

Reconstruction Vocabulary	
Important People, Events and terms of the Reconstruction Period, 1865 – 1876	
Reconstruction	The act of rebuilding former Confederate states and restoring them to the United States of America
13th Amendment	The U. S. Constitutional Amendment that ended slavery
14th Amendment	The U. S. Constitutional Amendment that provided equal protection under the law and due process for citizens of the United States.
15th Amendment	The U. S. Constitutional Amendment that said all males of legal age (21 at the time) could vote. This did not include females of any ethnicity. Females did not get the right to vote until the passage of the 19 th Amendment in 1919.
Abraham Lincoln	President of the United States during the Civil War, he was assassinated at Ford's Theater in Washington, DC just 5 days after the end of the War on April 14, 1865.
Amendment	A formal change or addition to the constitution or a law
Andrew Johnson	Vice-President under Lincoln, he became President when Lincoln was assassinated. He was not well liked and Congress began an impeachment process, but he was found not guilty and remained in office
Black codes	Laws passed in the South that discriminated against Freedmen. They included such laws as curfews, various laws regulating work and pay, and other restrictions on freed African-Americans.
Carpetbagger	A Northerner who came South during Reconstruction to profit from the chaos and confusion. Generally disliked throughout the South.
Civil government	Government run by elected officials and the people of the state or nation
Conservative Republicans	Part of the Republican Party that supported Lincoln and Johnson and wanted to readmit former Confederate states quickly into the Union, "forgive and forget" the war years, and get things back to normal quickly, they were voted out of power in the years after 1865.
Edmund Davis	Appointed Governor of Texas during Radical Reconstruction under martial law and later elected Governor
Emancipation	The act of freeing former enslaved persons
Freedman's Bureau	The agency set up after the Civil War to help freed slaves get an education and a "fresh" start. They promised "40 acres and a mule" to every Freedman
Freedmen	The term used to represent a freed slave during Reconstruction
Grandfather clause	A qualification set for voting (after the passage of the 15 th Amendment) in many Southern states. It said that you could vote ONLY IF your Grandfather had been able to vote. It was one way of excluding freed slaves from voting.

John Wilkes Booth	The man who assassinated Abraham Lincoln, he was tracked and later killed by Federal Marshals. Others who helped him in a proven conspiracy were put on trial and hanged, including Mary Surrat, one of the first women to be put to death by hanging.
Ku Klux Klan	A secret organization (of conservative, racist whites) used to intimidate and terrorize Blacks and other minorities
Literacy test	A qualification put on voting that was a test to prove someone could read and write before they were allowed to register to vote. This law discriminated against Freedmen, who had lacked an education before the Civil War
Loyalty oath	A promise or oath required of all Southerners who had fought for or in any way aided the Confederacy. They had to promise never to fight against the United States again.
Majority	More than one-half of a group (i.e. majority vote, majority party and so on)
Marital Law	Military rule imposed on citizens instead civil law and government. Martial law suspends such things as voting and trial by jury. The South was put under martial law following the Civil War
Poll tax	Another qualification put on the right to vote provided by the 15 th Amendment. This qualification required the voter to pay a tax to register to vote
Radical Republicans	This group came into power in the late 1860's and stayed in power into the 1870's. They wanted to <i>punish</i> the South for their part in the Civil War and refused to <i>forgive</i> them quickly. They began a period called Radical Reconstruction that was very harsh on the South.
Ratify	To formally approve an Amendment or law
Reconstruction Acts	These were laws passed by the Radical Republicans that divided the South into five military districts that were ruled by martial law. All civil government and civil rights were suspended for anyone who had in any way supported the Confederacy (which was almost anyone who was a white Southerner). Texas was a part of the 5 th Military District and didn't get fully readmitted into the Union until the mid-1870's.
Scalawag	A Southerner who sided with the Northerners and the soldiers who occupied the South during Radical Reconstruction and profited from Reconstruction. His neighbors saw him as a "traitor" to other Southerners.
School Act	This law provided a free public education to all children in Texas between the ages of 6 and 18. It was passed by Edmund Davis during Reconstruction
Ulysses S. Grant	Elected to be the 18 th President of the United States as a Radical Republican (in 1868). He campaigned on his Civil War record.

Name _____ Date _____ Period _____

Use the **Reconstruction Vocabulary** terms to fill in the blanks in the following sentences.

On April 14, 1865, just five days after Lee had surrendered to Grant at Appomattox Courthouse, the President of the United States _____ was assassinated. He was shot in the head, while attending a performance at Ford's Theater. The assassin was an actor named _____. The Vice-President, _____, became President and tried to carry out Lincoln's plan for _____, or rebuilding the United States into one country again. The group that supported Johnson (and Lincoln) was called _____. They required Southern states to accept _____ (freedom for slaves) and to have all former Confederate soldiers and sympathizers to take a _____, to never fight the U.S. again and to obey all United States laws.

Many people, however, wanted to punish the South for the War of Secession. This group was called the _____, and they got control of Congress. They passed laws called the _____ which divided the South into five Military Districts and took away _____, which refers to government by **elected** "citizens". This group of Republicans and the laws they used to establish military rule throughout the South was called the period of _____ and it created more hatred for the North all over the South.

During this time three changes in the United States Constitution, called _____ were _____ (passed or approved) by a _____ vote (a vote of more than half of Congress). These Amendments were the 13th which _____; the 14th which _____; and the 15th which _____.

The former slaves were now called _____ and were often helped by the _____, a government agency. Many white Southerners were angered and scared by all of the changes in their lifestyle. They passed laws against Blacks called _____; established the _____ to terrorize Freedmen; and thought of ways to keep formerly enslaved males over 21 from voting. The first requirement in order to register to vote was to pay a _____; if by chance that could be paid then the next requirement was a _____; which tested the ability to read and write. Since most ex-slaves were illiterate this test was a problem for them. However, if new voters could pay and were literate, then the third rule was used to eliminate them from the voting records. The _____ effectively eliminated all former slaves and free Blacks from voting because their _____.

The Governor of Texas during Radical Reconstruction was _____. He had been a former Union army officer in Texas and was not well liked by Confederate Texans. His record as Governor was not outstanding, but he did pass the _____, which created the first public schools, especially for African-American children, in Texas. In Houston, many ex-slaves settled in Freedman's Town located in what is now Fourth Ward within site of downtown Houston. The first school for African-American children was built there.