PBS *Reconstruction: America After the Civil War*, Episode 1

1. Approximately, how long did slavery last?
2. 180,000 Black men joined the Union forces. How did Black men get the North to enlist in the

Union Army?

1. Did Lee, the General of the Southern army, believe he truly lost the war? Why is this important

in Reconstruction?

1. What was the trigger for John Wilkes Booth that propelled him to assassinate President Lincoln?
2. How did families reconnect after slavery was abolished?
3. The 13th Amendment abolished slavery. What legal and moral dilemmas did this lead to?
4. Johnson was a Republican, which was also known as the Black man’s party. What does the

Republic party stand for at this time?

1. What was the purpose to the Freedman’s Bureau?
2. What did Johnson’s plan of Reconstruction include? How did he pardon wealthy, powerful

Sothern planters?

1. By doing this, how did the previously enslaved people remain enslaved?
2. According to Reconstruction experts, what is the deepest legacy of slavery?
3. Which state was the first state to pass Black Codes?
4. What was their purpose?
5. How did the planter class continue to steal the labor from Black Americans?
6. When was the KKK established?
7. Why is it such a problem that the Southern representatives and senators were reinstated into Congress?
8. What was the Congressional way around this error in judgement by letting the Southern states come back?
9. What was the purpose of The Civil Rights Act of 1866?
10. What occurred in Memphis?
11. How long did this destruction last?
12. The response to Memphis (and other cities) by Congress was what?
13. How difficult was it for Black men to vote? What tactics did they use to get their ballots in?

PBS *Reconstruction: America After the Civil War*, Episode 2

1. How many people were enslaved before the Civil War?
2. How many Black men moved into political positions post-Civil War?
3. Black men held positions of leadership in the government after the 15th Amendment was placed. Black men who were once enslaved now held positions of power. What social and political affects did this opportunity have?
4. Robert Smalls escaped slavery by seizing his freedom on a Confederate ship. What other fascinating accomplishments did Robert experience?
5. Why would Robert Smalls desire education for all Americans? Why is education most important?
6. In 1870. Hiram Revels is the first Black man elected into the U.S. Senate. He represented what state? Later that year, Joseph Rainey would be the first Black man elected into the House. What state did he represent?
7. 7. During this time period (1870) Black and white families were not segregated. However, there were differences in community treatment. Explain a difference below.
8. How do Rainey and Revels elected into Congress represent the 15th Amendment at work?
9. The U.S. having 14 Black Congressmen at this time is a monumental moment. Why is this so special?
10. 10. How did art and photography play a role?
11. What was the first change that was made by Black Congress?
12. Jubilee Singers that sang about overcoming the Black struggle in American showed white audiences what true Black talent and art is of the late 1800’s. They had to directly combat the previously known ideas of Black art-- minstrel performers. What was a minstrel performer?
13. In addition to starting businesses and going to school, free Black families tried to become financially independent by doing what?
14. The end of the Civil War changed religion for Black families. They could freely practice and worship without the consent of their masters. This was a significant moment. Why?
15. The more Black Americans achieved, the more dangerous it became for them to live in the South. The Ku Klux Klan was a threatening force and used violence to spread fear. What was the closest the KKK ever had to being destroyed legally?
16. How many pages of testimony was given by American citizens citing the KKK’s violence during the hearings?
17. What is the connection between 1871 violence by the KKK and now?
18. President Grant felt that the KKK’s actions were \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

19. During Reconstruction, how did white supremacy spread against Black Americans?

20. In the 1870’s how were Blacks depicted?

21. Who made it difficult for Reconstruction policies to be enforced?

22. During this time, the Republican Party was in support of Reconstruction. When Democrats took over Congress in the next election, how was this a turning point of Reconstruction?

23. What bill passed in 1875 to promote social equality between Black Americans and whites?

24. Frederick Douglass spoke on the 11th anniversary of Lincoln’s assassination. “You are the children of Abraham Lincoln. We are at best only his step-children; children by adoption, children by forces of circumstances and necessity.” What do you think Douglas meant by these words?

25. Tilden won the popular vote for Presidency. The Electoral College swung the votes so that Hayes won. This enraged the Democrats. What did Hayes agree to before he was inaugurated?