

Name: _____ Date: _____

Chapter 13: West Virginia and Reconstruction
Section 1: Social Changes

The Economy During Reconstruction

Directions: The table below includes cotton and a number of common food items and the prices of those items over a twenty-year period. Use this information to answer the questions that follow.

Items	Unit	1860	1866	1870	1874	1880
Apples	bushel	\$ 5.00	\$ 5.90	\$ 3.90	\$ 3.00	\$ 1.50
Beans	bushel	4.50	6.75	8.00	8.50	7.00
Butter	keg	10.00	30.85	20.50	12.50	10.50
Beef	bushel	12.00	18.25	12.00	14.00	11.00
Cotton	bale	48.50	178.20	99.50	69.58	55.35
Corn	sack	1.75	2.47	2.35	1.50	1.42
Eggs	bushel	19.00	27.25	30.00	15.00	15.00
Flour	bushel	6.25	10.25	6.00	7.25	5.75
Sugar	hogshead	82.00	157.50	120.00	95.59	89.00

1. Which item had the greatest increase in price from 1860 to 1880? Which had the greatest decrease? _____
2. Which year had the greatest price increase? How did the Civil War help cause this price increase? _____

3. *Supply* refers to the quantity of goods available for sale. *Demand* refers to the amount of goods consumers actually purchase. In an economic market system, supply and demand cause prices to change. Why would a shortage of goods make prices higher? _____

4. *Inflation* is a long-term increase in the average price level of the entire economy. As the price levels rise, a dollar buys fewer goods and services than before. What does this chart say about inflation during this time? Why do you think this inflation occurred? _____

5. Do you think any policies established by the government could have stopped this inflation? Why or why not? _____

Extend Your Learning: Choose three items from the list. Develop a graph to demonstrate the change in prices of these items.