

# **Radical Reconstruction**

# Focus Activity

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# Reconstruction Era



*Photograph of ruins in Richmond, Virginia, taken in 1865*

# **Major Questions After the Civil War**

- How should the South be rebuilt?
- How should the states that seceded be brought back into the Union?
- How should former slaves be incorporated into the country as freed men and women?

# Reconstructing a Nation

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*Photograph of a Union soldier camp taken between 1861 and 1865*

- After 4 years of war and over 200 years of slavery, could Northerners and Southerners rebuild the South together?
- Could they unify as citizens of the same country?

# Punishment for the Confederate States?

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- Should people who fought against the United States be recognized as citizens? Should they be punished?



*Illustration of the Attack on Fort Sumter from  
1861*

- What should be done to the Southern state governments that fought against the United States?

# African Americans in the South

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- How would freed men and women be treated in the Southern states?
- How would Northerners address the issue of including former slaves as citizens in society?
- What were some major challenges that former slaves faced?



*Photograph of an enslaved family in South Carolina taken in 1862*



# Central Historical Question

*Why was the Radical  
Republican plan for  
Reconstruction considered  
“radical”?*