

Rebuilding Arguments Answer Key

1. Radical Republicans wanted to protect rights and enforce equality for freedmen, with strong federal involvement.
2. Johnson wanted a quick return of Southern states to the Union with fewer new rules and limited federal oversight.
3. Radical Republicans focused on ensuring equal rights; Johnson focused on leniency and state control.
4. Answers will vary but should reference which plan better supports freedmen's protection.
5. Disagreements caused conflict in the government, slowed progress, and resulted in different policies being tried.

Teacher's Guide

- Use a short vocabulary review: "freedmen," "federal," "govern," "equality."
- Guide students to consider how different goals can shape historical outcomes.

Differentiation

- **Support:** Provide a short sentence frame for comparison answers (e.g., "Both wanted to reunite the nation, but...").
- **Challenge:** Have students add one extra sentence using specific historical evidence like the Reconstruction Acts or Johnson's vetoes.

Engagement Ideas

- **Quick debate:** Half the class represents Radical Republicans and the other half represents Johnson's approach.
- Students summarize each viewpoint in a single headline written from a newspaper of the era.

Extension Ideas

- Ask students to connect this disagreement to later political conflicts during Reconstruction.
- Provide a primary political cartoon for students to analyze bias and perspective.