

Virginia Studies
STANDARD VS.8a-c
STUDY GUIDE

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STANDARD VS.8A
EFFECTS OF RECONSTRUCTION

The effects of Reconstruction on life in Virginia.

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

What were some of the problems Virginians faced during the period of Reconstruction following the Civil War?

Problems faced by Virginians during Reconstruction

- Millions 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.**

What measures were taken during Reconstruction to resolve Virginia's problems?

Measures taken to resolve problems

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

STANDARD VS.8B
SEGREGATION & "JIM CROW"

Effects of segregation and "Jim Crow" on life in Virginia for whites, African Americans, and American Indians.



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

What happened to the rights of African Americans after Reconstruction?

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 men of all races could vote.

After Reconstruction, these **gains were lost** 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.



What impact did “Jim Crow” laws have on whites, blacks, African Americans, and American Indians in Virginia?

“Jim Crow” laws had an effect on the lives of African **Americans and American Indians**.

- **Unfair poll taxes and voting tests** were established to keep African American men from voting.



- African Americans found it very **difficult to vote or hold public office**.
- African Americans were forced to use **separate** poor-quality services such as **drinking fountains, restrooms, and restaurants**.
- African American and white children attended **separate schools**.
- “Jim Crow” laws had an effect on **American Indians**.

STANDARD VS.8c

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Importance of railroads, new industries, and the growth of cities to Virginia’s economic development

What changes took place in Virginia to boost the economic growth?

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 discovered in **Tazewell County**. The need for more and better **roads** increased.
- **Tobacco** farming and tobacco products became **important** Virginia industries.

