# **Background for Reconstruction Writing Project:**

The Reconstruction Era in America's history is an important time because the nation was trying to put itself back together after the tragic and devastating Civil War. Families had been ripped apart as they fought for different views and rights. The Confederate States that seceded needed to be brought back into the United States. To prevent future secessions, the rebel states needed to have a consequence. Heated debates of the time were over how severe the consequences should be for the "Rebel" States. Cities and farmland, especially in the South, had been completely destroyed. The casualties from this war were greater than all of America's other wars combined. Four million former slaves were now proclaimed to be free. Hard feelings, distrust, and hatred were the dominant emotions of the time.

Over the course of the next two weeks, you will be completing a summative assessment through an essay. For the first week, we will be doing in depth lessons about the necessary skills for writing this summative assessment.

# Getting Started:

As you begin your research, you may find it helpful to have a place to start. Below I have listed the Dewey Decimal Classification Numbers for the Civil War and Reconstruction. I have also included a list of key terms you can enter in your search engine.

# **Call Numbers:**

## These are the areas within the media center where you can find print resources to aid you in your research.

973.7 [Administration of Abraham Lincoln, 1861-1865 Civil War](http://dewey.info/class/973.7/2009-07/about.en)

973.708 [Civil War with respect to kinds of persons](http://dewey.info/class/973.708/2009-07/about.en)

973.709 [Historical, geographic, persons treatment](http://dewey.info/class/973.709/2009-07/about.en)

973.8 [Reconstruction period, 1865–1901](http://dewey.info/class/973.8/2009-07/about.en)

# Search Terms:

* Reconstruction plans civil war
* Abraham Lincoln Reconstruction plan
* Lincoln’s presidential Reconstruction
* Johnson’s presidential reconstruction
* Johnson’s reconstruction plan
* Radical Reconstruction civil war
* Grant’s Radical reconstruction plan
* Reconstruction plans after Civil War

# **Print Resources:**

(I’ll pull these books. They are reference and cannot be checked out, but provide great overviews) (we have other books, but I figured if students wanted more books they could come and check them out themselves.)

EBOOK 973.8/1

Baker, Lawrence W., et al, eds. *Reconstruction Era Reference Library*. 4 vols.

Detroit: UXL, 2005. *Gale Virtual Reference Library*. Web.

Document URL  
<http://go.galegroup.com/ps/i.do?id=GALE|9781414404547&v=2.1&u=wlhs&it=aboutBook&p=GVRL&sw=w>

Reconstruction Era Reference Library provides targeted information on post-Civil War America, from the end of the war in 1865 to the Compromise of 1877.

REF 973.7 CAR

Carlisle, Rodney P. *Civil War and Reconstruction*. New York: Facts On File, 2008. Print.

Draws from diary entries, letters, speeches, and newspaper articles to provide firsthand perspectives on the events of the Civil War and Reconstruction, and includes narratives that chart the history of period, a chronology, and excerpts from critical documents of the time, profiles of key individuals, maps, and photographs.

REF 973.7 CIV

*Civil War and Reconstruction (1860-1877)*. Detroit: Gale Cengage Learning, 2013. Print. American Eras

Primary Sources.

Explores life in the Civil War era between 1850 and 1877 from the perspectives of world events, the arts, business and the economy, communications, education, government and politics, law and justice, religion, science and medicine, sports and recreation, and lifestyles, and includes a chronology of world events.

REF 973.803 ENC

*Encyclopedia of the Reconstruction Era*. Westport, Conn.: Greenwood, 2006. Print.

Contains alphabetized, cross-referenced articles on topics related to the Reconstruction era, including people, places, legislation, associations, and other aspects, and includes a chronology.

REF 973.7 KIR

Kirchberger, Joe H. *The Civil War and Reconstruction: An Eyewitness History*. New York: Facts on File,

1991. Print.

Contains excerpts from memoirs, diaries, letters, newspapers, speeches, advertisements, and other primary sources that provide eyewitness reports on the American Civil War and its aftermath, and features introductory essays, chronologies, period illustrations and photographs, and brief biographies of key individuals.

REF 973.7 RIC

Richter, William L. *Historical Dictionary of the Civil War and Reconstruction*. Lanham, MD: Scarecrow,

2004. Print.

Contains over eight hundred alphabetically arranged entries that provide information on significant people, events, and themes in the U.S. Civil War and Reconstruction period, and includes a select chronology, and related documents.

973.8 REC

Stalcup, Brenda. *Reconstruction: Opposing Viewpoints*. San Diego: Greenhaven, 1995. Print.

Features the debates that surrounded America's Reconstruction period following the

Civil War.

# **Databases:**

(I’ll link url addresses to the pictures for easy access to the databases.)





# **Gateway Sites:**

<http://www.ipl.org/div/pf/>

Expert Guides intended to help you get started doing research on a particular topic

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Reconstruction_Era>

Basic overview of Reconstruction and the different plans that were being proposed at the time.

<http://www.digitalhistory.uh.edu/exhibits/reconstruction/introduction.html>

Examines one of the most turbulent and controversial eras in American history. It presents an up-to-date portrait of a period whose unrealized goals of economic and racial justice still confront our society.

<http://www.education.com/study-help/article/us-history-reconstruction-civil-war-lincoln-johnson/>

Very brief overview of the plans proposed by Lincoln and Johnson

<http://www.history.com/topics/american-civil-war/reconstruction>

Overview of Reconstruction and the different plans being proposed during the time period.

<http://www.ducksters.com/history/civil_war/reconstruction.php>

Easy Reader: learn about the reconstruction of the South after the Civil War.

<http://www.pbs.org/civilwar/classroom/annotated_list.html>

<http://www.pbs.org/civilwar/war/>

The very best of the very best online resources about the Civil War.

<http://www.factmonster.com/encyclopedia/history/reconstruction.html>

Easy Reader: Learn about the reconstruction plans proposed post-civil war.

<http://valley.lib.virginia.edu/>

<http://valley.lib.virginia.edu/VoS/choosepart.html>

[**Valley of the Shadow**](http://valley.lib.virginia.edu/)The Virginia Center for Digital History: The Civil War from two points of view. Students can explore every dimension of the conflict and write their own histories, reconstructing the life stories of women, African Americans, farmers, politicians, soldiers, and families.” Includes a section titled “Memory of the War” that presents postwar writings on battles, soldier and camp life, reunions, obituaries and tributes, and politics.

# **Videos:**

## Classroom on Demand: **username-wlhs password-raider**

1. "Civil War and Reconstruction, 1861-1877." *Classroom Video On Demand*. Films Media Group, 2010. Web. 18 Oct. 2014. <http://streaming.factsonfile.com/PortalPlaylists.aspx?aid=17547&xtid=47811>.

<http://streaming.factsonfile.com/PortalPlaylists.aspx?aid=17547&xtid=47811>

Civil War and Reconstruction, 1861-1877 (19:05)

This archival educational film shot in 1965 examines the Civil War and Reconstruction as they affected the nation’s African-American population. (19 minutes)

1. "Classic Presidential Campaigns, Volume I?Unusual Election Campaigns: Jefferson/Adams, Lincoln/Douglas, and Roosevelt/Taft/Wilson." *Classroom Video On Demand*. Films Media Group, 2000. Web. 18 Oct. 2014. <http://streaming.factsonfile.com/PortalPlaylists.aspx?aid=17547&xtid=49119>.

<http://streaming.factsonfile.com/PortalPlaylists.aspx?aid=17547&xtid=49119>

Classic Presidential Campaigns, Volume I—Unusual Election Campaigns: Jefferson/Adams, Lincoln/Douglas, and Roosevelt/Taft/Wilson (40:50)

This first volume of the Classic Presidential Campaigns Series focuses on unusual election campaigns, including those of Jefferson/Adams (1800), when Burr challenged the results; Lincoln Douglas (1860); Hayes/Tilden (1876), decided by vote in the House of Representatives; and Roosevelt/Taft/Wilson (1910). (42 minutes)

1. "Aftershock: Beyond the Civil War." *Classroom Video On Demand*. Films Media Group, 2006. Web. 18 Oct. 2014. <http://streaming.factsonfile.com/PortalPlaylists.aspx?aid=17547&xtid=43028>.

<http://streaming.factsonfile.com/PortalPlaylists.aspx?aid=17547&xtid=43028>

Aftershock: Beyond the Civil War (01:30:01)

When General Robert E. Lee surrendered at Appomattox, it marked the end of a terrible period of conflict that nearly destroyed the United States. But it also marked the beginning of a period of recovery that was in many ways as painful as the war itself. Freed blacks remained essentially enslaved, and race and tax riots, marauders and insurgents, profiteers, carpetbaggers, the KKK, and Jesse James all contributed to the post-Civil War turmoil. This *A&E Special* uses dramatizations, archival photos, and meticulous scholarship to show in stunning detail the trials that befell America during the time period known as Reconstruction. Distributed by A&E Television Networks. (90 minutes)

1. "Issues and Controversies in American History Video Clip Collection." *Classroom Video On Demand*. Films Media Group, 2012. Web. 18 Oct. 2014. <http://streaming.factsonfile.com/PortalPlaylists.aspx?aid=17547&xtid=49105>.

<http://streaming.factsonfile.com/PortalPlaylists.aspx?aid=17547&xtid=49105&loid=157275>

**Reconstruction (02:41)From Title: Issues and Controversies in American History Video Clip Collection**

In the aftermath of the Civil War, America faced the difficult task of bringing rebellious states back into the fold. Should reconstruction have been radical or lenient? Was it accomplished in the right way?

1. "The Presidents: 1865-1885." *Classroom Video On Demand*. Films Media Group, 2005. Web. 18 Oct. 2014. <http://streaming.factsonfile.com/PortalPlaylists.aspx?aid=17547&xtid=43177>.

<http://streaming.factsonfile.com/PortalPlaylists.aspx?aid=17547&xtid=43177&loid=93883>

**Andrew Johnson: Reconstruction Crisis (03:21)From Title: The Presidents: 1865-1885**

The Civil War was essentially over when Johnson became President. Radical Republicans were eager to learn about his policies. His plan gave amnesty to ex confederates and acceptance to seceded states. Freed slaves neither protection nor rights.