Reconstruction 20 Questions

1. What did the 13th Amendment do?
   - Abolish (stop or end) slavery.

2. What did the 14th Amendment do?
   - Gave federal legal protections equally to citizens regardless of race.

3. What did the 15th Amendment do?
   - Abolish (do away with) racial restrictions on being able to vote.

4. Who did the Freedman’s Bureau help?
   - Refugees and freed slaves.

5. Who started the Freedmen’s Bureau?
   - Abraham Lincoln

6. The biggest thing that the Freedmen’s Bureau did was what?
   - Setting up schools for the former slaves.

7. What is the bootstrap philosophy?
   - Everyone who works hard and pulls themselves up by their bootstraps can achieve a good life.

8. What six things did the Freedmen’s Bureau do to help?
   - Helped with getting food, shelter, education, health care, employment, and to help bring families back together again.

9. What is sharecropping?
   - A landowner allows a renter (tenant) to use the land as long as the landowner gets a percentage of the crop.

10. What crop did most share-croppers grow?
    - Cotton. It was a cash crop that would bring in a lot of money. (Tobacco, rice, and other cash crops were also grown.)

11. Were former slaves the only ones who became sharecroppers?
    - No. Poor white farmers also became sharecroppers.

12. Was sharecropping mostly in the north or in the south?
    - It was mostly in the south. It took the place of the plantations.

13. Did sharecropping change things for the former slaves?
    - No. Things stayed very much the same as before. The life of freed slaves did not improve much.

14. What were the Jim Crow laws?
    - They required segregation (separation) of black Americans from white Americans in public facilities.

15. Give two examples of public facilities that were segregated.
    - Public schools, public transportation, restaurants, military, drinking fountains, restrooms.

16. Were African Americans able to vote?
    - The 15th Amendment said yes, but states added laws that made it harder for them to vote. These laws included the need to be able to read, to pay a poll tax, to prove where you live (residency requirements).

17. If you couldn’t vote, what else could you not do?
    - Be on a jury or serve in a local office (like mayor).

18. What happened to the African American schools?
    - They were not funded well so the buildings were not maintained, books were not available, and teachers couldn’t be paid.

19. What does “separate but equal” mean?
    - Everything that white Americans have, African Americans should have too. They should have it in a separate place. Things were segregated, but quickly became unequal.

20. What was the Great Migration?
    - Huge numbers of African Americans moved from the South to cities in the North to seek a better life.