

# Reconstruction Primary Document Analysis

Directions: 10-Point Primary Document Assignment. Answer all questions in complete sentences. The use of conventions can not deter from the readability of the content. Responses that are not in complete sentences or are unreadable may result in reduction of your grade.

## Document 1

...The object of the Fourteenth Amendment was undoubtedly to enforce the absolute equality of the two races before the law, but by the nature of things it could not have been intended to abolish distinctions based upon color, or to enforce social, as distinguished from political equality, or a commingling of the two races upon terms unsatisfactory to either....

We consider the underlying fallacy of the plaintiff's argument to consist in the assumption that the enforced separation of the two races stamps the colored race with a badge of inferiority....The argument necessarily assumes that if,...the colored race should become the dominant power in the state legislature, and should enact a law in precisely similar terms, it would thereby relegate the white race to an inferior position....

The argument also assumes that social prejudices may be overcome by legislation, and that equal rights cannot be secured to the Negro except by an enforced commingling of the two races. We cannot accept this proposition. If the two races are to meet upon terms of social equality, it must be the result of natural affinities, a mutual appreciation of each other's merits and a voluntary consent of individuals...Legislation is powerless to eradicate racial instincts or to abolish distinctions based upon physical differences, and the attempt to do so can only result in accentuating the difficulties of the present situation. If the civil and political rights of both races be equal one cannot be inferior to the other civilly or politically. If one race be inferior to the other socially, the Constitution of the United States cannot put them upon the same plane.

**SOURCE:** *Plessy v. Ferguson*, 1896.

What principle did this Supreme Court case establish? (1 point)

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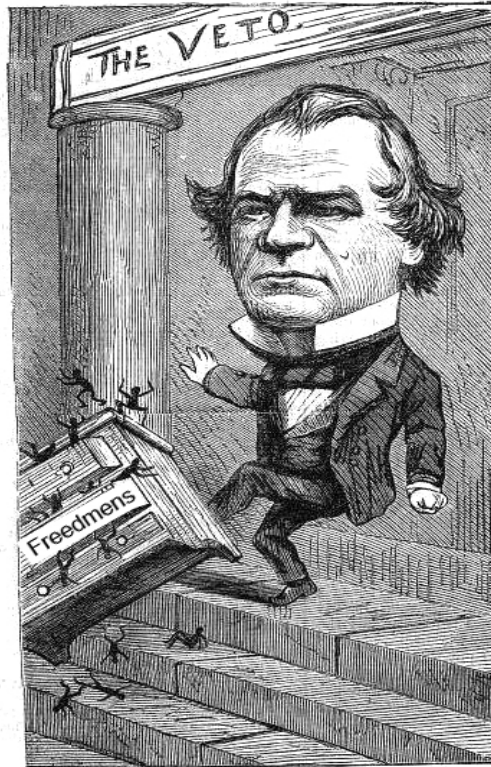
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## Document 2



According to the political cartoon, what piece of legislation did Andrew Johnson veto?  
How do you know? (1 point)

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## Document 3

... All persons born or naturalized in the United States, and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United States and of the State wherein they reside. No State shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States; nor shall any State deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws.

...  
— 14th Amendment, Section 1, 1868

According to the 14<sup>th</sup> amendment, the state must follow due process of law in reference to what? (1 point)

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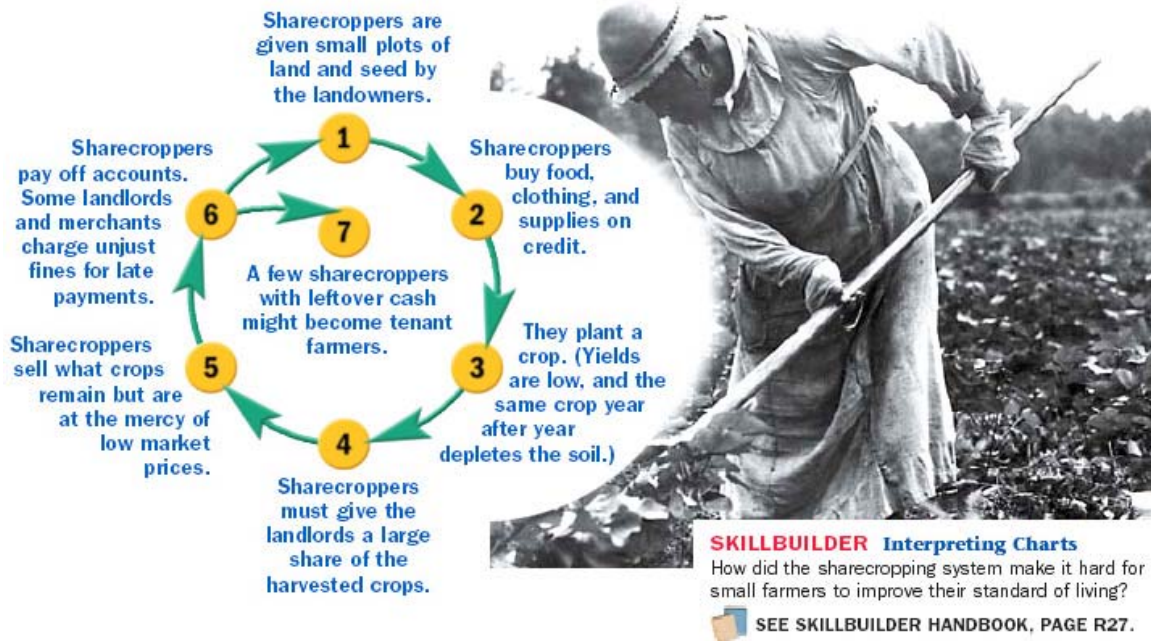
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## Document 4

### Sharecropping

#### A CYCLE OF POVERTY

Sharecroppers were supposed to have a chance to climb the economic ladder, but by the time they had shared their crops and paid their debts, they rarely had any money left. A sharecropper often became tied to one plantation, having no choice but to work until his or her debts were paid.



According to the chart, why was it difficult for sharecroppers to not gain economic independence? (1 point)

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US History Fall Practice  
Primary Documents Rubric

Student name: \_\_\_\_\_

Class: \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher name: \_\_\_\_\_

School: \_\_\_\_\_

**Reconstruction Rubric**

All answers must be in complete sentences. The use of conventions cannot deter from the readability of the content. Responses that are not in complete sentences or are unreadable may result in a maximum of a 2-point reduction.

**Teacher Tips for Grading**

- allow accurate synonyms
- use no half points
- judge ultimately: Do they know the content?

Document 1: Plessy vs. Ferguson

- \_\_\_\_\_/ (1) What principal did Supreme Court case establish?  
-separate but equal (separate but not inferior)

Document 2: Cartoon: Andrew Johnson

- \_\_\_\_\_/ (1) piece of legislation did he veto? How do you know?  
-Freedman's Bureau because he is kicking Freedman Box

Document 3: 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment

- \_\_\_\_\_/ (1) state must follow due process of law in reference to what?  
-Civil Rights or Life, Liberty, or Property

Document 4: Chart: Sharecropping

- \_\_\_\_\_/ (1) why was it difficult for sharecroppers to NOT gain economic independence?  
-system was set up as a cycle of continuous debt

Essay Extension: (Concept 6: PO3) Reconstruction

- \_\_\_\_\_/ (6) Identify TWO ways Reconstruction was undermined politically, socially, or economically?

ANY of THESE TWO or other accurate example

\_\_\_\_\_/ (3) Presidential vetoes undermined Reconstruction Legislation (I.e., Freedman's Bureau)

\_\_\_\_\_/ (3) Supreme Court decisions overrode Civil Rights protections and Amendments

\_\_\_\_\_/ (3) Debt and economic downturn

\_\_\_\_\_/ (3) Southern unwillingness to change economic and social system (i.e., KKK)

\_\_\_\_\_/ (3) Radical Republicans

\_\_\_\_\_/ (3) abandonment of North with Compromise of 1877

Content Subtotal: \_\_\_\_\_/10

Incomplete sentences: \_\_\_\_\_ (-1)

Poor Conventions: \_\_\_\_\_ (-1)

Section Total: \_\_\_\_\_/ 10