


# Lesson Resources - Glossary Terms from "The Civil War"

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Glossary Terms from:  

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## **54th Massachusetts Regiment**

an African American regiment distinguished for valor during a battle at Fort Wagner

## **Abraham Lincoln**

16th president of the United States, 1861–1865, who led the United States during the Civil War

## **Anaconda Plan**

Union war plan to blockade the South by sea, take control of the Mississippi River, and slowly squeeze the Confederacy into submission

## **Andrew Johnson**

Lincoln's vice president who succeeded him after his assassination and presided over the early years of Reconstruction

## **Appomattox Court House**

a Virginia town that was the site of the Confederate surrender in 1865

## **Battle of Antietam**

the single bloodiest day of the Civil War and an important battle that ended in a stalemate and resulted in the Confederate army having to turn back from its attempt to capture Washington

## **Battle of Gettysburg**

Union victory over Confederate forces in 1863 near Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, that marked a turning point in the Civil War.

## **Battle of Shiloh**

an 1862 Civil War battle in Tennessee that ended in a Union victory

## **black codes**

southern laws that severely limited the rights of African Americans after the Civil War

## **blockade**

to use troops or ships to cut off access to an enemy location

## **carpetbaggers**

non-southerners who came to the South during Reconstruction to take advantage of its economic and political situation; carpetbaggers got the name because many came with travel bags made of carpet material

### **Clara Barton**

a Civil War nurse, often called “the Angel of the Battlefield” by the soldiers, who went on to found the American Red Cross

### **Compromise of 1877**

an agreement by Republican presidential candidate Rutherford B. Hayes to end Reconstruction in return for congressional Democrats accepting his inauguration as president after the disputed election of 1876

### **Confederate States of America**

a republic formed by 11 southern states that seceded from the United States in order to preserve slavery and states' rights

### **Copperheads**

Democrats who opposed Lincoln in the 1864 election

### **Crittenden Compromise**

a last-ditch effort at a compromise to amend the Constitution to protect slavery in states where it existed

### **democratization**

the process of a society becoming more democratic

### **disenfranchisement**

the deprivation of someone's power, right, or privilege, especially with regard to voting

### **Election of 1860**

a critical election in which Abraham Lincoln was elected as president, leading the South to secede from the Union

### **Election of 1864**

the presidential race where Abraham Lincoln won his second term over former General George McClellan

### **Elizabeth Blackwell**

first American female physician

### **Emancipation Proclamation**

an 1863 declaration by President Lincoln freeing enslaved African Americans in Confederate territory

### **Fifteenth Amendment**

a change to the Constitution that protected the right of former slaves to vote

**First Battle of Bull Run**

the first major battle of the Civil War resulting in a shocking victory for the Confederacy

**Fort Sumter**

the location of the first act of war during the Civil War

**Fourteenth Amendment**

a change to the Constitution that protected the rights of former slaves to be citizens

**Frederick Douglass**

former slave who became a famous writer, speaker, and a leader of the abolitionist movement

**Freedmen's Bureau**

agency established by Congress in March 1865 to provide social, educational, and economic services as well as advice and protection to former slaves

**George McClellan**

the general-in-chief of the entire Union army and direct commander of the Army of the Potomac during the Civil War

**George Meade**

a Union General during the Civil War who led the Army of the Potomac to victory in the Battle of Gettysburg and through the end of the war

**Gettysburg Address**

a famous Civil War speech given by President Lincoln in 1863 at the site of the Battle of Gettysburg

**habeas corpus**

principle that a person cannot be held in prison without first being charged with a specific crime

**impeachment**

to accuse a public official of wrongdoing in office

**Jefferson Davis**

President of the Confederacy during the Civil War and former United States senator from Missouri

**Jim Crow Laws**

Laws passed in the South after Reconstruction establishing segregation of whites and blacks.

**John Wilkes Booth**

an American actor and Confederacy supporter who assassinated President Abraham Lincoln on April 14, 1865

**March to the Sea**

300-mile march of destruction through Georgia and South Carolina led by Union General William Tecumseh Sherman

**Mary Walker**

a Union surgeon captured by Confederate forces and the first woman to receive the Medal of Honor

**mobilization**

to gather and maintain troops and resources necessary to wage war

**nadir**

the lowest point

**Northern Draft riots**

violent protests in New York City sparked by anger over conscription

**Panic of 1873**

an economic and financial crisis caused by low bank reserves and overinvestment in railroad stocks, and a time in which thousands of people lost their jobs

**Radical Republican**

a member of Congress during Reconstruction who wanted to break the power of wealthy southern plantation owners and ensure that freedmen received the right to vote

**Robert E. Lee**

the commander of the Confederate Army of Northern Virginia during the Civil War

**scalawags**

a disparaging term for southern whites who supported the southern Republican Party during Reconstruction

**secession**

the separation of a state from a nation

**sharecropping**

a system in which a farmer rents or leases farmland and shares the profits from the crops with the land owner

**siege**

a military blockade or encirclement of an enemy town or position with the purpose of forcing it to surrender

**Stonewall Jackson**

a successful general in the Confederate Army serving under Robert E. Lee

**Thirteenth Amendment**

a change to the Constitution that outlawed slavery

**total war**

a military strategy where the government makes no distinction between military and civilian targets, and mobilizes all resources, extending its reach into all areas of citizens' lives

**Ulysses S. Grant**

a Civil War general who initially commanded the Union Army of the West but was later promoted to commanding all of the Union forces

**Vicksburg**

site of 1863 Union victory that allowed the Union to control the entire Mississippi River and split the Confederacy in two

**William Tecumseh Sherman**

a Union General known for his use of total war strategy