Andrew Johnson was the only Southern Senator to remain loyal to the Union during the Civil War. As a reward, the pro-war Southern Democrat was appointed as military governor of Tennessee, and later asked to join Abraham Lincoln’s ticket as vice-presidential candidate.

RECONSTRUCTION refers to the period following the Civil War of rebuilding the United States. It was a time of great pain and endless questions. On what terms would the Confederacy be allowed back into the Union? Who would establish the terms, Congress or the President? What was to be the place of freed blacks in the South? Did Abolition mean that black men would now enjoy the same status as white men? What was to be done with the Confederate leaders, who were seen as traitors by many in the North?

Although the military conflict had ended, Reconstruction was in many ways still a war. This important struggle was waged by radical northerners who wanted to punish the South and Southerners who desperately wanted to preserve their way of life.

This drawing of African American soldiers returning to their families in Little Rock, Arkansas, after the war captures
the exuberant spirit of many former slaves upon gaining their freedom. They were soon to find out that freedom did not necessarily mean equality.

Slavery, in practical terms, died with the end of the Civil War. Three Constitutional amendments altered the nature of African-American rights. These are also known as the Reconstruction Amendments.

**The Reconstruction Amendments**

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CpiH2b923pc

**THIRTEEN AMENDMENT** - (passed by Congress on January 31, 1865, and ratified on December 6, 1865) Outlawed Slavery throughout the United States.

http://kids.laws.com/13th-amendment

President Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation declaring all slaves in the southern states were to be free; however, this did not guarantee freedom for all slaves. It did not free slaves in the Union states. Lincoln felt this was a temporary “fix” and so he and his fellow Republicans worked on passing an amendment that would do so.
14th Amendment

... 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.

FOURTEENTH AMENDMENT - (passed by Congress on June 13, 1866, and ratified on July 9, 1868) Prohibited states from depriving any male citizen of equal protection under the law, regardless of race.

Explanation of the 14th Amendment

http://kids.laws.com/14th-amendment

This amendment excluded Native American from being recognized as citizens.
FIFTEENTH AMENDMENT - (passed by Congress on February 26, 1869, and ratified on February 2, 1870)
Granted the right to vote to African-American males.

Even though this amendment was passed, many practices were used, especially in the Southern states, to prevent African Americans from exercising their voting rights. In 1965 the Voting Rights Act was signed into law to remove the barriers that denied African Americans the right to vote under the fifteenth amendment.

Ratification of these amendments became a requirement for Southern states to be readmitted into the Union. Although these measures were positive steps toward racial equality, their enforcement proved extremely difficult.

The period of PRESIDENTIAL RECONSTRUCTION lasted from 1865 to 1867. Andrew Johnson, as Lincoln’s successor, proposed a very lenient policy toward the South. He pardoned most Southern whites, appointed provisional governors and outlined steps for the creation of new state governments. Johnson felt that each state government could best decide how they wanted blacks to be treated. Many in the North were infuriated that the South would be returning their former Confederate leaders to power. They were also alarmed by Southern adoption of Black Codes that sought to maintain white supremacy. Recently freed blacks found the postwar South very similar to the pre war South.