Key Words
(Reconstruction)

1. Amnesty-General pardon granted to a large group of people.

2. Southern Yeoman-Farmer who owned relatively little land and few or no slaves.

3. Black Codes-Laws passed by southern states that restricted the rights and liberties of former slaves.

4. Quasi-Slavery-Position that resembled slavery, such as that created by the Black Codes.

5. Rolling Stock-Locomotives, freight cars, and other types of wheeled equipment owned by the railroads.

6. Freedman’s Bureau-Federal agency created in 1865 to supervise newly freed people. It oversaw relations between whites and blacks in the South, issued food rations, and supervised labor contracts.

7. Share Wages-Payment of worker’s wages with a share of the crop rather than with cash.

8. Sharecropping-Working land in return for a share of the crop produced instead of payment cash rent.

9. 40 Acres and a mule-Largely unfulfilled hope of many former slaves that they would receive free land from the confiscated property of ex-Confederates.

10. Enfranchise-To grant the right to vote.

11. Scalawags-Terms used by Southern Democrats to describe southern whites who worked with the Republicans.


13. Union League-Organizations that informed African-American voters of, and mobilized them to, support the Republican Party.


15. Universal Male Suffrage-System that allowed all adult males to vote without regard to property, religious, or race qualifications or limitations.

16. Ulysses S. Grant-General-in-chief of the Union armies who led those armies into victory in the Civil War.
17. **Whiskey Ring**-Network of distillers and revenue agents that cheated the government out of millions of dollars.

18. **Credit Mobilier**-Construction company for the Union Pacific Railroad that gave shares of stock to some congressmen in return for favors.

19. **Spoils System**-System by which the victorious political party rewarded its supporters with government jobs.

20. **Patronage**-Government jobs given out by political figures to their supporters, regardless of their ability.

21. **Habeas Corpus**-Right of an individual to have the legality of his arrest and detention decided by a court.

22. **Transcontinental Railroad**-Railroad line that connected with other lines to provide continuous rail transportation from coast to coast.

23. **Filibuster**-Congressional delaying tactic involving lengthy speeches that prevent legislation from being enacted.

24. **Levee**-Earthen dike or mound, usually along the banks of rivers, used to prevent flooding.