**Reconstruction through the Political Cartoons of Thomas Nast**

Historical Context: A German immigrant who moved to the USA when he was 10, Thomas Nast was one of the best-known political cartoonists in the United States during the Civil War and Reconstruction eras. Nast’s work appeared regularly in Harper’s Weekly, one of the leading magazines of the time. As a cartoonist, Nast developed the modern image of Santa Claus, the Republican elephant and the Democratic donkey. Nast’s cartoons all express a strong point of view.

**As you interpret these cartoons, remember that the text underneath or in the drawing helps determine the meaning.**

Cartoon Title:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. What do you see?
2. Who do the figures represent?
3. To what event, occurring at this time in Reconstruction, might this image refer? (Refer to the date and your notes.)
4. Summarize the meaning of this cartoon in 1-2 sentences.

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SUMMARY QUESTIONS:

How did Nast view Reconstruction? Explain, using information/details from 2-3 cartoons.