Southern Backlash

**Historical Context:** Following the Civil War, President Lincoln and President Johnson both wanted to bring the South back into the Union as quickly as possible. A group of Senators and Representatives called the Radical Republicans disagreed, and wanted to remake southern society. They passed the 13th, 14th, and 15th amendments to protect newly freed slaves' rights. They also created the Freedmen's Bureau to help with education and jobs. However, southern whites resented the changes being imposed on them. They quickly acted by finding ways to restrict the newly freed slaves' rights.

**Your Task:**

1. Review the three important amendments passed during Reconstruction:

| **13th Amendment:** banned slavery and *involuntary servitude* in all states | **14th Amendment:** gave slaves full citizenship and said laws had to apply to everyone equally *note:* these rights include trial by jury & the right to testify in court | **15th Amendment:** the government could not keep people from voting based on *race* |

2. Read each caption describing a different way southern whites tried to get around these new amendments. Then, explain which amendment it violates or is most related to and explain why.

**1. The Grandfather Clause:** the grandfather clause said if a person's grandfather had been able to vote, then they were able to vote too.

A. Which Amendment(s) does this violate/try to get around?  ______________

B. Why?  ____________________________________________________________

**2. Testifying in Court:** under the Black Codes, a black person could not testify against a white person in court, but a white person could testify against a black person.

A. Which Amendment(s) does this violate/try to get around?  ______________

B. Why?  ____________________________________________________________
3. **Sharecropping**: under the sharecropping system, farmers were always in debt to the landowner. This forced them to sign a contract year after year. Because of this, they had to stay on the land and farm it even if they didn’t want to.

   A. Which Amendment(s) does this violate/try to get around? __________________

   B. Why? __________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________

4. **Passes**: under the sharecropping system, freedmen were not allowed to leave the plantation without a special pass from the landowner.

   A. Which Amendment(s) does this violate/try to get around? __________________

   B. Why? __________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________

5. **Unemployment**: any black person who was unemployed could be arrested and jailed for **vagrancy**.

   A. Which amendment does this violate/try to get around? _________________

   B. Why? __________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________

6. **Poll Taxes**: states required voters to pay an amount of money called a poll tax before they could vote.

   A. Which amendment does this violate/try to get around? _________________

   B. Why? __________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________

7. **Whipping**: under the labor contracts they signed, many freedmen were subjected to whipping by a landowner if the landowner felt the freeman was not living up to his duties.

   A. Which amendment does this try and get around? _________________

   B. Why? __________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________
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