Standard 8.85 Lesson

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8.85 Explain the effects of the Freedmen’s Bureau and the restrictions placed on the rights and opportunities of freedmen, including racial segregation and Jim Crow laws. (C,H,P)

Freedmen’s Bureau

http://www.pbs.org/wnet/jimcrow/stories_events_freed.html

Reconstruction and the Freedmen’s Bureau

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L_iKCXE8MaY

The Freedmen’s Bureau was a government agency to help former slaves. It helped poor whites as well. The Freedmen’s Bureau help by providing food, housing, fuel, and medical aid. It also established schools and offered legal assistance. Most of the schools were led by volunteer teachers from the North. Many colleges for African Americans were created by the Freedmen’s Bureau. The bureau also tried to help freedmen to find jobs. A shortage of personnel and funds prevented the Freedmen’s Bureau from fully carrying out their plan.

Jim Crow laws
Jim Crow laws allowed legal segregation for blacks and whites in the South. Blacks and whites were separated in schools, restaurants, theaters, trains, streetcars, parks, hospitals, restrooms and even cemeteries. Because of these laws, blacks felt trapped and hopeless. In 1896, the Supreme Court ruled that segregation was legal as long as facilities were equal in the case of *Plessy v. Ferguson*. The facilities were separate but far from equal. Most southern states spent less on schools for blacks than they did for whites. Many African Americans considered these laws a setback for them.