

# Reconstructing the USA.



**Mission:** to reconstruct ( rebuild / heal ) the USA after the Civil War.

The American Civil War was a bloody and tragic event fought between 1861-1865. It was won by the North with the South being forced into submission. Over half a million soldiers died. At the start of the war slavery was legal in some southern states but, by the end of the war slavery was made illegal in the whole of the USA. The nation was hurting and bitterly divided. Four million slaves are free but have no income. **So what now what?**

**Activity set up:** assign student groups to play one of the groups on the place cards that follow. Note, it is not necessary to have every group represented and these are merely suggestions. Groups should be given 30 + minutes to prepare their ideas and arguments for the most important items for their group.

The President's Cabinet decides the outcome following each item discussion. I suggest 4 –5 students in the president's Cabinet. They should call the items to order, maintain discipline and set a time limit ( 4 mins? ) per item. At the end of each item, they should be given a short time to decide then announce their decision. You may wish to use the 'Presidential Tokens' at the end of each item for the team that was most helpful or persuasive.

## Reconstruction Agenda Items

[www.icHistory.com](http://www.icHistory.com)

**1: Punishing the rebels:** Should the political leaders and generals of the Confederacy be punished or pardoned?



Is this item VERY important for your group? If not, skip it - if so plan how you will persuade the President's Cabinet to support your argument.

**2: Settlement:** Where will the freed slaves live?



Is this item VERY important for your group? If not, skip it - if so plan how you will persuade the President's Cabinet to support your argument.

**3: Employment:** What will the freed slaves do for work ? Will they be paid the same as workers North and South?



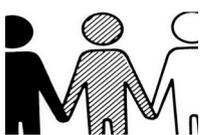
Is this item VERY important for your group? If not, skip it - if so plan how you will persuade the President's Cabinet to support your argument.

**4: Education:** Should black children go to school? If yes, will they be allowed into the same schools as white children?



Is this item VERY important for your group? If not, skip it - if so plan how you will persuade the President's Cabinet to support your argument.

**5: Speech:** Will it be ok for white people to use derogatory words or terms for black people? All speech is free?



Is this item VERY important for your group? If not, skip it - if so plan how you will persuade the President's Cabinet to support your argument.

**6: Property:** Should the plantations of former slave owners be taken away from them? If so, who should it be given to?



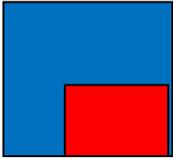
Is this item VERY important for your group? If not, skip it - if so plan how you will persuade the President's Cabinet to support your argument.

**7 Voting and Citizenship:** Should freed slaves now be allowed to vote in state and national elections and be given full citizenship?



Is this item VERY important for your group? If not, skip it - if so plan how you will persuade the President's Cabinet to support your argument.

**8: Senate Power** Southern senators are becoming outnumbered in Congress. Should they be given more power?



Is this item VERY important for your group? If not, skip it - if so plan how you will persuade the President's Cabinet to support your argument.

**9: Cruel owners:** Should former slave owners who were cruel be punished? If so, how?



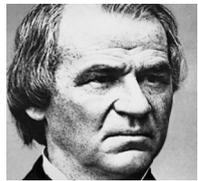
Is this item VERY important for your group? If not, skip it - if so plan how you will persuade the President's Cabinet to support your argument.

**10: Protection:** Should freed slaves or former slave owners be protected from revenge? If so, how ?



Is this item VERY important for your group? If not, skip it - if so plan how you will persuade the President's Cabinet to support your argument.

**11: Next U.S. President:** Should vice president and southerner Andrew Johnson take over as the next President?



Is this item VERY important for your group? If not, skip it - if so plan how you will persuade the President's Cabinet to support your argument.

**12: Enforcing decisions:** Will southerners agree to respect all these decisions? If not, what will be done to enforce them ?



Is this item VERY important for your group? If not, skip it - if so plan how you will persuade the President's Cabinet to support your argument.

**13: Any other business:** Any suggested items for discussion?



**Time Tokens** - you may wish to give each team three 45 seconds time tokens to play. Once played this guarantees the floor + one minute of uninterrupted time to make their argument.

**00:45**

**00:45**

**00:45**

**00:45**

**00:45**

**00:45**

**00:45**

**00:45**

**00:45**

**00:45**

**00:45**

**00:45**

**00:45**

**00:45**

**00:45**

**00:45**

**00:45**

**00:45**

**00:45**

**00:45**

**00:45**

# MAIN AIM = FIX YOUR BROKEN AND DIVIDED NATION

---

# President + Cabinet



You must listen carefully to the proposals from groups before you decide the final outcome of each item.  
Base your decision on the best arguments.  
Avoid becoming part of the discussion / debate: instead, listen to and manage it.

## Suggested tasks while the other teams prepare.

Task 1 - Choose a Head Juror - Time Keeper - Chairperson

Task 2 - Consider any other important matters and raise these during the 'any other business' round.

Task 3 - Create a 'how we discuss / debate' list of expectations. Do's and don'ts

Task 4 - Other ideas to improve the activity?



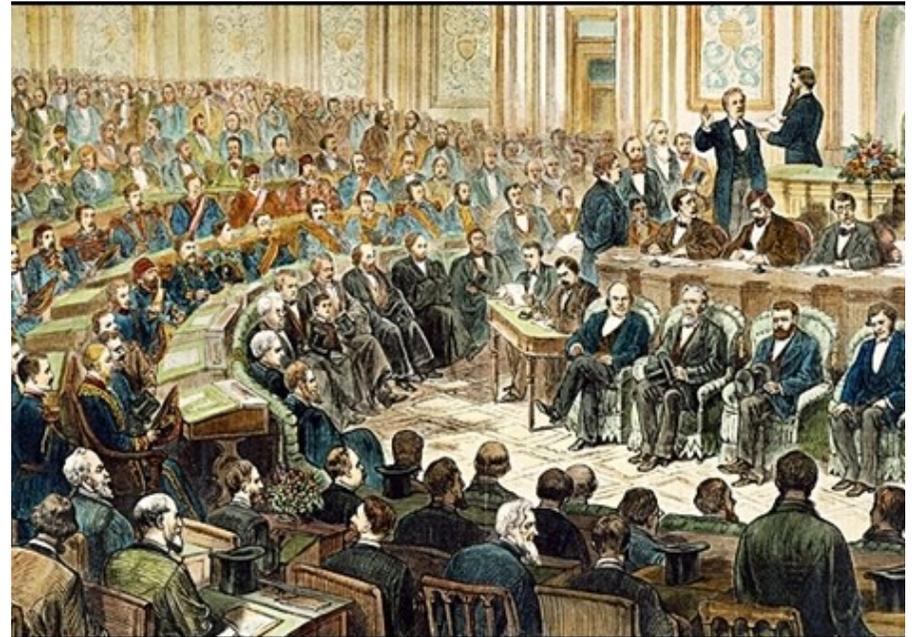
You will not get EVERYTHING so be prepared to prioritise, and persuade.  
Try to get the best possible outcome for your group. Good luck!

Consider: what are the MOST important items for you?

SUB AIM: MAINTAIN WHITE SUPREMACY

MAIN AIM: RECLAIM SOUTHERN POWER IN SENATE

# Southern Senators



You will not get EVERYTHING so be prepared to prioritise, and persuade.  
Try to get the best possible outcome for your group. Good luck!

Consider: what are the MOST important items for you?

MAIN AIM = Avoid getting murdered by angry white southerners

MAIN AIM = A BETTER LIFE

---

# Freed Slaves



You will not get EVERYTHING so be prepared to prioritise, and persuade.  
Try to get the best possible outcome for your group. Good luck!

Consider: what are the MOST important items for you?

Sub Aims: ensure former slaves are given work, housing and education

MAIN AIM = TO HELP EX-SLAVES START A NEW LIFE

# Freedman's Bureau



You will not get EVERYTHING so be prepared to prioritise, and persuade.  
Try to get the best possible outcome for your group. Good luck!

Consider: what are the MOST important items for you?

SUB AIM = Exploit the Southern Economy!

MAIN AIM = FACTORY PROFITS!

---

# Factory Owners (North)



You will not get EVERYTHING so be prepared to prioritise, and persuade.  
Try to get the best possible outcome for your group. Good luck!

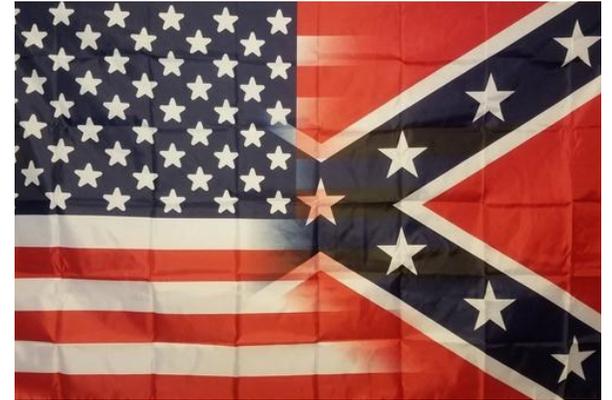
Consider: what are the MOST important items for you?

SUB AIM = keep black people separate from whites

MAIN AIM = MAINTAIN WHITE SUPREMACY

---

**White**  
**Southerners**



You will not get EVERYTHING so be prepared to prioritize, and persuade.  
Try to get the best possible outcome for your group. Good luck!

Consider: what are the MOST important items for you?

Main Aim: Exploit this situation for your personal greed and benefit

You are selfish, opportunistic Northerners who went to the South to exploit the situation. You hope to see ruin in the South so you can step in and make profit for yourself.

---

# The Carpetbaggers



You will not get EVERYTHING so be prepared to prioritise, and persuade.  
Try to get the best possible outcome for your group. Good luck!

Consider: what are the MOST important items for you?

Main Aim: Exploit this situation for your personal greed and benefit

You are selfish, opportunistic southern businessmen who will betray the South agree with North IF it suits your personal and economic interests. How can you exploit this situation?

---

# The Scalawags



You will not get EVERYTHING so be prepared to prioritise, and persuade.  
Try to get the best possible outcome for your group. Good luck!

Consider: what are the MOST important items for you?

Main Aim: to become President and help Southerners.

You a **Southerner** and Lincoln's Vice President of the USA at the end of the Civil War.

---

# Andrew Johnson

