

## UNIT THREE

# GLOSSARY

### **13<sup>th</sup> Amendment**

this change to the U.S. Constitution, ratified after the Civil War in 1865, abolished slavery in the United States

### **14<sup>th</sup> Amendment**

this change to the U.S. Constitution, ratified after the Civil War in 1868, gave citizenship to all people born in the U.S., including former enslaved people

### **15<sup>th</sup> Amendment**

this change to the U.S. Constitution, ratified after the Civil War in 1870, gave Black men the right to vote

### **40 acres and a mule**

in 1865, General William T. Sherman ordered the confiscation of 400,000 acres of land that once belonged to Southern plantation owners, and redistributed it to freed Black people in parcels of up to 40 acres (mules were later provided to aid farming efforts); the order was revoked by President Andrew Johnson less than a year later

### **amendment**

this is a change made to a document or statement; an article added to the U.S. Constitution

### **apprentice/apprenticeship**

someone who is learning a trade from a skilled worker and who works for low wages for a set period/a position as an apprentice

### **Black Codes**

laws, passed mostly in the South from 1865–1866, that restricted the freedom and movement of Black people and forced them to work for low wages

### **Civil War**

the U.S. Civil War took place from 1861 to 1865, and was fought between northern states loyal to the Union and southern states that had seceded in order to uphold the system of slavery; the war ended in April 1865 upon the surrender of the Confederate States, followed by the ratification of the 13<sup>th</sup> Amendment abolishing slavery later that year

### **Confederate**

of or relating to the Confederate States of America, the unrecognized breakaway states formed by the secession of 11 slave-holding states, that fought against the United States during the American Civil War to preserve slavery and white supremacy

### **emancipation**

freeing someone from the control of another

### **Emancipation Proclamation**

a statement and order made by President Abraham Lincoln on September 22, 1863, during the Civil War, setting enslaved people in the Confederacy free

### **emigrant**

a person who leaves their own country or place of residence to settle permanently elsewhere

### **enslaved person**

we say "enslaved person" instead of "slave" to emphasize their humanity

### **Exoduster**

a name given to Black people who migrated or moved from their home states in the South to states including Kansas, Oklahoma and Colorado following the Civil War in order to form new, freer communities

### **Freedmen's Bureau**

The Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen and Abandoned Lands was established in 1865 by Congress to help millions of former enslaved and poor white people in the South following the Civil War by providing food, housing, medical aid, education, land and more

### **HBCUs**

there are more than 100 historically Black colleges and universities in the U.S. established to serve the needs of the Black community; most are located in the South and were founded in the decades following the Civil War

### **homestead**

a house and the surrounding land owned by a family; the Homestead Act of 1862 provided citizens with public land if they agreed to live on it and improve it

### **Jim Crow**

a fictional minstrel character created in the 1830s, depicting a clumsy and dim-witted enslaved man; "Jim Crow" was a common insult for Black people

### **Jim Crow laws**

laws in place from 1876–1965 that segregated (separated) Black people from white people and limited their opportunity to vote, hold jobs, get an education and enjoy other freedoms

### **Juneteenth**

a holiday that commemorates the day (June 19, 1865) that Union soldiers landed at Galveston, Texas, and delivered the news to the last of the enslaved people in the South that the Civil War and slavery had ended

### **Ku Klux Klan**

hate organizations that have used terror to support a white supremacist belief system; the first KKK was founded after the Civil War and lasted until the 1870s. The other began in 1915 and has continued to the present

### **plantation**

a large property where crops are grown. Before the Civil War, many southern plantations used enslaved labor to farm cotton, tobacco and other crops

### **Reconstruction**

the act of building something again; the period after the Civil War, from 1865–1877, when steps were taken to remedy the inequalities of slavery and bring the 11 states that had seceded back into the U.S.

### **secede/secession**

the terms mean break away/separation. From 1860–61, 11 U.S. slave states seceded or withdrew from the Union, ultimately leading to the Civil War

### **segregate/segregation**

separate/the act of keeping different groups separate from each other; de jure segregation is enforced by law while de facto segregation refers to separation by "fact" or custom

### **union/Union**

the state of being joined together/the Northern states of the U.S. during the period of the Civil War

### **U.S. Congress**

the branch of the U.S. government responsible for passing laws; it is made up of the House of Representatives and the Senate

### **U.S. Constitution**

this document, first signed in 1787, established the U.S. government and set forth its fundamental laws and rights

### **vagrant/vagrancy**

someone who is homeless, poor and may drift from place to place/the state of wandering from place to place

### **white supremacist**

someone who believes that white people/culture are superior, white people should be dominant over other people, and/or white people should live separately in a whites-only society