

RAFT – Reconstruction Writing Activity

Create a postcard that might have been sent during the Reconstruction Period of the United States of America. In this RAFT activity you need to pretend you are:

Role: Who are you? You will pretend to be a sharecropper, plantation owner or a freed slave.

Audience: Who you are writing a postcard to? You will write to a fellow sharecropper a family member, or another freed slave.

Format: What are you writing? You will write a postcard – make sure to decorate the front with an appropriate illustration.

Topic- Describe to your audience what the conditions were like during the Reconstruction Period.

You are writing a postcard describing what your life is like during this period. Your job is to make your card as realistic as possible. Take into account the following information:

1. In exchange for the use of land, the sharecroppers had to pay the owner with the share of the crop. Yet they did all the work - growing and taking care of the crops.
2. Many of the plantation owners farms were destroyed and they no longer had an abundant supply of cheap labor. (slaves)
3. The Jim Crow laws caused a struggle in everyday life, yet the Freedman's Bureau strived to ease the difficulties freed slaves faced.