

Glossary

Unit 2 - Reconstruction and Segregation

13th Amendment - the Amendment to the U.S. Constitution that bans slavery in the United States. It was adopted at the end of the Civil War in 1865.

14th Amendment - an Amendment to the U.S. Constitution that says anyone born in the U.S. is a citizen. It also requires state governments to give all citizens equal protection of the laws.

15th Amendment - the Amendment that guarantees the right to vote, regardless of race, color, or previous condition of servitude (slavery). Women, however, did not get the right to vote nationwide until 1920.

Black Codes - laws passed in the South after the Civil War that placed restrictions on the rights of freed slaves. The laws typically restricted employment and travel by freed slaves, and denied them the right to vote.

carpetbaggers - Northerners who came to the South after the Civil War mainly to take advantage of the desperate situation in the South during Reconstruction.

Civil Rights Act of 1866 - an important law passed by Congress during the Reconstruction Era that made racial discrimination illegal. It made the Black Codes illegal.

civil rights / civil liberties - the normal rights one has as a citizen, such as freedom of speech and religion, the right to vote, own property, start a court case, etc.

discrimination - to treat people differently.

Douglass, Frederick - an escaped slave from Maryland who became a newspaper editor and leader in the anti-slavery movement before the Civil War. After the war he spoke out for the civil rights of the freed slaves. He strongly supported the idea of constitutional amendments to guarantee voting rights for all citizens.

Du Bois, W.E.B. - a famous African American writer, civil rights leader, and scholar from Massachusetts who argued forcefully for an end to segregation laws and discrimination against blacks. He was one of the founders of the NAACP in 1909.

Election of 1876 - the election for president in 1876 that led to a compromise agreement in Congress that ended Reconstruction in 1877.

Freedmen's Bureau - a federal agency created by Congress at the urging of President Lincoln at the end of the Civil War. The Freedman's Bureau gave food

supplies, clothing, and other help to freed slaves, and also operated schools to teach basic skills.

Jim Crow laws - laws passed in Southern states after Reconstruction ended that required racial segregation of hotels, railroad cars, schools, and other public places.

Lee, Robert E. - the famous Confederate General from Virginia whose surrender in April, 1865, ended the Civil War. He urged Southerners not to be bitter, but to reconcile with the North and reunite as one nation. He became the president of Washington College, which was later renamed as Washington and Lee University.

legacy - what one leaves for later generations.

Lincoln, Abraham - president of the United States during the Civil War. He favored a policy of reconciliation (forgiveness) rather than punishment of the South once victory was achieved. Lincoln was assassinated in April of 1865.

NAACP - the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. It was started in 1909 by a group of African Americans to push for an end to segregation laws and discrimination against blacks.

Plessy v. Ferguson - a Supreme Court case in 1896 that ruled that state laws that required racial segregation were not illegal, if the facilities provided for whites and blacks were of equal quality. This was the origin of the "separate but equal" principle that allowed racial segregation laws to continue in the U.S. until the 1950s.

reconcile / reconciliation - to make up after a fight or argument, to forgive and move on.

Reconstruction - the 12 year period after the Civil War ended. During these years the nation attempted to deal with the many difficult issues left by the war.

segregation - a separation of people of different groups. Usually it refers to separation on the basis of race.

vocational education - training for a specific job or trade such as carpenter, plumber, farmer, or brick layer.

Washington, Booker T. - a famous African American leader who said that schools for vocational education (job training) were the best way to help blacks make progress toward achieving equality. Although he accepted segregation, he expected it would fade away as blacks moved up the economic ladder of opportunity.