided not to punish the South harshly. During the Civil War, Johnson remained loyal to the Union, even though his home state of Tennessee was one of the states that seceded from the Union. As president, Johnson provided pardons<sup>9</sup> to most Confederate leaders, many of who returned to power. And while he outlined steps to create new state governments, he allowed each state to decide how it would treat its black citizens. Many southern states adopted Black Codes<sup>10</sup> of law that sought to maintain white power. The North was furious. Recently freed African-Americans found the postwar South very similar to the prewar South.

President Johnson faced strong opposition in Congress. In the 1866 Congressional Elections, a group known as the Radical Republicans came to power. They wanted to punish the South and take power from the long-ruling white Southern Democrats. The Radical Republicans passed the Military Reconstruction Acts of 1867 to do so. They divided the South into five military districts with new governments. They also forced southern whites to allow blacks to vote, hold political office, and serve as judges or police chiefs. This power shift angered many Southerners.

President Johnson vetoed<sup>11</sup> all of the Radical Republican initiatives,<sup>12</sup> but Congress overrode him each time<sup>13</sup>. It was the Radical Republicans who impeached<sup>14</sup> President Johnson in 1868 <sup>15</sup>. The Senate, by a single vote, failed to convict him<sup>16</sup>, but his power to create radical reform was reduced.

### The End of Reconstruction

Many Southern whites could not accept the idea that former slaves could not only vote, but also hold office. Their anger created the white supremacist<sup>17</sup> Ku Klux Klan<sup>18</sup>. The Klan targeted Republican leaders and blacks trying to exercise their new rights. The Klan would beat, lynch<sup>19</sup>, or massacre their enemies. Targets of the attacks looked to the federal government for protection, with few results. Entire armed militias<sup>20</sup> of citizens formed in the South dedicated to fighting Republican intervention<sup>21</sup> and suppressing<sup>22</sup> black voters.

When Ulysses S. Grant became president in 1868, he failed as well to oversee lasting reform. Grant was a revered and decorated Union general during the Civil War, yet turned out to be less effective as a politician. From 1869 to 1876, the Republican President Grant faced multiple scandals and corruption that allowed Democrats to gain seats and power in Congress.

In the 1876 election, Democratic nominee Samuel J. Tilden won the popular vote **23** over Republican nominee Rutherford B. Hayes. However, Tilden was one vote short of the majority needed to win the Electoral College **24**, and 20 electoral votes were disputed. A special electoral commission, or official group, established in 1877 decided in favor of Hayes, but Democrats resisted the decision. Finally, through informal meetings, Democrats and Republicans agreed to the Compromise of 1877. The compromise stated that if Hayes were elected, he would withdraw federal troops from the South, effectively ending Reconstruction. Democrats gave the election to Hayes, knowing that the end of Reconstruction governments would allow them to return to power in the South.

In 1877, Union Troops withdrew from the South. Without their support, Reconstruction state governments fell, Democrats retook positions in local governments, and southern whites renewed their efforts to strip African-Americans of their rights **25**. It would take another century before the Civil Rights Movement made meaningful racial change in the South.

**1.** Devastate (verb): to destroy **2.** Traitor (noun): someone who betrays their country **3.** The radical Northerners aimed to create extreme changes in American politics. They sought to promote racial equality and increase federal protection against states' rights to discriminate against African Americans. They formed the bulk of the "Radical Republicans." **4.** Preserve (verb): to keep (something) in its original state **5.** Amendment (noun): an addition to a document **6.** Abolish (verb): to put an end to **7.** Assassinate (verb): to murder **8.** Successor (noun): a person who has a job after someone else **9.** Pardon (noun): an official act that forgives one for a crime and prevents their punishment **10.** The Black Codes were a series of laws passed in 1865 and 1866 about former slaves that kept them from voting or being citizens. The Black Codes also tried to force blacks to work for low wages or in debt, similar to a slave-based system. The Civil Rights Act of 1866 abolished the Black Codes (although President Johnson vetoed the Act in 1865, Congress overrode him in 1866). **11.** Veto (verb): to vote to not approve something **12.** Initiative (noun): a plan or program intended to solve a problem **13.** Congress can override a presidential veto if two thirds of both Houses vote to approve the law. **14.** Impeach (verb): to charge with crime done while in office **15.** Eight of the 11 articles of impeachment were focused on Johnson trying to dismiss Secretary of War Edwin M. Stanton, who was chosen by Lincoln and often supported Congress over Johnson, from office. In 1867, Congress enacted the Tenure of Office Act to protect Stanton and other Senate-approved officials from removal and in 1868 Johnson dismissed him from office specifically to challenge the new act. **16.** The House of Representatives impeaches a president by charging him with crimes. The Senate votes whether to convict the president of those crimes or not. **17.** White Supremacy is the racist belief that whites are superior to all other races and deserve more power as a result. **18.** The Klu Klux Klan is a hate group that supports white power and acts through terrorism against those it opposes. **19.** Lynch (verb): to kill illegally as punishment for a supposed offence by hanging without trial **20.** Militia (noun): a body of citizen soldiers **21.** Intervention (noun): involvement in the affairs of others **22.** Suppress (verb): to prohibit or restrain **23.** The popular vote is the final tally of how every citizen votes in an election. **24.** The Electoral College is a small body of people who elect the president and vice president. They usually pledge to vote in support of the popular vote of the people they represent. However, the complex process by which the Electoral College votes can result in elections that do not support the overall popular vote. **25.** After Reconstruction, the South worked to block much of the Fourteenth and Fifteenth Amendment. The South also created Jim Crow laws meant to keep blacks inferior to whites.

1. What are the two central ideas of the text?

- A. Northerners and Southerners wanted to put the war quickly behind them and return to peace.
- B. President Johnson wanted to punish the South for its rebellion but Congress limited his power to do so.
- C. Many Northerners wanted to punish the Southerners for their treason and defiance.
- D. Reconstruction ended in a stalemate, with neither the Republicans nor Democrats wielding significant power in the South.
- E. President Johnson was impeached for continuously working against Congress by not only vetoing their approved laws, but defying new approved, legal legislation.
- F. It was fortunate that that President Johnson was not removed from office because it would have set a dangerous precedent for American politics.

2. What does each of the following guarantee?

13 <sup>th</sup> Amendment	14 <sup>th</sup> Amendment	15 <sup>th</sup> Amendment

3. Why might the 13<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, and 15<sup>th</sup> amendments be called the "Reconstruction Amendments"?

4. Why do you think Reconstruction failed to make lasting change towards racial equality in the South? How can we continue to fight against racial inequality today and towards a more equal society for all?