

VS.8 RECONSTRUCTION – 2020 UPDATE

STANDARD VS.8A EFFECTS OF RECONSTRUCTION

Virginians faced serious problems in rebuilding the state after the war.

Terms to know

- **Reconstruction:** The period following the Civil War in which Congress passed laws designed to **rebuild** the country and bring the southern states back into the Union

Problems faced by Virginians during Reconstruction

- Hundreds of thousands of freed African Americans needed **housing, education, clothing, food, and jobs.**
- Virginia's economy was in **ruins:**
 - **Money** had no value.
 - **Banks were closed.**
 - **Railroads, bridges, plantations, and crops were destroyed.**
 - **Businesses** needed to be rebuilt.
 - African Americans faced **injustice, increased violence, and discrimination** immediately after the end of slavery.

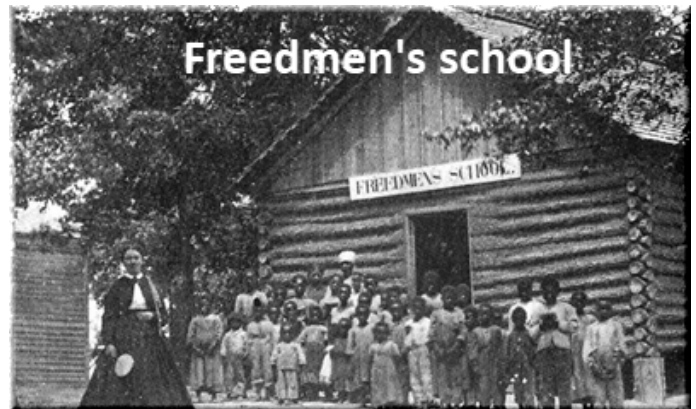
Measures taken to resolve problems

- The **Freedmen's Bureau** was a federal government agency that provided food, public **schools**, and **medical** care for freed African Americans and others in Virginia.



- **Sharecropping** was a system with **unfair practices** that locked people into poverty.
 - **Sharecropping** was common in Virginia after the war in which freedmen and poor white farmers **rented land** from a landowner by promising to pay the owner with a **share of the crops**
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- African Americans pushed for **education** for their children. This directly resulted in **Freedom's First Generation** of who some became doctors, lawyers, and teachers
 - African Americans saw **education** as a **path to greater opportunities.**
 - Despite the obstacles they faced, many African Americans **achieved excellence.**



STANDARD VS.8B SEGREGATION & "JIM CROW"

*The freedoms and rights promised to African Americans were **slowly taken away** after Reconstruction, and it would take years to win them back.*

"Jim Crow" laws had an effect on African Americans and American Indians.

Terms to know

- **Segregation:** The separation of people, usually based on race or religion
- **Discrimination:** An unfair difference in the treatment of people

During Reconstruction, African Americans began to have **power in Virginia's government,** and black and white men could **vote and hold office.**

Black Virginians led the fight for the first public school system in Virginia.

- **John Mercer Langston** was an important African American leader before, during, and after the Civil War
 - Free black from Louisa County, Virginia, who was educated in Ohio and became a **lawyer** in the North



John Mercer Langston

- **Abolitionist** who participated in the Underground Railroad in Ohio
- **Recruited black volunteers** to serve as soldiers in the Union Army during the Civil War
- Returned to Virginia after the Civil War and became the **President** of a new black college in Petersburg later known as “**Virginia State**

University”

- **First African American elected** to the U.S. Congress from **Virginia**

After Reconstruction, these gains were taken away through violence, intimidation and when “**Jim Crow**” Laws were passed by southern states.

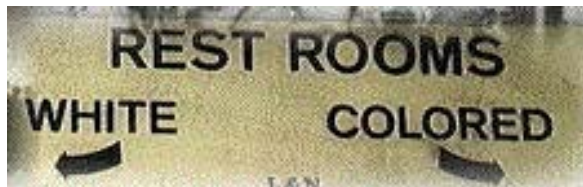
- “**Jim Crow**” Laws established **segregation or separation** of the races and **reinforced prejudices** held by whites

Effect of “**Jim Crow**” laws on the lives of African Americans and American Indians included

- experiencing **unfair poll taxes** and **voting tests** that were established to keep them from voting;
- difficulty voting or **holding public office**;
- being forced to use **separate, poor-quality facilities and services**, such as drinking fountains, restrooms, and restaurants; and
- attending **separate schools**.

Segregation and discrimination had an impact on:

- Housing
- Employment
- Health care
- Political representation
- Education
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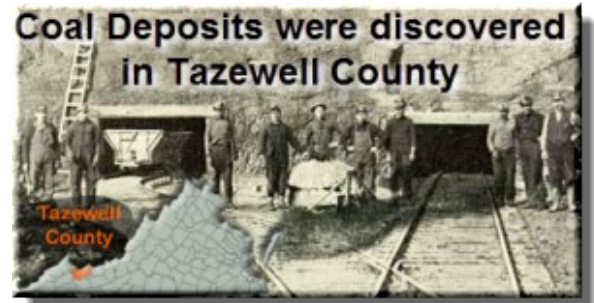


STANDARD Vs.8C ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

After the Civil War, industry and technology, transportation, and cities began to grow and contribute to Virginia’s economy.

Virginia began to grow in many areas after the Civil War and Reconstruction.

- Virginia’s **cities grew** with people, businesses, and factories.
- **Railroads** were a key to the **expansion of business**, agriculture, and industry.
 - They facilitated the growth of small towns to cities.
- Other parts of Virginia grew as other industries developed.



- **Coal deposits** were mined in the Appalachian Plateau.
 - The need for more and better **roads** increased.
 - **Tobacco** farming and tobacco products became **important Virginia industries**