Reconstruction

Resources:

Books

Foner, Eric. A Short History of Reconstruction. New York: Harper & Row, 1990. An examination of many themes of Reconstruction, including African Americans as agents of change during Reconstruction, the ways that the South was changed during the period, and the evolution of racial attitudes and patterns.


Websites

African-American Odyssey
http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/aaohtml/exhibit/aointro.html


Reconstruction: The Second Civil War
http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/reconstruction/index.html

A PBS American Experience website that includes video clips, primary sources, links to other resources, historians’ perspectives about Reconstruction, and a Reconstruction timeline.

America’s Reconstruction
http://www.digitalhistory.uh.edu/reconstruction/index.html
“America’s Reconstruction: People and Politics after the Civil War.” This digital history exhibit, with text written by Eric Foner, has extensive primary and secondary sources on thematic elements of Reconstruction.

Digital History
http://www.digitalhistory.uh.edu/database/hyper_titles.cfm

This University of Houston Digital History online textbook includes excellent secondary sources that provide a clear understanding of the Reconstruction period.

National Archives
http://www.nara.gov

The website for the National Archives includes document analysis worksheets as well as numerous primary sources.

Valley of the Shadow
http://valley.vcdh.virginia.edu

An excellent compilation of primary resources for two communities during the Civil War. Includes Freedmen’s Bureau records, letters, diaries, newspapers, images, and maps.

Freedmen’s Bureau Online
http://www.freedmensbureau.com/

A collection of documents and links to documents relating to the work of the Freedmen’s Bureau, including labor contracts and marriage certificates.

With an Even Hand: Brown v. Board at 50
http://www.loc.gov/exhibits/brown/


Henry Blake Talks About Sharecropping after the Civil War
http://historymatters.gmu.edu/d/6377

A text version of a first-person account of sharecropping after the Civil War.

http://blackhistory.harpweek.com/

Materials from Harper’s Weekly magazine that illustrate attitudes toward African-Americans during the late 19th century.

After Reconstruction: Problems of African Americans in the South
http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/ndlpedu/lessons/rec/rhome.html

A lesson plan that is part of the Library of Congress’s Learning Page. The lesson plan is geared toward high-school students, but could be adapted for middle school students to use some of the resources.