



## *What's so Funny? Cartoons and Reconstruction*

### *Vocabulary List*

**Caricature:** A representation, especially visual, where the subject's distinctive features are exaggerated to produce a comic effect.

**Carpetbagger:** Northerners who moved to the South for economic and political control of ex-Confederate states during Reconstruction.

**Copperhead:** a Northern Democrat who opposed the Civil War, advocating peace and restoration of the Union even if slavery continued

**Emancipation:** obtaining political rights or equality.

**Freedman:** a man who has been freed from slavery.

**Gilded Age:** Post-Civil War and post-Reconstruction era, from the 1870s to the 1890s, which saw unprecedented economic, industrial, and population expansion.

**Ku Klux Klan.** Founded by veterans of the Confederate Army in 1866, its main purpose was to resist Reconstruction.

**Reconstruction:** The attempt from 1865 to 1877 to resolve the issues of the American Civil War. Reconstruction addressed the return to the Union of the secessionist Southern states, the status of the leaders of the Confederacy, and the Constitutional and legal status of the Freedmen. Violent controversy erupted over how to tackle those issues, and by the late 1870s Reconstruction had failed to equally integrate the Freedmen into the legal, political, economic and social system.

**Reconstruction Amendments:** Amendments to the United States Constitution passed from 1865 to 1870 to extend liberties to former slaves. The 13<sup>th</sup> amendment abolished slavery. The 14<sup>th</sup> amendment granted equal protection under the law. The 15<sup>th</sup> amendment gave African Americans and former slaves the right to vote.

**Symbolize:** express indirectly by an image, form, or model; be a symbol.

**White League:** Paramilitary white supremacist organization that operated during Reconstruction. Although sometimes likened to the secretive Ku Klux Klan, they operated openly and in large numbers. They specialized in the intimidation of carpetbagger candidates and officeholders.

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