

Reconstruction Period Chapter 18

freedmen :	Men and women who had been slaves.
Reconstruction Period:	Rebuilding the South after the Civil War.
Ten Percent Plan:	A southern state could form a new government after 10 percent of voters swore an oath of loyalty to the United States.
Amnesty:	official pardon
Wade-Davis Bill:	A majority of white men in each southern state had to swear loyalty to the Union. Anyone who had volunteered to fight for the Confederacy would be denied the right to vote or hold office.
Freedmen's Bureau:	A government agency to help former slaves. Gave food and clothing to former slaves. Tried to find jobs for freedmen. Provided medical care. Set up schools.
Thirteenth Amendment:	This banned slavery throughout the nation.
Black codes:	Laws passed by southern states that severely limited the rights of freedmen
Radical Republicans:	Break the power of wealthy planters who had long ruled the South. Ensure that freedmen received the right to vote.
Fourteenth Amendment:	Grants citizenship to all persons born in the United States. It guaranteed citizens "equal protection of the laws" and said that no state could "deprive any person of life, liberty, or property without due process of law."
Radical Reconstruction:	The period that followed the election is often called Radical Reconstruction. Congress passed the first Reconstruction Act in March 1867. It threw out state governments that had refused to ratify the Fourteenth Amendment.
Impeach:	To prosecute an elected official.
Fifteenth Amendment:	Forbids any state to deny any citizens the right to vote because of race.
Scalawag:	any southerner who helped the Republicans was a traitor
Carpetbaggers:	An uncomplimentary nickname for a northerner who went to the South after the Civil War
Conservative:	Someone who would like things to remain the way they were in the past
Ku Klux Klan:	Some white southerners formed secret societies to help them regain power. They conducted a campaign of terror and violence to keep African Americans and white Republicans out of office.
Sharecroppers:	rented and farmed a plot of land. The planters provided seed, fertilizer, and tools in return for a share of the crop. Most sharecroppers and small landowners bought supplies on credit in the spring. In the fall, they had to repay what they had borrowed. If the harvest did not cover what they owed, they sank deeper into debt.
Poll Taxes:	Required voters to pay a fee to vote. Poor freedmen could rarely afford to vote.
Literacy Tests:	Required voters to read and explain part of the Constitution. Since most freedmen had little education, such tests kept them from voting.
Grandfather Clauses:	Many poor whites could not pass literacy tests, so states passed grandfather clauses. These laws stated that if a voter's father or grandfather could vote on January 1, 1867, then the voter did not have to take a literacy test.
Segregation:	Legal separation of races
Jim Crow Laws:	Separated blacks and whites in schools, restaurants, theaters, trains, streetcars, playgrounds, hospitals, and even cemeteries.
Plessy v. Ferguson:	The Supreme Court ruled that segregation was legal so long as facilities for blacks and whites were equal. In fact, facilities were rarely equal.