

Civil War & Reconstruction Study Guide Answer Key

Name: _____

This Study Guide is due _____. The test will be on _____. Make sure you carefully and neatly answer all questions using complete sentences. You may use a separate sheet of paper if needed.

Key Terms (Define the following words)

- Abolitionist **people who wanted to end slavery**
- Secede **to leave and make one's own country**
- State's Rights **belief that the states had more power than the federal government and didn't have to obey federal laws**
- Sharecropping **a system of farming where plantation owners would lend former slaves a place to live in exchange for growing crops**
- Jim Crow Laws **laws that punished African Americans (usually by separating them from whites)**
- Freedman's Bureau **a U.S. government agency that was formed after the Civil War to help freed slaves**

Key People (Explain why the following people are important)

- Harriet Beecher Stowe **Harriet Beecher Stowe wrote the Book Uncle Tom's Cabin. Her book showed the evils of slavery and turned many people against it.**
- John Brown **John Brown was an abolitionist who led a raid on Harper's Ferry (a gun facility.) John Brown was captured and found guilty of treason but his raid proved people were willing to resort to violence to end slavery.**
- Abraham Lincoln **Abraham Lincoln was the 16th president of the United States. After he became president many southern states seceded. He was the president of the Union during the Civil War.**
- Jefferson Davis **Jefferson Davis was the president of the Confederate States of America (CSA) during the Civil War.**
- Ulysses S. Grant **Ulysses S. Grant was the North's leading general. His Union troops defeated the CSA. After the war he was elected president and served two terms.**
- Robert E. Lee **Robert E. Lee was a great military leader during the Civil War. He was originally offered a position with the Union but he chose to support Virginia instead. He fought for the CSA to support state's rights even though he was against slavery.**
- William T. Sherman **William T. Sherman led Sherman's March to the Sea.**
- Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson **Stonewall Jackson was a skilled general in the Confederate Army. He was called "Stonewall" because he was as calm as a stone wall during battles.**

Key Places (Describe why the following places were important during the Civil War & Reconstruction)

- Fort Sumter **The battle at Fort Sumter (in South Carolina) marked the start of the Civil War. Confederate soldiers fired at the Union troops that were inside Fort Sumter. The Confederacy won this battle.**
- Gettysburg **The battle at Gettysburg was important because it was a turning point in the Civil War. After this battle the Confederacy did not have a chance to win the Civil War.**
- Harper's Ferry **Harper's Ferry was an arsenal (gun facility) in West Virginia. It was raided by an abolitionist named John Brown and caused tension between the Northern and Southern states before the Civil War.**

- Appomattox Courthouse The Civil War ended when Robert E. Lee surrendered to Ulysses S. Grant at the Appomattox Courthouse in Virginia on April 9, 1865.

Key Events (Explain how the following events impacted the Civil War & Reconstruction Era)

- Atlanta Campaign William T. Sherman moved his army from Tennessee to Atlanta, GA. During their travels his troops fought against Confederate soldiers and caused a lot of destruction. A lot of the south has to be rebuilt after the Civil War because of the damage his troops caused.
- Sherman's March to the Sea After William T. Sherman's troops made it to Atlanta they traveled to Savannah (a city by the sea.) During the march the soldiers cut Confederate supply lines and crushed the spirit of the Confederate Army.
- 13th Amendment The 13th Amendment freed slaves in all states. This amendment abolished slavery in the U.S. and all U.S. territories.
- 14th Amendment The 14th Amendment made all former slaves citizens of the United States. It also granted citizenship to all people born in the U.S. and guaranteed them equal rights.
- 15th Amendment The 15th Amendment granted all American males the right to vote and hold a position in office.

Short Answer. (Answer all parts of the question using a complete sentence.)

- What were the two main causes of the Civil War? The two main causes of the Civil War were slavery and state's rights.
- Did former slaves benefit from sharecropping? Why or why not? Former slaves did not benefit from sharecropping. They made very little profit so they had to continue working to pay back money to the plantation owner
- Describe the differences between the North and South before the Civil War. Be sure to include specific details about views on slavery, state's rights and their economies. Before the Civil War the South had different views on slavery, state's rights and economics than the North did. The Southern states grew crops on large plantations to support their economy. They relied on slaves for labor and were afraid they would make no money if they did not have slave labor. The Southern states also believed that rights of a state were more important than federal laws. The Northern states felt that federal laws were the most important laws and that all states should stay in the Union. The Northern states had an industrial economy (relied on fishing and factories) and felt that slavery should be abolished.
- Name three ways the Freedman's Bureau helped people following the Civil War. The Freedman's Bureau helped people following the Civil War by providing food, clothing, shelter, education, medical care and legal aid.
- Was the 15th amendment effective? Why or why not? Directly following the Civil War the 15th Amendment was not effective. Even though African Americans had the right to vote many southern states required poll taxes and literacy tests. African Americans were too poor to pay poll taxes and had as slaves had not been taught to read.