

Unit 2: Reconstruction

Study Guide for Test

1. freedmen- ex-slaves who were now free
2. sharecropping- a form of farming where freedmen “rented” a piece of land from a landowner; sharecroppers had to give the landowner at least half of their crops as payment for the land; this type of living kept the sharecropper and their families poor
3. civil rights- the basic rights of an individual to be treated equally and fairly under the law
4. scalawags- white Southerners who were Republicans and who supported Reconstruction; these people had opposed the South’s position in the Civil War
5. Jim Crow laws- laws that segregated blacks from whites in public places (train depots, restaurants, schools, trains)
6. impeachment- the process of bringing criminal charges against a government or high official
7. Reconstruction-the process of rebuilding; the formal Reconstruction Era was from 1865-1877
8. amnesty-the act of forgiving and forgetting an offense
9. carpetbaggers – Northerners who moved South during Reconstruction; they carried bags that were covered with carpet; many Southerners looked at these Northerners as people who wanted to make a profit off of the Southerners

13th amendment – abolished slavery forever

14th amendment and how President Johnson felt about it the 14th Amendment gave full citizenship to all freedmen. President Andrew Johnson was against this amendment.

15th amendment and what Southern Democrats did to try and reverse this amendment. The 15th Amendment guaranteed the right to vote to all African- American men. Southern Democrats tried to reverse this amendment by:

1. Poll tax on those who voted (freedmen could not afford this)
2. Literacy Test: all who voted must pass a reading test (most freedmen could not read)
3. Grandfather clause: if your father or grandfather had been able to vote before January 1, 1867, you could vote. (the 15th Amendment was not in effect at this time!)