

Reconstruction

(1865-1877)

Reconstruction, the period following the Civil War, was a time of **rebuilding** for the **south** and establishing **guidelines** to **readmit** the former Confederate states to the Union. It was also a time for assisting **ex-slaves** in beginning their lives as free men and women. To this end, a **Freedmen's Bureau** was established to aid former slaves and to protect their rights. The bureau provided food and clothing, set up schools and hospitals, and also helped the former slaves find jobs.

Also during this era, **Congress** passed three very important **amendments** to the **constitution** that each state was required to **ratify** for re-admission into the Union—the Thirteenth, Fourteenth, and Fifteenth Amendments, also known as the Reconstruction Amendments. The **Thirteenth** Amendment abolished slavery throughout the Union stating, "Neither slavery or **involuntary** servitude, except as punishment for crime whereof the party shall have been **duly convicted**, shall exist within the United States, or any place subject to their **jurisdiction**." The **Fourteenth** Amendment ensured **citizenship** rights for all blacks and granted **equal protection** and **due process** of law. This amendment reads, "...all persons born or **naturalized** in the United States, and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United States and of the State wherein they **reside**." Moreover, "...nor shall any State **deprive** any person of **life, liberty, or property**, without due process of law; nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws." Finally, the **Fifteenth** Amendment granted **sufrage** rights to all **males** stating, "The right of citizens of the United States to **vote** shall not be **denied** or **abridged** by the United States or by any State on account of **race, color**, or previous condition of **servitude**."

Find the underlined words or phrases in bold print in the puzzle to the right.

(Answer on page 154)

