# Reconstruction Unit Vocabulary

| **Vocabulary Terms** | **Key People and Organizations** | **Major Events** |
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| ● **black codes:** laws passed in the south that discriminated against Freedmen, including laws on curfews, laws regulating work and pay, and other restrictions placed on the freedoms of African Americans● **carpetbaggers:** an insulting word for Northerners who moved to the South after the war. Those who opposed reconstruction believed carpetbaggers came to get rich or gain political power● **convict leasing:** the practice of leasing inmates to perform forced labor for individuals or private companies● **discrimination:** unfairly treating a person or groups of people differently from other people based on characteristics such as race, age or gender● **emancipation:** the freeing of enslaved people by the authority that held them ● **freedmen:** a person freed from enslavement● **loyalty oath:** a promise or oath required of all who fought or aided the Confederacy, promising to never fight against the U.S.● **martial law:** military rule imposed on citizens instead of civil law and government. The South was placed under martial law after the Civil War● **poll tax:** a voting qualification under the 15th Amendment that required a person to pay a tax in order to register to vote● **reconstruction:** the post-Civil War period from 1865-1876. The U.S. readmitted the southern state to the Union, rebuilding the nation after the Civil War● **scalawags:** insulting name for white southerners who supported reconstruction efforts● **sharecropping:** a system of agriculture in which a landowner allowed a tenant farmer to use land in exchange for a share of the crop  | ● **Edmund Davis:** appointed Governor during Reconstruction under martial law and later elected Governor, serving from 1870-1874● **Freedmen’s Bureau:** an agency set up in 1865 to assist formerly enslaved people in obtaining relief, land, jobs, fair treatment, and education● **Ulysses S. Grant:** 18th President of the U.S. elected in 1868, he campaigned on his Civil War experience as commanding general of the Union forces● **Andrew Johnson:** 17th President of the U.S., he assumed this role after the assassination of Lincoln, serving 1865-1869● **Abraham Lincoln:** 16th President of the U.S., serving during the Civil War. He emancipated enslaved people, and was assassinated in 1865.● **Ku Klux Klan:** a secret terrorist organization in the U.S. made up of white people who are opposed to people of other races | ● **13th Amendment:** officially abolished slavery in all parts of the U.S. after the Civil War● **14th Amendment:** granted U.S. citizenship to all formerly enslaved people● **15th Amendment:** gave voting rights to all African American men● **Juneteenth:** a holiday celebrated on June 19th to commemorate the emancipation of enslaved people in the US. First celebrated in Texas in 1865, Juneteenth became a federal holiday in 2021 and is now celebrated across the U.S.  |