

Social Studies Unit 2 Reconstruction Study Guide with answers

1. Reconstruction – period of time after the Civil War when efforts were made to rejoin the South with the union
2. Black Codes – set of laws that limited the travel, voting, and working rights of newly freed African Americans
3. Freedmen’s Bureau – an organization set up by Congress to help former slaves by providing education, food, and other supplies
4. Sharecropping – a system used during reconstruction that helped keep plantations running in the south. The African Americans remained in debt to land owners and were not really independent. Some say it was still very similar to slavery.
5. 13th amendment – officially ended slavery in the United States
6. Citizenship- the state of being vested with the rights, privileges, and duties of a citizen
7. 14th amendment – provides citizenship rights to all former slaves. It nullified the black codes. States could not limit any of the rights of all of its citizens.
8. Due process of law –the regular application of the law, according to which no citizen may be denied his or her legal rights
9. 15th amendment – gave all men the right to vote. African Americans became active and involved in the government.
10. Segregation – forced separation of races. Jim Crow laws segregated schools, hospitals, etc.
11. Jim Crow laws – laws in the southern states that kept African Americans separate from other white Americans. They segregated African Americans in hospitals, schools, and other public places.
12. Primary source – first hand information on an event, place, or time period
13. Secondary source – information from someone who did NOT witness the event. They heard about it and reported the information.
14. Transcontinental railroad – western farmers shipped their cattle and wheat to the eastern states. Eastern merchants shipped cloth and tools to the farmers in the west. Chinese and other immigrants built the railroads. The Chinese immigrants faced discrimination – they were treated poorly (less pay, given dangerous jobs, etc) Congress encouraged the railroads by providing loans and land to build them – The Pacific Railway Act.
15. Prejudice – unfair negative opinion that can lead to unfair treatment
16. Homestead – name given to frontier land claimed by a settler in the west
17. Exoduster – name given to African American homesteaders in the Great Plains
18. Drought – a long period of time with no rain. Crops do not grow rapidly.
19. Sodbuster – a settler who farmed the Great Plains. They were called this because they had to break through the tough soil in order to farm.
20. Emancipation Proclamation – a speech given by President Abraham Lincoln in which he declared all the slaves in the South free.
21. Ku Klux Klan – a group of white men who target African Americans. They threatened, beat or killed them.

22. Impeach(ment) – to charge a government official with a crime
23. President Johnson – replaced President Lincoln after he was assassinated. Congress tried to impeach him (they were not successful – he was found not guilty) because they said he was not firm/strict enough with the southern states during the period of Reconstruction.
24. The Great Plains – the Midwest area of the United States. Harsh winters. They experienced droughts. Soil was difficult to farm. Farmers there eventually adapted. You should know more about this for your essay.
25. Effects of the new amendments – see the info on the 13th, 14th, and 15th amendments. Could be a potential essay question. Be sure you know details.
26. The Homestead Act – Congress offered huge plots of land (160 acres) for little money to adult citizens in exchange for them living and farming the land on the Great Plains for five years. After five years, they (the farmers) owned the land outright,

Extra stuff –

What marked the end of reconstruction – when government soldiers left the southern states