S.O.L. 7 Review Sheet (Teacher Edition):
Civil War and Reconstruction

US/VA SOL 7: The student will demonstrate knowledge of the Civil War and Reconstruction Era and its importance as a major turning point in American history by

a. identifying the major events and the roles of key leaders of the Civil War, with emphasis on Abraham Lincoln, Ulysses Grant, Robert E. Lee, and Frederick Douglass

I. Major events
A. Election of Lincoln (1860), followed by the secession of several southern states who feared that Lincoln would try to abolish slavery
B. Ft. Sumter: opening confrontation of the Civil War
C. Emancipation Proclamation issued after Battle of Antietam
D. Gettysburg: Turning point of the Civil War
E. Appomattox: site of Lee’s surrender to Grant

II. Key leaders and their roles
A. Abraham Lincoln: President of the U.S. during the Civil War, who insisted that the Union be held together, by force if necessary
B. Ulysses S. Grant: Union military commander, who won victories over the Confederacy after several Union commanders had failed
C. Robert E. Lee: Confederate general of the Army of Northern Virginia (Lee opposed secession, but did not believe the Union should be held together by force), who urged Southerners to accept defeat and unite as Americans again, when some Southerners wanted to fight after Appomattox
D. Frederick Douglass: former slave who became prominent black abolitionist and who urged Lincoln to recruit former slaves to fight in the Union army

b. analyzing the significance of the Emancipation Proclamation and the principles outlined in Lincoln’s Gettysburg Address

I. Emancipation Proclamation
A. Freed those slaves located in “rebelling” states (seceded southern states)
B. Made the destruction of slavery a Northern war aim
C. Discouraged any interference of foreign governments

II. Gettysburg Address
A. Lincoln described the Civil War as a struggle to preserve a nation that was dedicated to the proposition that “all men are created equal” and that was ruled by a government “of the people, by the people, and for the people.”
B. Lincoln believed America was “one nation,” not a collection of sovereign states. Southerners believed that states had freely joined the union and could freely leave.
c. examining the political, economic, and social impact of the war and Reconstruction, including the adoption of the 13th, 14th, and 15th Amendments to the Constitution of the U.S.A.

I. Political effects
A. Lincoln’s views that the United States was indivisible had prevailed.
B. Lincoln believed that since secession was illegal, Confederate governments in the Southern states were illegitimate and the states had never really left the Union. He believed that Reconstruction was a matter of quickly restoring legitimate state governments that were loyal to the Union in the Southern states.
C. Lincoln also believed that once the war was over, to reunify the nation, the federal government should not punish the South, but act “with malice toward none, with charity for all…to bind up the nation’s wounds.”
D. The assassination of Lincoln just a few days after Lee’s surrender at Appomattox enabled Radical Republicans to influence the process of Reconstruction in a manner much more punitive towards the former Confederate states. The states that seceded were not allowed back into the Union immediately, but were put under federal occupation.
E. Radical Republicans also believed in aggressively guaranteeing voting and other civil rights to African Americans. They clashed repeatedly with Lincoln’s successor as President, Andrew Johnson, over the issue of civil rights for freed slaves, eventually impeaching him, but failing to remove him from office.
F. The three “Civil War Amendments” to the Constitution were added:
   1. 13th Amendment: slavery was abolished permanently
   2. 14th Amendment: states were prohibited from denying equal rights under the law to any American
   3. 15th Amendment: voting rights were guaranteed regardless of “race, color, or previous condition of servitude” (former slaves)
G. The Reconstruction period ended following the extremely close presidential election of 1876. In return for support in the electoral college vote from Southern Democrats, the Republicans agreed to end the military occupation of the South. Known as the Compromise of 1877, this enabled former Confederate who controlled the Democratic Party to regain power. It opened the door to the “Jim Crow Era” and began a long period in which African-Americans in the South were denied the full rights of American citizens.

II. Economic and social impact
A. The southern states were left embittered and devastated by the war. Farms, railroads, and factories had been destroyed throughout the South, and the cities of Richmond and Atlanta lay in ruins. The South would remain a backward, agriculture-based economy and the poorest section of the nation for many decades afterward.
B. The North and Midwest emerged with strong and growing industrial economies, laying the foundation for the sweeping industrialization of the nation (other than the South) in the next half-century and the emergence of the U.S. as a global economic power by the beginning of the 20th century.
C. The completion of the Transcontinental Railroad soon after the war ended intensified the westward movement of settlers into the states between the Mississippi River and the Pacific Ocean.