

Module 5: The Civil War and Reconstruction - 1860 to 1877

Topic 6 Content: Plans for Reconstruction Notes

Introduction



Plans for Reconstruction

Click **Start** to learn about various plans for Reconstruction, and the reaction by Congress.

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Lincoln's Plan for Reconstruction



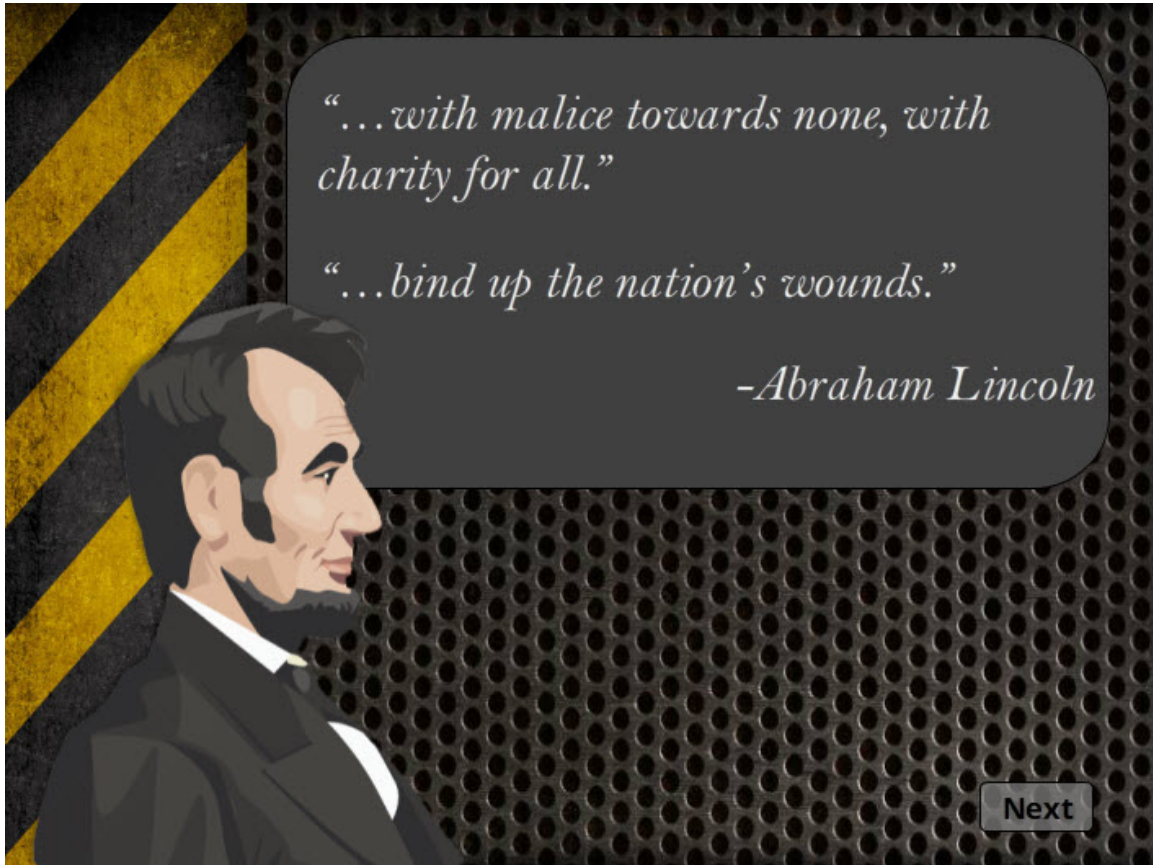
Lincoln's Plan for Reconstruction

The Civil War had ended and the South was in disarray. President Lincoln immediately began devising a plan to help Reconstruction of the South. Click **Next** to learn about Lincoln's plan for Reconstruction.

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Lincoln's Beliefs on Reconstruction



President Lincoln believed that to reunify the nation, Reconstruction needed to take place quickly and easily. Lincoln felt that the Federal Government should not punish the South. He wanted the government to act “with malice towards none, with charity for all.” If the government shared Lincoln’s views, together they could “bind up the nation’s wounds.” Click **Next** to continue.

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Lincoln Utilizes Constitutional Law



- Under Constitutional law secession was illegal.
- Southern states never actually left the Union.

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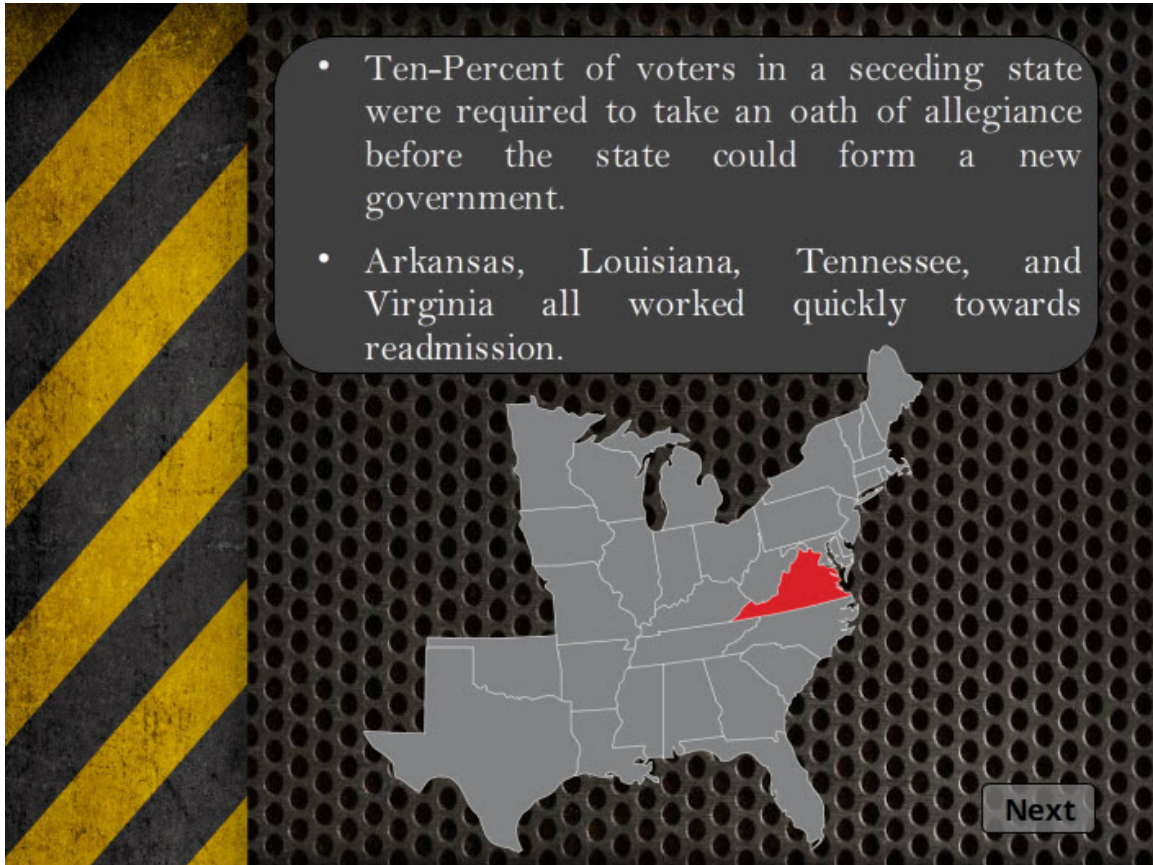
The basis of Lincoln's beliefs for Reconstruction lay within the laws of the Constitution; and it was a Constitutional law that secession was illegal. Therefore, according to the Constitution, Confederate states had never really left the Union, and the United States had emerged from the Civil War as one indivisible nation.

Similarly, Lincoln believed citizens rebelled against the Union, not states. He thus used his power as President to pardon any rebels, and swiftly return the South to the Union. Click **Next** to continue.

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Ten-Percent Plan



- Ten-Percent of voters in a seceding state were required to take an oath of allegiance before the state could form a new government.
- Arkansas, Louisiana, Tennessee, and Virginia all worked quickly towards readmission.

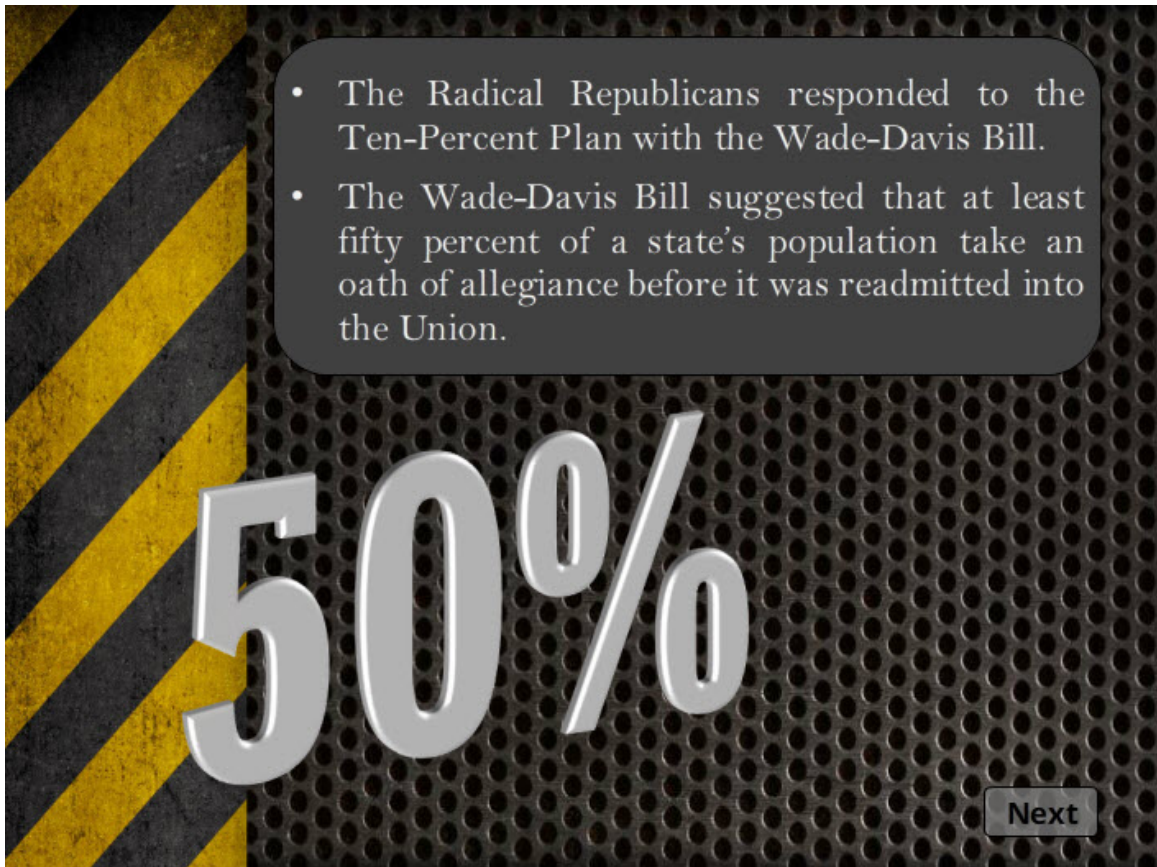
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President Lincoln announced his plan for reconstruction in December of 1863. In the Ten-Percent Plan, Lincoln suggested that all rebels receive a pardon, with the exception of Confederate officials and anyone accused of crimes against prisoners of war. Once ten percent of a state's voters promised allegiance, the state could form a new government and become represented in Congress. Under the terms of the Ten-Percent Plan, the states of Arkansas, Louisiana, Tennessee, and Virginia rapidly worked toward rejoining the Union. Click **Next** to continue.

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Wade-Davis Bill



- The Radical Republicans responded to the Ten-Percent Plan with the Wade-Davis Bill.
- The Wade-Davis Bill suggested that at least fifty percent of a state's population take an oath of allegiance before it was readmitted into the Union.

50%

Next

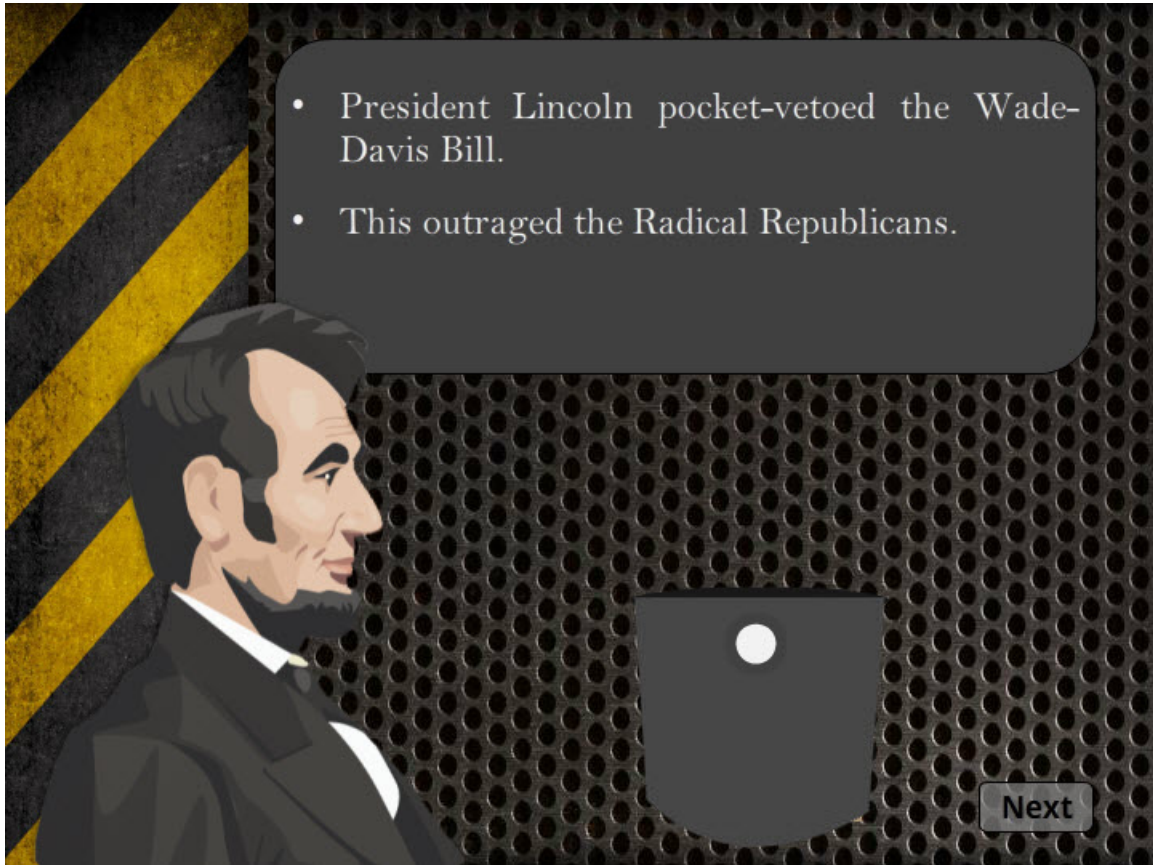
A small portion of Congress became known as Radical Republicans (Radicals). This group did not support the Ten-Percent Plan. Conversely, Radical Republicans did not want former slaveholders to have political power, and wanted to guarantee African Americans equal civil rights, including voting rights. This was a very radical way to think. In fact, other countries that abolished slavery did not grant freed slaves the right to vote.

Radicals responded to the Ten-Percent Plan with the Wade-Davis Bill. This legislation proposed that Congress take responsibility for Reconstruction instead of the President. The bill also proposed that at least fifty percent of a state's population take an oath of allegiance before being readmitted by the Federal Government. Click **Next** to continue.

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Pocket-Veto



- President Lincoln pocket-vetoed the Wade-Davis Bill.
- This outraged the Radical Republicans.

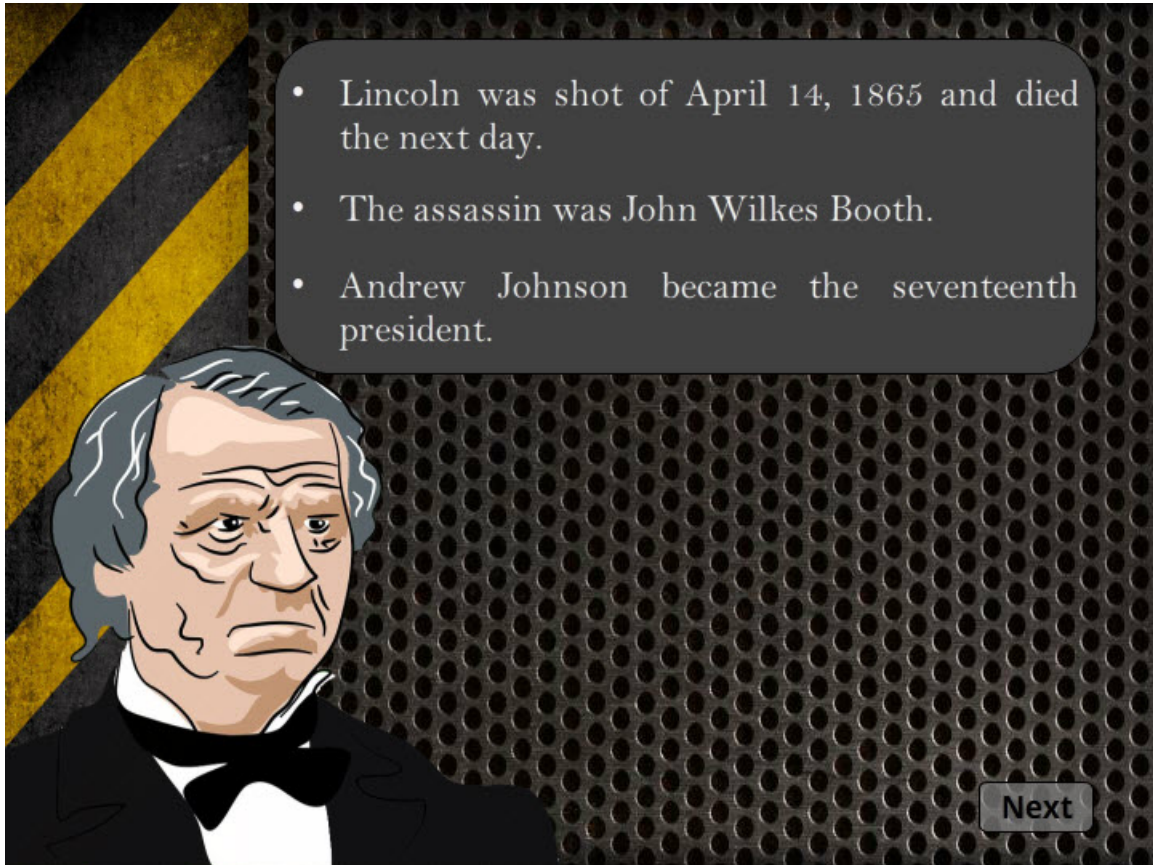
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President Lincoln stopped the Wade Davis Bill with a pocket-veto. According to the Constitution, a president has ten days to sign or veto a law passed by Congress. If the law or bill is passed less than ten days before the end of a congressional session, the president can pocket it, or ignore it. By doing nothing, President Lincoln stopped the Wade Davis Bill. Of course, this outraged the Radical Republicans. Click **Next** to continue.

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The Assassination of President Lincoln



- Lincoln was shot of April 14, 1865 and died the next day.
- The assassin was John Wilkes Booth.
- Andrew Johnson became the seventeenth president.

Next

Unfortunately, Lincoln would never get a chance to see if his plans for Reconstruction would take effect. Five days after Lee surrendered to Grant at the Appomattox Courthouse, Lincoln was shot on April 14, 1865 and died on April 15, 1865.

The assassin was a twenty-six year old actor named John Wilkes Booth. Booth snuck up behind Lincoln, who was seated in the Presidential Box at Ford's Theatre, and shot him at close range in the back of the head. This was the first time in the history of the United States that a president was assassinated. After the shot was fired, Wilkes Booth jumped onto the stage, broke his leg, but still managed to escape. Twelve days later he was caught and killed. Booth was known to dislike Lincoln's views on slavery as Booth was a "Southern sympathizer" who fought for the Confederate Army.

During Lincoln's second term as president, Andrew Johnson served as vice-president. The assassination of Lincoln turned over the presidency to Johnson. Johnson become the seventeenth president of the United States and quickly announced his own plan for Reconstruction. Click **Next** to learn about Andrew Johnson's plan for Reconstruction.

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Johnson's Reconstruction Plan

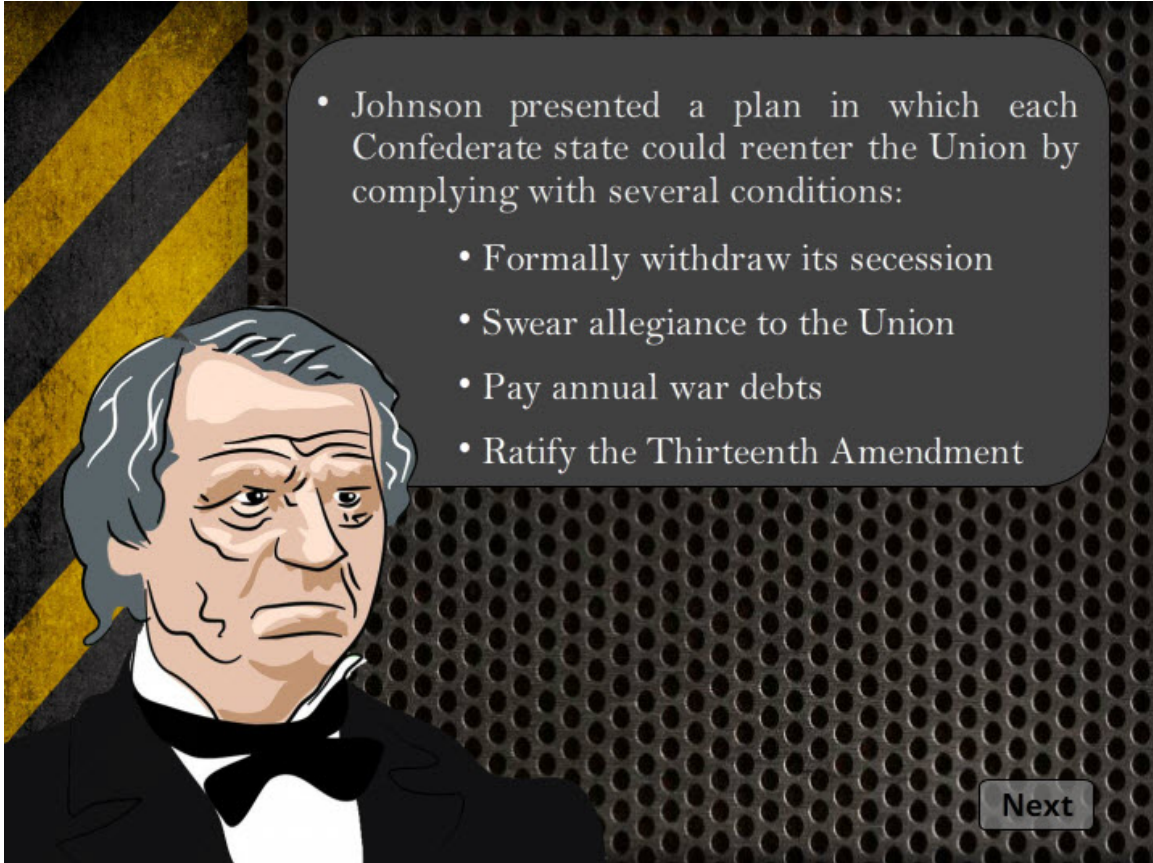


Johnson's plan upset the Radical Republicans in Congress more than Abraham Lincoln's plan. The Presidential Reconstruction Plan failed to make high-ranking Confederate officers and Southern landowners take an oath of allegiance before regaining the right to vote. Johnson's plan also failed to address the civil and voting rights of former slaves. Click **Next** to continue.

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Reaction of the Radicals



• Johnson presented a plan in which each Confederate state could reenter the Union by complying with several conditions:

- Formally withdraw its secession
- Swear allegiance to the Union
- Pay annual war debts
- Ratify the Thirteenth Amendment

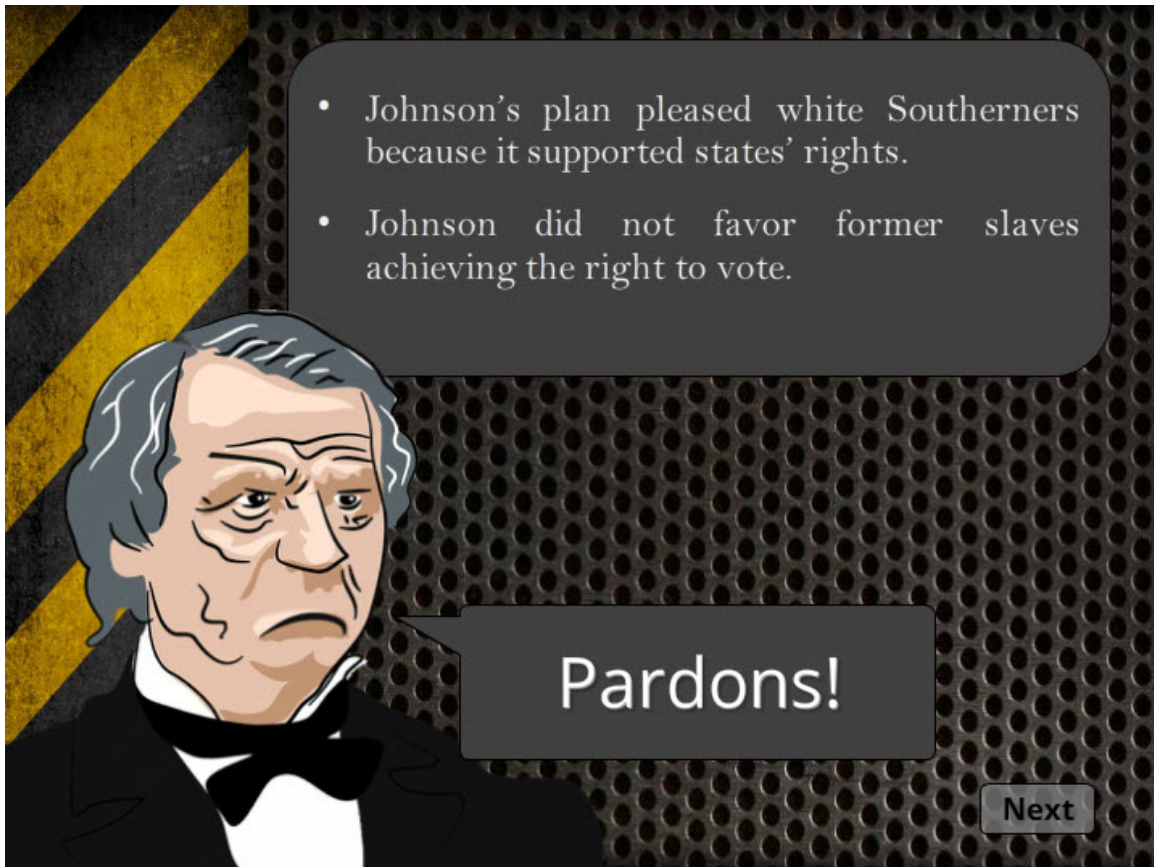
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Along the lines of President Lincoln's Ten-Percent Plan, Andrew Johnson also presented a plan. He suggested each Confederate state be readmitted to the Union once it met several conditions. In addition, each Confederate state would have to formally withdraw its secession, swear allegiance to the Union, pay annual war debts, and ratify the Thirteenth Amendment. Click **Next** to continue.

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Reaction of the South



- Johnson's plan pleased white Southerners because it supported states' rights.
- Johnson did not favor former slaves achieving the right to vote.

Pardons!

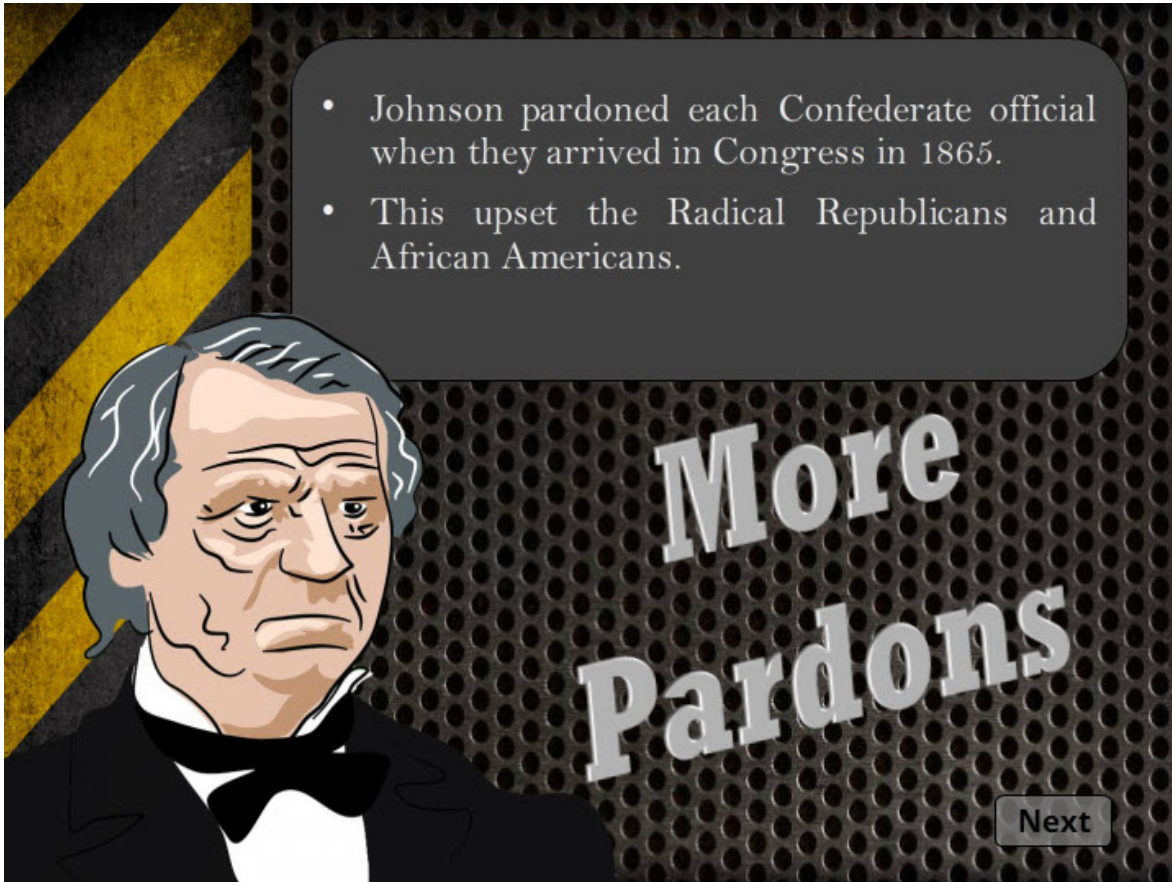
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White Southerners were happy with Johnson's Reconstruction Plan because it supported states' rights instead of a strong central government. Johnson was not in favor of former slaves gaining the right to vote, and he pardoned many Confederates because he believed that white Southerners were needed to manage the South. Click **Next** to continue.

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Confederate States Agree



- Johnson pardoned each Confederate official when they arrived in Congress in 1865.
- This upset the Radical Republicans and African Americans.

More Pardons

Next

The Confederate states quickly agreed to Johnson's Plan. Many of the states drew up new state constitutions, organized their state governments, and elected representatives. While most Confederate states complied with the Presidential Plan, Mississippi did not ratify the Thirteenth Amendment. When the elected representatives arrived in Congress in December, 1865, Johnson pardoned each one of them. This upset the Radical Republicans and African Americans.

When Congress met in 1865, Reconstruction had nearly come to a complete stop. The Southern states were almost exactly like they were prior to Reconstruction. Click **Next** to learn how President Johnson acted like a roadblock, nearly stopping all Reconstruction.

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Reconstruction Roadblock



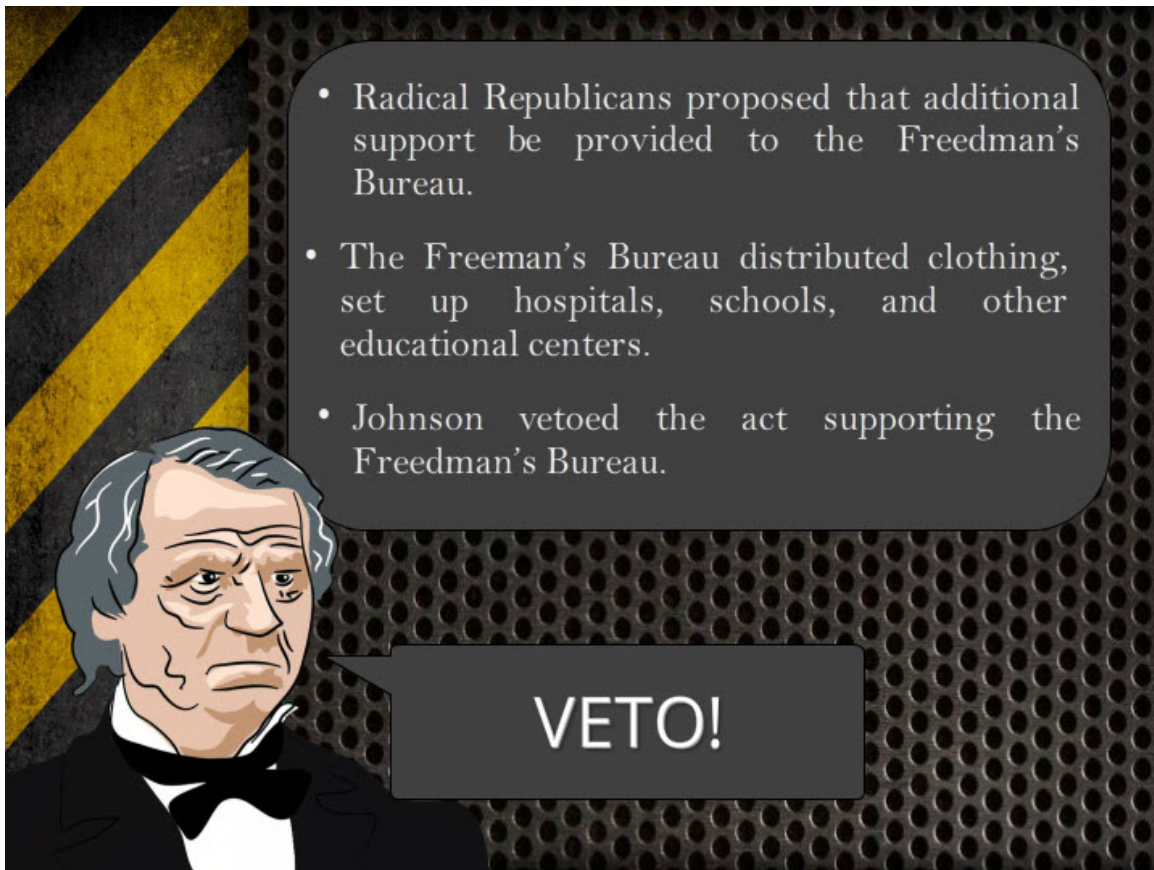
Reconstruction Roadblock

President Johnson acted like a roadblock using veto power to stop two acts that would have helped Reconstruction. Click **Next** to learn about the two acts of congress that could have helped to quicken Reconstruction.

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Freedman's Bureau



The illustration features a caricature of President Andrew Johnson on the left, looking stern. To his right is a large grey speech bubble containing three bullet points. Below the caricature is a smaller grey speech bubble with the word 'VETO!' in white capital letters. The background consists of a dark grey perforated metal texture with yellow and black diagonal hazard stripes on the left side.

- Radical Republicans proposed that additional support be provided to the Freedman's Bureau.
- The Freeman's Bureau distributed clothing, set up hospitals, schools, and other educational centers.
- Johnson vetoed the act supporting the Freedman's Bureau.

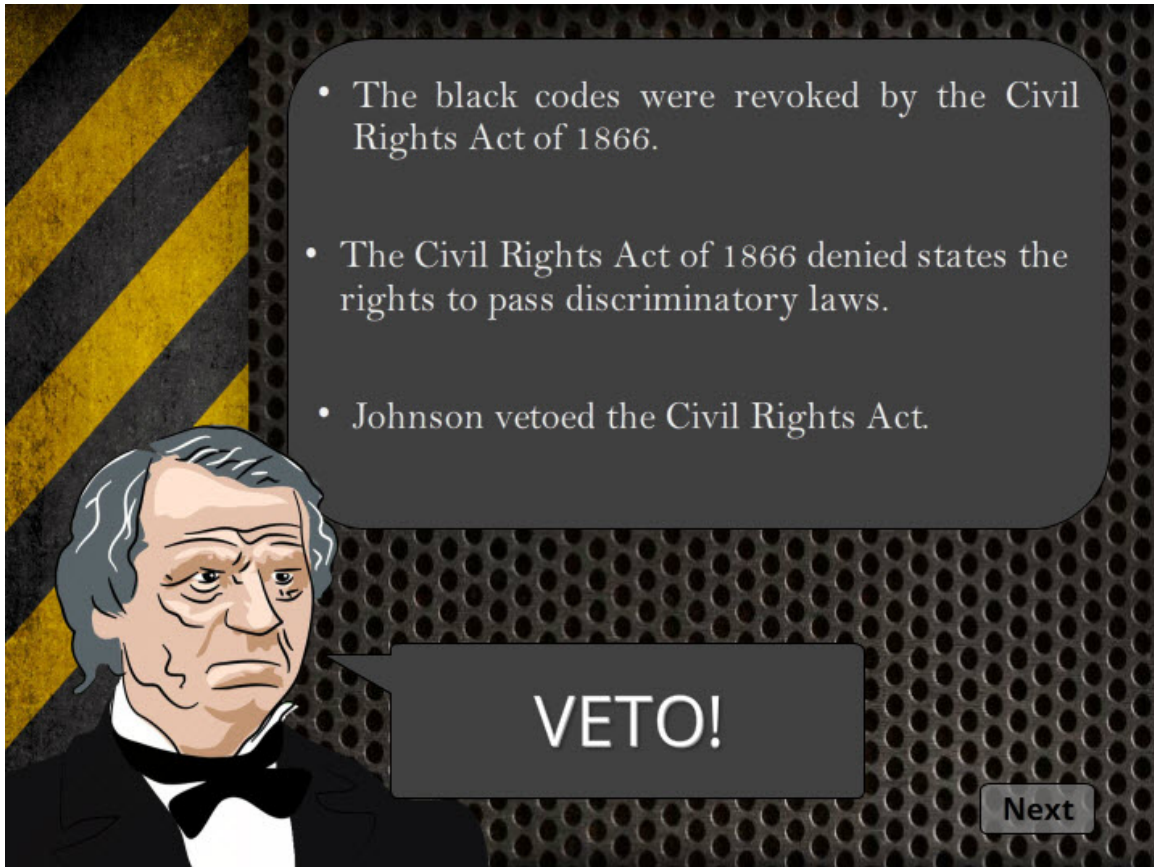
VETO!

In many ways, the South had not changed at all. Radical Republicans pushed for laws to fix the poverty of the Southern states. It was proposed that additional support should be given to the Freedmen's Bureau. The Freedman's Bureau began towards the end of the Civil War and distributed food and clothing, set up hospitals, schools, and other educational centers. President Johnson vetoed the act to expand the Freedmen's Bureau. Click **Next** to continue.

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Civil Rights Act of 1866



- The black codes were revoked by the Civil Rights Act of 1866.
- The Civil Rights Act of 1866 denied states the rights to pass discriminatory laws.
- Johnson vetoed the Civil Rights Act.

VETO!

Next

While Congress was at a standstill on Reconstruction, the black codes that were enacted in 1865 were revoked by the Civil Rights Act of 1866. The Civil Rights Act of 1866 denied states the right to pass discriminatory laws. President Johnson surprised Congress when he vetoed the Civil Rights Act. This angered most republicans and African Americans as the president appeared to support white Southerners.

Angered by the actions of President Johnson, the Radical Republican announced their own plans for reconstruction. Click **Next** to learn about the Republican's plans.

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Republicans' Plan



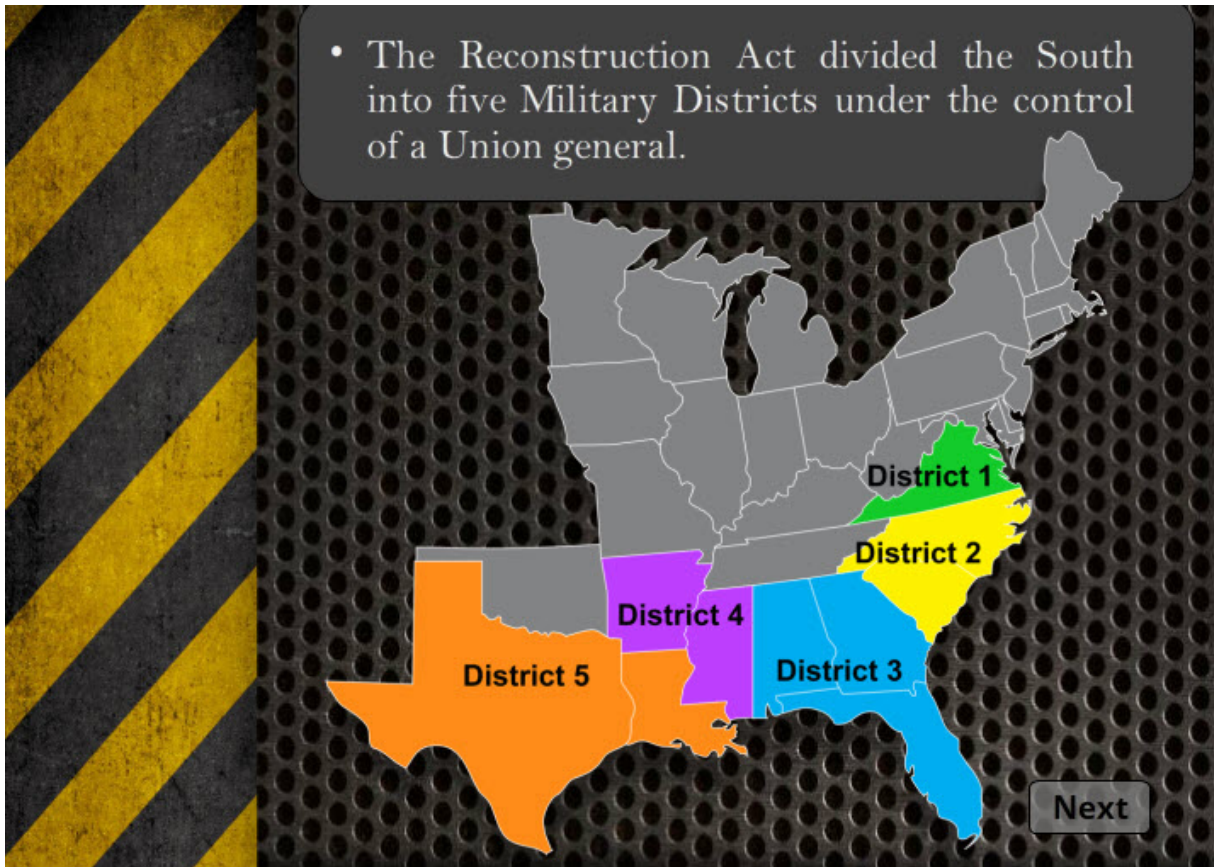
The Republicans' Plan for Reconstruction

The Republican Party had control of the House of Representatives. This allowed the Republicans to draft a plan for Reconstruction. Unhappy with Lincoln's and Johnson's plans for Reconstruction, the Republican Party used their power in Congress to pass the Reconstruction Act of 1867. Click **Next** to learn about the Reconstruction Act of 1867.

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Reconstruction Act of 1867

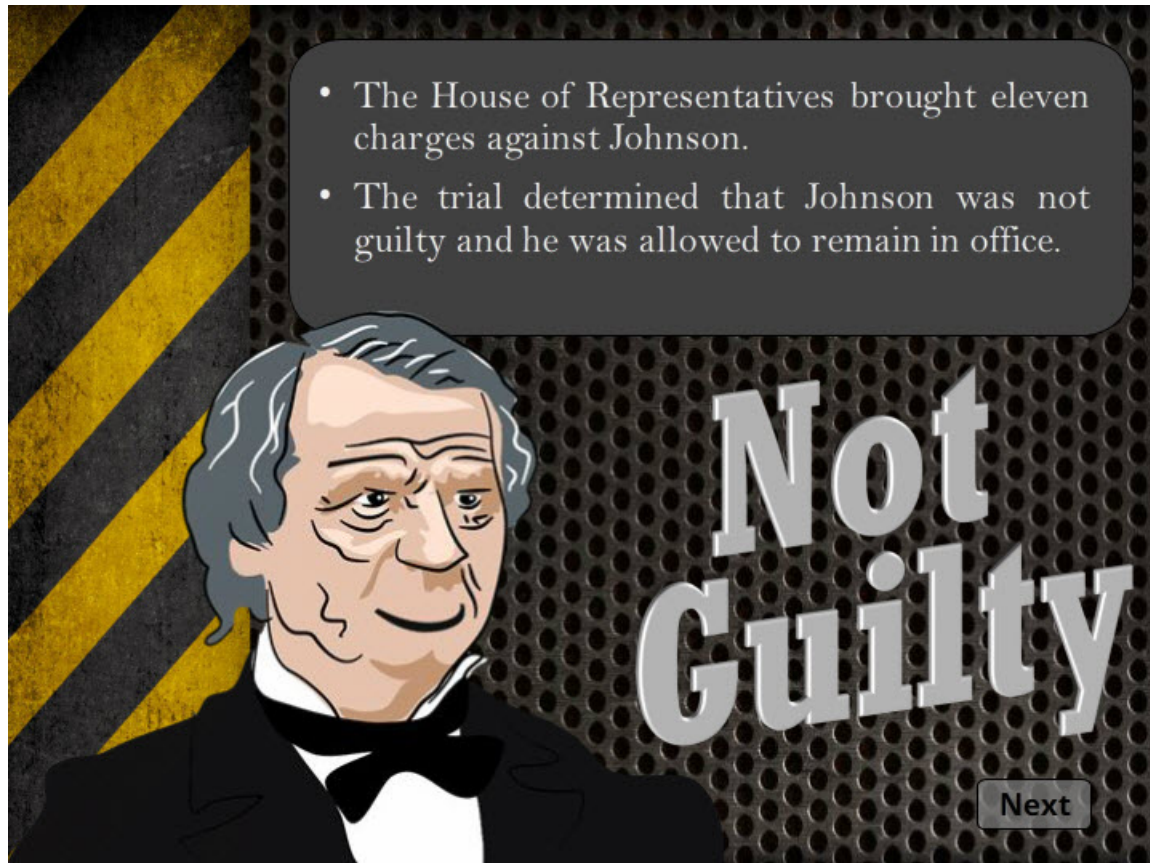


After Republicans gained a two-thirds majority in Congress, they passed the Reconstruction Act of 1867. The act did not recognize any state government that wanted to reenter the Union until they ratified the Fourteenth Amendment, and ensured African American men had the right to vote. In addition, the act further divided the South into five military districts that were under the control of a Union general. Click **Next** to continue.

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Impeachment of President Johnson



- The House of Representatives brought eleven charges against Johnson.
- The trial determined that Johnson was not guilty and he was allowed to remain in office.

Not Guilty

Next

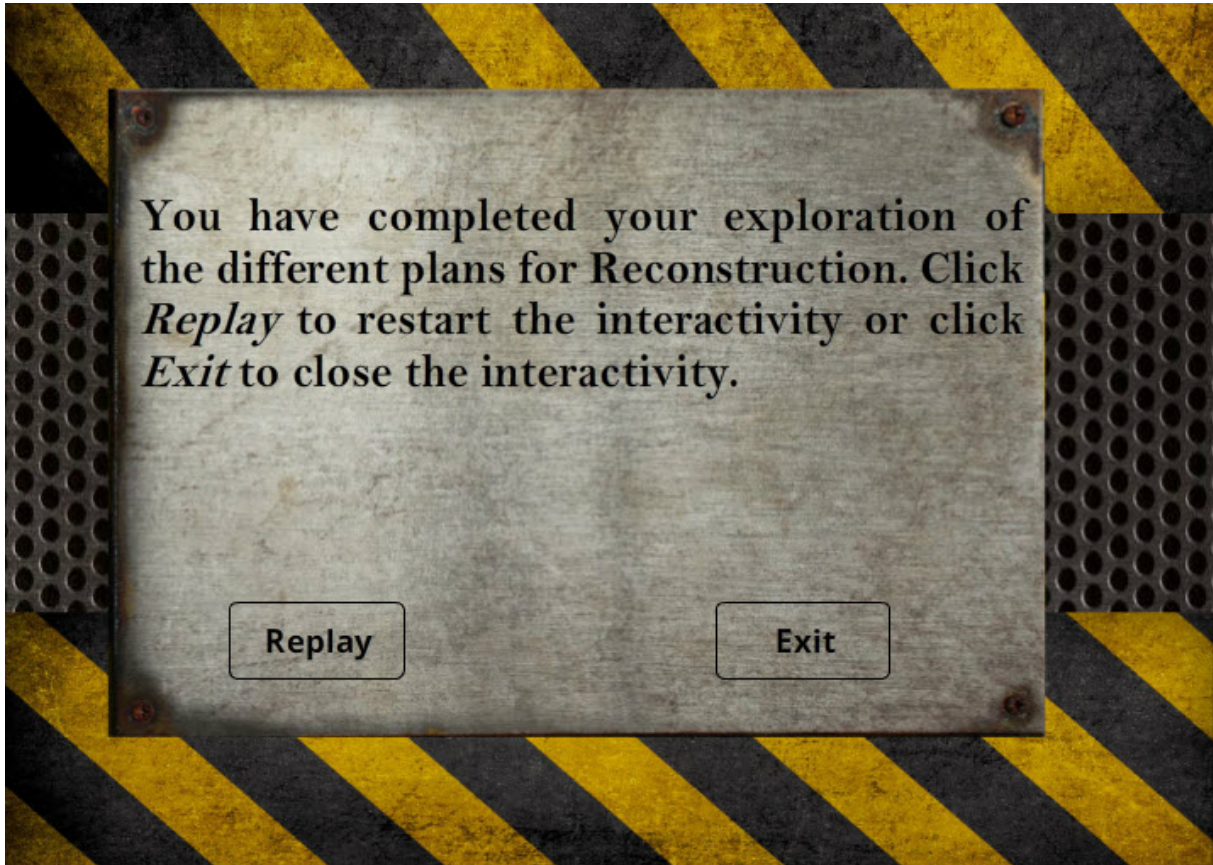
Johnson reacted by vetoing the Reconstruction Act of 1867 because he believed it was unconstitutional. Congress overrode the veto and the Radical Republicans looked to impeach President Johnson. Radicals believed that Johnson should get charged with misconduct as president.

In March of 1867, Congress passed the Tenure of Office Act. This act denied the president the ability to remove cabinet officers during their appointment term without approval from the Senate. President Johnson believed the Tenure of Office Act was unconstitutional and to test its power, he removed Secretary of War Edwin Stanton. Upon the removal of Stanton, the House of Representatives brought eleven charges of impeachment against Johnson. Nine of these charges were due to violation of the Tenure of Office Act. The trial's verdict determined that Johnson was not guilty by one vote, and he was allowed to remain in office. Click **Next** to continue.

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Conclusion



You have completed your exploration of the different plans for Reconstruction. Click ***Replay*** to restart the interactivity or click ***Exit*** to close the interactivity.