

WORD LIST

Abolitionism—The belief championed by some groups in the 1800s that slavery should be immediately abolished, with all slaves freed and no money paid to their owners for the loss of their “property.”

Colonization—The belief championed by some groups in the 1800s that slaves should be gradually purchased back from their owners and returned to an African colony.

Emancipation of Proclamation—Executive order issued by President Abraham Lincoln to abolish slavery in the confederate states beginning January 1, 1863.

Fourteenth Amendment—Amendment to the U.S. Constitution passed by Congress in 1868 to protect the rights of former slaves by better defining who is a citizen. The amendment also declared that states must respect every person’s right to due process of law. This addressed the need to prevent citizens from being oppressed by other citizens.

Free State—Most territories who wanted to become a state in the new Union were required to ban slavery and be known as a free state. Whether they really eliminated slavery was a point of much debate. Former slaves living in free states were still subject to much oppression and the constant threat of being captured and returned to a slave state.

Martyr—A person who makes great sacrifices and suffers much, perhaps even losing his or her life, to champion a belief, cause or principle.

Slave State—These territories were allowed to become states in the new Union and continue slave ownership, although Congress banned all states from importing new slaves from other countries beginning in 1820.

Thirteenth Amendment—Amendment to the U.S. Constitution passed by Congress after the Civil War, in 1865, to abolish slavery throughout the United States. This amendment made permanent the action taken by President Abraham Lincoln during the Civil War to free slaves through the Emancipation of Proclamation.