



The Aftermath of Reconstruction

Student Name _____ Date _____

Activity #1: Economic and Social Impact of Reconstruction

Directions for Group A: Examine your group's document closely and answer the following questions.

Question	Answer
Who wrote your document? What can you say about the author based on what you read in this document?	
What is the subject of this document? Briefly summarize the view it takes of that subject and how it relates to the economic and social impact of Reconstruction.	
What is the author's attitude toward the aspect of Reconstruction that you mentioned above?	
List two opinions and two facts that the author gives concerning Reconstruction.	

Excerpts from testimony of Maddie Curtis from *Slave Narratives: A Folk History of Slavery in the United States From Interviews with Former Slaves*, North Carolina Narratives, 1937

<http://teachingamericanhistory.org/library/index.asp?document=2227>

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. . . When de Yankees come dey come an' freed us. De woods wus full of Rebs what had deserted, but de Yankees killed some of dem.

Some sort of corporation cut de land up, but de slaves ain't got none of it dat I ever heard about.

I got married before de war to Joshua Curtis. I loved him too, which is more dam most folks can truthfully say. I always had craved a home an' aplenty to eat, but freedom ain't give us notin' but pickled hoss meat an' dirty crackers, an' not half enough of dat.

Josh ain't really care 'bout no home but through dis land corporation I buyed dese fifteen acres on time. I cut down de big trees dat wus all over dese fields an' I milled out de wood an' sold hit, den I plowed up de fields an' planted dem. Josh did help to build de house an' he worked out some.

All of dis time I had nineteen chilluns an' Josh died, but I kep' on an' de fifteen what is dead lived to be near 'bout grown, ever one of dem.

Right atter de war northern preachers come around wid a little book a-marrying slaves an' I seed one of dem marry my pappy an' mammy. Atter dis dey tried to find dere fourteen oldest chilluns what wus sold away, but dey never did find but three of dem.

But you wants ter find out how I got along. I'll never fergit my first bale of cotton an' how I got hit sold. I wus some proud of dat bale of cotton, an' atter I had hit ginned I set out wid hit on my steercart fer Raleigh. De white folks hated de nigger den, 'specially de nigger what wus makin' somethin' so I dasen't ax nobody whar de market wus.

I thought dat I could find de place by myself, but I rid all day an' had to take my cotton home wid me dat night 'case I can't find no place to sell hit at. But dat night I think hit over an' de nex' day I goes' back an' axes a policeman 'bout de market. Lo an' behold chile, I foun' hit on Blount Street, an' I had pass by hit seberal times de day before.

I done a heap of work at night too, all of my sewin' an' such an' de piece of lan' near de house over dar ain't never got no work 'cept at night. I finally paid fer de land. Some of my chilluns wus borned in de field too. When I wus to de house we had a granny an' I blowed in a bottle to make de labor quick an' easy.

Dis young generation ain't worth shucks. Fifteen years ago I hired a big buck nigger to help me shrub an' 'fore leben o'clock he passed out on me. You know 'bout leben o'clock in July hit gits in a bloom. De young generation wid dere schools an dere divorcing ain't gwine ter git nothin' out of life. Hit wus better when folks jst lived tergether. Dere loafin' gits dem inter trouble an' dere novels makes dem bad husban's an' wives too.

*Next, go to the interactive [temporarily located at <http://civclients.com/nehint/recon/>]. Enter “part 2 After Reconstruction” and examine the map titled “**Change in the Value of Farm Products 1870-1880**” to answer the following questions.*

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Question	Answer
Look at the section titled "Things to Consider." What does "change in the value of farm products" mean during the years 1870-1880? What would such a change mean when evaluating the success of Reconstruction?	
In general, what do the statistics tell us about the growth of land values throughout the South?	
What problems do you imagine shifting land and product values might have caused during Reconstruction?	
What does Edward King say about the situation confronting the South at the close of the war? Do the statistics agree on the interactive agree with his assessment? What special problems does Edward King single out that confront the South during Reconstruction?	
What is the subject of the picture, and when was it taken? What does the picture suggest to you about the condition of the South with regard to the value of land after Reconstruction? How would it help explain the statistics?	



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Student Name _____ Date _____

Activity #1: Economic and Social Impact of the Effect of Reconstruction

Directions for Group B: Examine your group’s document closely and answer the following questions.

Question	Answer
Who wrote your document? What can you say about the author based on what you read in this document?	
What is the subject of this document? Briefly summarize the view it takes of that subject and how it relates to the economic and social impact of Reconstruction.	
What is the author’s attitude toward the aspect of Reconstruction that you mentioned above?	
List two opinions and two facts that the author gives concerning Reconstruction.	

Excerpt from Rev. Irving E. Lowery, *Life on the Old Plantation in Ante-Bellum Days*, 1911
<http://docsouth.unc.edu/neh/lowery/lowery.html>

The Rev. Lowery was a former slave who wrote these remembrances about the break-up of the plantation where he lived in later life.

. . . On the 1st day of January, 1863, President Abraham Lincoln issued his famous Emancipation Proclamation, and it completely swept away the institution of African slavery, which had had an existence on the American continent for two hundred and forty-four years. But this Proclamation did not go into universal effect until General Lee surrendered at Appomattox Courthouse on the 9th of April, 1865.

At this time--April 9th--the farmers in the South had pitched their crops. The corn, the cotton, and the potatoes had been planted, were up, and growing nicely. And now comes the emancipation of all the slaves, and if they all leave the old plantation at once, what would be the result? It meant starvation and death both for the white folks and the newly made freedmen. But the authorities at Washington relieved the situation by advising the landlords and the ex-slaves to enter into contracts to remain together until the following January, to work the crops, and to divide them at the harvest in the fall. This was done.

We come now to the most pathetic part of our story, namely: "The Breaking Up of the Old Plantation." And well do I remember it. . . .

. . . Mr. Frierson--on a certain day--requested all the hands on the plantation to come to the "house." The men, the women, and the children were included in his order. And some of the free colored people of the neighborhood heard of the order, and they also came to see and hear. In those days of excitement, curiosity reached a high degree of feverish expectation and desire for knowledge, for information, and for light. The slaves had heard of the Emancipation Proclamation, which had been issued a little more than two years before, but which had never changed their condition. They had also heard of the surrender of General Lee, which put an end to the war. Mr. Adolphus--a Confederate soldier--had returned home, and there he sat at a small table on the front piazza, writing. The paper which he was writing afterwards proved to be the contract between the landlord and the ex-slaves, which they were called together to sign. . . .

. . . But before he read the contract, he made to them a speech. He spoke, in part, as follows:

My Servants: I call you together today, to read this contract to you, and have you all to sign it. This is the order issued by the Government at Washington. The North and the South have been engaged in a four-years' bloody war. . . . But I must now tell you that you all are no longer my slaves. All the colored people who have been held in the South as slaves are now free. Your freedom is one of the results of the war, which has just closed. I do not know what you all are going to do after this year. I do not know whether you intend to leave me, and go out to seek homes elsewhere, or whether you will remain. But I want to assure you that I will be glad to have you all remain--every one of you. . . . Then again, I declare unto you that I have not been cruel to any of you. I have not abused you myself, and did not allow anybody else to do it--not even my own sons, Mack, Rush, nor Adolphus. And all the neighborhood knew that I did not wish to have my negroes imposed upon. The patrols so understood it. And to avoid trouble with them, and to keep them from slashing your backs when they caught you away from the plantation, I always wrote you a ticket or a pass. But some of you have gone off without my knowledge, and without a ticket, and have been caught and whipped, but it was not my fault. I was not to blame for that. You, yourselves, were responsible for it. There is another thing which I want to call your attention to. I have never put an overseer over you, neither have I employed a 'nigger driver' on my plantation. I have owned no blood hounds, and have not

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given any encouragement, nor employment to those who have owned them. I have never separated, by selling nor by buying, a mother and her child; a husband and his wife. Of the truth of this, you will bear me witness. In all these matters, I have the approval of a good conscience. And now, I wish to say again, you are no longer my slaves, but you all are now free. And I want to say to you that I bear no ill-will toward you. You are not responsible for the great change that has come upon us, and for the separation of master and servants. Others are responsible for these things. In the future let us be friends and good neighbors. You all have been taught to work, and to behave yourselves, and I hope you will continue to lead such lives in the future.

At the close of this talk, Mr. Frierson read the contract, in which it was agreed that all the slaves should remain on the plantation until the first day of January, 1866, when the crop would be divided. When he had finished reading, the older heads of these ex-slaves filed in one by one, and touched the pen in the hand of Mr. Adolphus, and made their mark. They then left the yard, and returned to their work.

But what were their feelings? Ah! words are inadequate to describe them. Their joy was unspeakable. But they had good sense. They imagined what were the feelings of the white folks because of the loss of their slaves. They knew that they were chafed in their minds, and that an outward demonstration of joy on their part would be unwise. Therefore their rejoicing was a subdued rejoicing. Though they had been kindly treated, and their relations to, and their attachment for, the white folks had been one of tenderness, yet they welcomed the change, and were glad of the new order of things. But they scarcely knew what it all meant. It was decidedly a new experience to them. They all remained except Jimmie until January.

During the fall the crops were harvested and divided according to the provisions of the contract, and when January came, there was a breaking up, and a separation of the old plantation. Nearly all the slaves left and went out and made contracts with other landlords. A few remained for one year, and then the last one of them pulled out and made their homes elsewhere. Thus they were all scattered, as it were, by the four winds of the heavens, never to come together again until the judgment.

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Next, go to the interactive [temporarily located at <http://civclients.com/nehint/recon/>] and examine the map titled “**Change in the Number of Farms Consisting of 1000 Or More Acres 1870-1880**” to answer the following questions.

Question	Answer
Look at the section titled “Things to Consider” under “Change in the Number of Farms Consisting of 1000 or More Acres 1870-1880.” Why would a change in the number of large farms be so important?	
In general, what do the statistics tell us about the growth in large farms throughout the South?	
What problems do you imagine the growth or shrinking (as the case may be) of the number of large farms might have caused during Reconstruction?	
What does Edward King say about the situation confronting the South during Reconstruction? Do the interactive statistics agree with his assessment? What special problems confronting the South during Reconstruction does Edward King single out?	
What is the subject of the two interactive pictures? What do the pictures suggest to you about the condition of the South with regard to the value of land before the war and after Reconstruction? How would it help explain the statistics? How do they aid you in your understanding of how the South changed during Reconstruction?	



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Student Name _____ Date _____

Activity #1: Economic and Social Impact of the Effect of Reconstruction

Directions for Group C: Examine your group’s document closely and answer the following questions.

Question	Answer
Who wrote your document? What can you say about the author based on what you read in this document?	
What is the subject of this document? Briefly summarize the view it takes of that subject and how it relates to the economic and social impact of Reconstruction.	
What is the author’s attitude toward the aspect of Reconstruction that you mentioned above?	
List two opinions and two facts that the author gives concerning Reconstruction.	

Excerpt from the conclusion of Holland Thompson, *From the Cotton Field to the Cotton Mill: A Study of the Industrial Transition in North Carolina*, 1906:

<http://docsouth.unc.edu/nc/thompson/thompson.html>

Holland Thompson was a political economist at Columbia University. Though he writes about the post-Reconstruction period, one gets a good grasp of how difficult the transition from ante-bellum to post-bellum political economy was for the South and, consequently, the reasons for the enduring consequences of that change.

We have now traced the development of a state from a collection of primitive frontier communities into one in which primitive conditions and somewhat advanced industrialism are strangely mingled. We have seen in the same neighborhood the oldest methods in agriculture and the most elaborate and costly machinery in manufacturing; the unskilled laborer and the expert operative.

A century ago the frugal population was almost self-sufficient, producing practically all that it consumed. The gradual decay of home manufacturing, and the increasing dependence upon other sections and other counties, have been shown. Then with the destruction and demoralization of the old system, we have seen a belated struggle for industrial position.

The simple country people who have always lived close to the soil have been drawn into the mills and factories, there to adjust themselves to a new environment. This process of adjustment naturally is not always easy. Necessarily it is often gained only after a considerable period, and then with pain and difficulty.

Such a period of friction is not peculiar to the section. All industrial transitions exhibit it to a greater or less extent. Perhaps because of the personal element in the relations with the employers it is less pronounced than usual. The tie between employer and employed is not at first a class relation, and the growth of the class idea has been slow.

The general conclusions which follow from the facts set forth in the text may be classified into those relating (1) to the industry itself; (2) to the employer; (3) to the operatives and their dependents; (4) to the state as a whole.

Though the discussion has not been concerned with the purely economic side of production, the position of the industry may be thus summarized:--

Mill buildings and tenements may be constructed much more cheaply than in New England. The cost of fuel is decidedly less. Those mills which procure their cotton from their immediate neighborhood save in freight charges; but the mills which must send to the Gulf states for their raw material are at a positive disadvantage. The freight on the cotton is often greater than the New England mill pays, and the freight on the product to the point of distribution is additional expense.

The labor cost has been less, due partly to lower money wages, partly to longer hours, and finally to the absence of strikes and other forms of industrial friction. At the same time the necessity of employing inefficient labor, or what amounts to the same thing,--a disproportionate amount of labor which has not attained average skill,--has increased the cost of production above the point which the lower rate of wages would indicate. That is, full production has not been secured from the machinery. Further, the rate of wages is rising and hours are being shortened.

Heretofore the mills have been engaged almost entirely upon coarse goods, but the tendency toward the finer grades is definitely marked. That the South, and North Carolina particularly, should gain the first place in the industry does not seem absurd. However, the industry is so strongly entrenched in New England, and the possibilities of foreign trade so immense, that the industry may continue to expand in both sections. If one section must lose, the South will survive, provided that skill in management is equal.

The manufacturers are not yet economic entrepreneurs. In most cases they were not trained in cotton mills, but entered the business after succeeding in something else. Some are shrewd and farsighted, few are harsh and despotic. Their success has been due more largely to general business experience, and to tact in the management of their employees, than to wide knowledge of the cotton business. At times it has been almost impossible to avoid making profits. Increasing competition will necessarily eliminate some of those now engaged in mill management.

With some detail and repetition that part of the rural population from which operatives come has been described. Their motives for coming have been analyzed, and their life around and in the mills has been discussed at length.

The attempt has been made to show the operatives as a whole and not a few unusual or abnormal examples. We have seen them to be honest, simple, and uneducated, but capable of development and training. Emphasis is laid upon the fact that they are neither degraded nor degenerate. In view of current misrepresentations, this fact cannot be stated too forcibly.

In regard to wages, the inevitable conclusion must be that, taking everything into consideration, the operatives are not wretchedly paid. While the wages are less than in New England, the demands made upon the wages are also less. With the increased reward of agricultural labor during the past five years, wages in the mills have risen decidedly. The pay is greater than in other local occupations open to those of no more training and skill. In fact the difference in favor of the factory is so great that only the natural inertia of a rural population combined with certain social disadvantages of factory labor prevents an oversupply.

Undoubtedly, a certain disrepute has, in the past, attached itself to factory labor in some localities. Perhaps the partial surrender of independence necessary has been responsible for some of this feeling. Then, too, around some mills moral conditions have not been beyond criticism.

A serious disadvantage from the standpoint of the student of social welfare is the tendency toward the destruction of family life. This is particularly true when the mill runs both night and day, and the family is divided. Further, where a definite part of the family income is directly attributable to a child, and that part is perhaps greater than the contribution of the parent, the natural relation of parent and child tends to be reversed.

While no defense of the employment of the child has been attempted or intended, the extent has been shown to be much less than has generally been supposed. Moreover, it would seem that some of the more serious phases of the problem belong to the transition period, and will correct themselves. The number of children employed grows less comparatively as the years pass.

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In making comparisons with other sections in regard to hours of labor, employment of children, etc., it is only just to consider the suddenness with which manufacturing has been introduced into a society distinctly agricultural. Instead of comparing present conditions, it is fairer to compare North Carolina to-day with those sections when they were in the *same stage of industrial development*.

The problem of enriching the lives of these people is still unsolved. The church is not holding its own, and no other social agency is taking its place. There is little around the factory village to develop the æsthetic and spiritual element. The daily life is, to a large extent, a round of toil, relieved only by physical pleasures. The large proportion of illiteracy, of course, increases the difficulty, and without compulsory school attendance a decrease will be slow. A comprehensive scheme of efficient agencies for social betterment remains to be developed.

The unusual relations between employer and employed heretofore existing have broken the shock between the life on the farm and at the mill. These relations, however, are passing away as the employer grows more "business-like," and the operative loses his rural habit of mind. A class consciousness is slowly developing among the workers, and the results will be momentous.

Whether future difficulties between the employer and employed will result in the introduction of negro labor into the mills, depends upon factors not purely economic. For a mill to discharge white operatives and introduce negroes would be a dangerous experiment from a social standpoint. With the increasing scarcity of white labor due to more prosperous conditions in other industries, a new mill might begin with negro operatives. The operatives must, however, be all white or all negro. In the present state of the public mind, indiscriminate employment is unthinkable. All these possibilities depend, however, upon the yet unproved capacity of the negro for such employment.

These tremendous problems of the industrial change have influenced the state as a whole. Yet since they have appeared gradually, some may deny any change. The student of social phenomena recognizes the decay of old ideals and the substitution of new. Political theories and prejudices, social customs and standards, ethical and religious values, are all affected. Nevertheless through all this confusion the influence of the old life unexpectedly persists, and strange inconsistencies appear. The state has not yet found itself; has not yet adjusted its agricultural philosophy to industrial conditions.

Next, go to the interactive [temporarily located at <http://civclients.com/nehint/recon/>] and examine the map titled "**Change in Capital Manufacturing Investment 1870-1880**" to answer the following questions.

Look at the "Things to Consider." What does "Change in Capital Manufacturing Investment 1870-1880" mean? What special problem do we have in evaluating the statistics for this category?	
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<p>If Reconstruction was working, do you predict that capital manufacturing investment would grow or shrink? Why?</p>	
<p>What do the statistics tell us about the capital manufacturing investment throughout the South, generally?</p>	
<p>What problems do you imagine the growth or shrinking of manufacturing (as the case may be) might have caused during Reconstruction?</p>	
<p>What does Edward King say about the growth of manufacturing in the South during Reconstruction? In what ways might the growth of manufacturing be upsetting to Southerners?</p>	
<p>What is the subject of the picture, and when was it sketched? What might the picture tell you about the condition of the South with regard to the change in capital manufacturing investment after Reconstruction? How might it help explain the statistics?</p>	



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Student Name _____ Date _____

Activity #1: Economic and Social Impact of the Effect of Reconstruction

Directions for Group D: Examine your group’s document closely and answer the following questions.

Question	Answer
Who wrote your document? What can you say about the author based on what you read in this document?	
What is the subject of this document? Briefly summarize the view it takes of that subject and how it relates to the economic and social impact of Reconstruction.	
What is the author’s attitude toward the aspect of Reconstruction that you mentioned above?	
List two opinions and two facts that the author gives concerning Reconstruction.	

The Resources of North Carolina: Its Natural Wealth, Condition, and Advantages, as Existing in 1869.
 Presented to the Capitalists and People of the Central and Northern States, by Bannister, Cowan & Company: <http://docsouth.unc.edu/nc/bannister/bannister.html>

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It is our intention to publish, at an early day, a catalogue of lands and other properties placed in our hands for sale; and also to solicit from all who desire to see a complete schedule of such properties, permission to place them in our lists, in order to exhibit, as completely as possible, a classified statement of mill sites and mill properties, iron mines, gold mines, timber tracts, and other conspicuous properties, to which the attention of capitalists is invited.

This catalogue will be frequently corrected and extended, making, a new issue at intervals of not more than two months, and it will therefore be a reliable guide to the development of all the properties to which it will refer.

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NORTH CAROLINA is conspicuous among the States of the Atlantic seaboard for advantages of position calculated to develop every feature of its natural wealth. Whatever it may produce through its fertility of soil, its abundant growth of timber, or its extensive mineral deposits, is within easy reach of the best markets, and can be forwarded by the cheapest modes of transportation. Facilities for cheap

production are also remarkably abundant. Machinery can easily be sent to any point; the properties of every sort--land, water power, timber, and mines--are all purchasable at very reasonable rates; labor is cheaper than in any other State of the Union, east or west, and all these materials and appliances can be handled by an owner or capitalist residing in any one of the States north of it without such risk of loss or waste as is inevitable in attempting to own, hold, or work productive property in the new Western States. These are most important facts, to be put in the foreground of any statement of the resources and merits of North Carolina, in considering its new and important relation to the business interests of the people of the States north of it.

North Carolina holds a position of equal advantage as regards its climate. It has that better phase of the temperate climates belonging in Europe to Italy and to Spain, giving the capacity to produce half tropical products, while it is still exempt from tropical unhealthiness, and from the excess of heat or of moisture belonging to the Gulf Coast of the United States. Cotton is abundantly grown over nearly half the surface of the State, and the low country of the southeastern part is as rich in productions of the warm climates as any part of the coast south of it; yet all parts of even this low country are conspicuously healthy. Stretching westward the country rises, first in rolling lands, of admirable adaptation to general tillage, and next into mountains, inclosing valleys of great comparative elevation, and of the purest air, and most perfect adaptation to all the growths of Western Pennsylvania and Western New York. The climate, in fact, really merges the almost tropical southeastern coast, with the Italian softness of the interior, and the temperate freshness of the mountains and the west. No other State of the Union has so great diversity, nor has any considerable diversity within such easy reach by ready means of communication.

In a more detailed account given in another part of this paper we show what the precise conditions of climate are in various parts of the State, and how strikingly the positions outlined here are sustained by the recorded facts.

Geographically, therefore, North Carolina is a half-way house for the Seaboard States, at any point of which the business man and business enterprises of the East are practically at home. Transportation of cotton, grain, lumber, iron, fruits, and vegetables is quite as easy to Baltimore, Philadelphia, and New York, as from Cincinnati, Cleveland, and Buffalo. The Sailing vessels and steamer lines of the Atlantic Coast offer cheap and prompt transportation, and, aided by the interior railroads of North Carolina, they bring the whole section tributary to Wilmington as near to New York as Central Ohio is. This fact alone should concentrate attention on the natural wealth of the State, but when we add to it the difference of climate, which is as if the spring were to open nearly three months earlier, and fruits were to ripen in Ohio when they were blossoming in New York, we have a new value given to the productive lands, which it is reasonable to estimate at twice what they would otherwise be worth.

Every product of the soil is now of higher value and of greater interest than at any previous time. Vegetables and fruits are merchandise, to be produced, shipped, handled, and sold by wholesale, as commercial products. The changes of a few years in this respect are astonishing, and they add enormously to the value of the lands of the South, especially of the seaboard from Norfolk southward. Norfolk has for a few years been conspicuous in producing early fruits, but it is really too far north, and Wilmington has much the better position. The difference between Norfolk and Wilmington in the advance of the seasons is twenty-one days, a difference so great as to give the latter overwhelming advantages in everything that relates to early cultivation.

We have, therefore, a district of almost tropical capacity of production within easy reach of the daily business of the East. The number of active men free to choose a profitable opening to new business is very great, and they are looking eagerly for new fields of enterprise. Her mining States are far less attractive now than they were three or five years ago : heavy losses, distant fields of labor, and painful inability to control surrounding circumstances, and prevent losses, crowd the whole history of investment in the West. In the new east of the Southern States it need not be so. A moderate capital suffices to obtain absolute control of a large tract of land, of fine water power, and of productive mines. Neither in the original purchase, nor in the subsequent management, are large sums required. Valuable products are, ready for market almost at the outset, and the purchaser can bring cargoes of shingles, lumber, ores, or fruits, to eager markets, almost as soon as his possession is secured.

With this general reference to the advantages of North Carolina, resulting from its geographical position, its climate, and its intrinsic capacity for production, we proceed to give full information on each branch of these interests in detail, and we ask every reader to follow us, confident that we have embodied facts, not only of interest in themselves, but that will show new and attractive openings for business enterprise.

*Next, go to the interactive [temporarily located at <http://civclients.com/nehint/recon/>] and examine the map titled “**Change in the Value of Manufactured Products 1870-1880**” to answer the following questions.*

Question	Answer
Look at the “Things to Consider.” What does “Change in the Value of Manufactured Products 1870-1880” mean? What special problem do we have in evaluating the statistics for this category?	
If Reconstruction was working, would you predict that Change in the Value of Manufactured Products would grow or shrink? Why?	
What do the statistics tell us about the Value of Manufactured Products throughout the South, generally?	

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<p>What problems do you imagine the growth or shrinking in the value of manufactured products (as the case may be) might have caused during Reconstruction?</p>	
<p>What does Edward King say about the growth of manufacturing in the South during Reconstruction? Do the interactive statistics agree with his assessment?</p>	
<p>What is the subject of the picture? What does the picture tell you about the condition of the South with regard to Value of Manufactured Products after Reconstruction? How might it help explain the statistics?</p>	



Effect of Reconstruction

Student Name _____ Date _____

Activity #1: Economic and Social Impact of the Effect of Reconstruction

Directions for Group E: Examine your group’s document closely and answer the following questions.

Question	Answer
Who wrote your document? What can you say about the author based on what you read in this document?	
What is the subject of this document? Briefly summarize the view it takes of that subject and how it relates to the economic and social impact of Reconstruction.	
What is the author’s attitude toward the aspect of Reconstruction that you mentioned above?	
List two opinions and two facts that the author gives concerning Reconstruction.	

Excerpt from Albert T. Morgan, *Yazoo, Or, On the Picket Line of Freedom*, 1881.

<http://teachingamericanhistory.org/library/index.asp?document=2226>

Morgan was a northern Republican who served as sheriff of Yazoo, Mississippi for a time during Reconstruction. He was forced to flee after insurgent white Democrats took over county government.

. . . The reader has already seen what was accomplished by “the enemy” during the years of its control prior to the war, and in the four years which followed that event, in the way of county public improvements. In this chapter I shall endeavor to faithfully set down what was accomplished by “we all radicals,” in the six years of my “dictatorship.” By the beginning of the year 1875, the requisite repairs upon the county highways and bridges had been completed, and new bridges built, so that in that respect the county had never before enjoyed equal facilities. Improvements upon the poor-farm buildings had been made, the farm put in cultivation, system and order enforced in its management and among its inmates, and the institution had become nearly self-sustaining. . . .

. . . Yazoo City was an incorporated town, its government was under the control of the Republicans, who were in a majority. As in the county so it was here; extensive improvements had been wrought; new side-walks, pavements, and gutters, had been made, and, above all, perhaps, a new steam fire-engine had been provided. Our Yankee postmaster, aided by a few public-spirited fellow citizens, was foremost in all these good works.

We had failed, it is true, to get a railroad to our town, but that was by no fault of “we all Yankees.” Three lines had been chartered, and at one time the prospect was very bright indeed that we would have one. But the great panic [of 1873] spreading throughout the North had interfered with our plans. Mississippi hardly felt the great shock, it is true, but as we were depending largely upon Northern capital for our road, and as the panic wrecked for a season all such prospects, our proposed railroad withered and shrank so far away that it had not yet reached Yazoo City, nor even Mississippi. . . .

*Next, go to the interactive [temporarily located at <http://civclients.com/nehint/recon/>] and examine the map titled “**Change in Railroad Track Mileage 1865-1877**” to answer the following questions.*

Question	Answer
Look at the “Things to Consider.” What does “Change in Railroad Track Mileage 1865-1877” mean? What special problem do we have in evaluating the statistics for this category? What would such a change mean when evaluating the success of Reconstruction?	

The Aftermath of Reconstruction

<p>If Reconstruction was working, do you predict Change in Railroad Track Mileage 1865-1877 would grow or shrink? Why?</p>	
<p>What do the statistics tell us about the Change in Railroad Track Mileage 1865-1877 throughout the South, generally?</p>	
<p>What problems do you imagine the growth or shrinking (as the case may be) of the Change in Railroad Track Mileage 1865-1877 might have caused during Reconstruction?</p>	
<p>What does Edward King say about the situation confronting the South at the close of the war? Do the interactive statistics agree with his assessment? What special problems does Edward King single out concerning Change in Railroad Track Mileage 1865-1877?</p>	
<p>What is the subject of the picture, and what year does it depict? What does the picture tell you about the condition of the South with regard to Change in Railroad Track Mileage 1865-1877 after Reconstruction? How would it help explain the statistics?</p>	