1. What does it mean to “reconstruct” something?

2. Why would the South need to be “reconstructed” after the Civil War?
**Reconstruction** is the era from 1865 to 1877 when the U.S. government attempted to rebuild the nation after the **Civil War**.

During Reconstruction, the government had to readmit the seceded Southern states back into the Union.

End slavery and protect newly emancipated slaves.

Rebuilt the South after more than four years of fighting.
As the Civil War was ending, President Lincoln promised a Reconstruction Plan for the Union with “malice towards none and charity for all”.

But, the Constitution gave no guidelines on how to readmit states to the Union.

The President and Congress disagreed over how to treat the Southern states.

Abraham Lincoln’s Second Inaugural Address
THREE PLANS FOR RECONSTRUCTION

Lincoln's "Ten Percent" Plan

Presidential Reconstruction, led by President Johnson

Congressional Reconstruction, led by "Radical Republicans"

But, he died 😞

Lenient Plan – He got impeached 😞

Strict Plan – Goal: Protect former slaves
Lincoln favored a plan that would quickly re-admit the Confederate states once 10% of the people swore an oath of loyalty and states ratified the 13th Amendment to abolish slavery in America.
“Radical Republicans” in Congress rejected Lincoln’s plan because it was too lenient on ex-Confederates.

They favored a plan that protected blacks, required 50% of state citizens to swear a loyalty oath, and banned ex-Confederate leaders from serving in gov’t.

When the Civil War ended and Lincoln was assassinated, the government did not have a Reconstruction Plan in place.
After Lincoln was assassinated in 1865, VP **Andrew Johnson** created a plan known as **Presidential Reconstruction** (1865-1867)

Johnson’s plan was **lenient** on Confederate states because he wanted the South to rejoin the United States **quickly**
Ex-Confederate states could rejoin the USA once they ratified the 13th Amendment

**Amendment XIII**

1. *Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for crime whereof the party shall have been duly convicted, shall exist within the United States, or any place subject to their jurisdiction.*

2. *Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.*
Presidential Reconstruction did not require Southern state governments to protect former slaves.

Southern states passed **black codes** to keep African Americans from gaining land, jobs, and protection under the law.
“Radical Republicans” in Congress led by Thaddeus Stevens opposed Johnson’s Reconstruction plan and pushed for laws to protect blacks.

They feared that Johnson’s lenient Reconstruction Plan would violate blacks’ civil rights.

Congress drafted the 14th Amendment that included former slaves as citizens and guaranteed all citizens equal protection under the law.
Based upon the image below, what were the major failures of Reconstruction?

"Of course he wants to vote for the Democratic ticket"
President Johnson thought that these new protections would anger Southerners and slow down Reconstruction. Johnson opposed the Freedman’s Bureau and tried to convince states not to ratify the 14th Amendment. By 1867, moderate and radical Republicans realized that they needed to take control of Reconstruction from the president.
Radical Republicans in Congress created their own plan called **Congressional Reconstruction** (1867-1877)

Congressional Reconstruction was **strict**, protected the rights of former slaves, and kept Confederate leaders from regaining power in the South.
Congress passed the **Reconstruction Act of 1867**

The South was divided into **5 military zones** with US troops to enforce Reconstruction.

Ex-Confederate states were required to give black men the **right to vote** at the state level.

To be readmitted, states had to ratify the **14th Amendment** protecting black citizenship.
President Johnson obstructed Congressional Reconstruction by firing military generals appointed by Congress to oversee Southern military zones. He violated a new law called the Tenure of Office Act when he tried to fire his Secretary of War who supported Congress’ plan.
Radical Republicans used this as an opportunity to impeach the president.

The House of Representatives voted 126-47 to charge Johnson with a CRIME.

After an 11 week trial, the Senate fell 1 vote short of removing the president from office.

Johnson successfully argued that he had not committed a “high crime or misdemeanor.”
In 1868, Civil War hero Ulysses Grant won the presidency as a Republican candidate. President Grant (1869-1877) worked with Congress to enforce Reconstruction. By 1870, all ex-Confederate states were readmitted to the United States.