Resource Sheet #7

Vocabulary Sheet

Abolitionist: A person who favors the abolition (doing away with wholly;

annulling; to making void) of any institution, especially slavery.

African-American,

Black,

People of color: of or belonging to a group of people having skin that is brown, or

being related to an African-American. Although African-American is the word preferred by many, black (or Black) is also widely used and is not offensive. As a noun, African-American is now more commonly used, but when describing historical events, black is still

often used.

bloodhound: a large dog that has a very good ability to smell things, and is used

for hunting animals or finding people who are lost.

carnage: the violent killing of large numbers of people, especially in war.

chivalry: very polite and honorable behavior, especially shown by men

towards women.

Civil War: a war fought between groups of people living in the same country,

especially the American Civil War, fought between 1861 and 1865.

discord: disagreement a lack of agreement or shared opinions.

ethics: a system of accepted beliefs which control behavior, especially

such a system based on morals.

feeble: weak and without energy, strength or power.

free-born: at birth not a prisoner or a slave (person legally owned by someone

else).

genres: a style, especially in the arts, that involves a particular set of

characteristics. In literature, a type of literary composition; Harper's genres are letters, poems, short stories, essays, novels (books),

and lectures.

gratitude: the feeling or quality of being grateful.

groveller (grovel): to behave with too much respect towards someone to show them

that you are very eager to please them.

idle: not working or being used.

laurels: praise for a person because of something which they have done,

usually in sport, the arts or politics.

19th **Century**: the period of time from 1801 to 1900.

temperance: the habit of not drinking alcohol because you believe it is

dangerous or wrong.

oppression: when people are governed in an unfair and cruel way and

prevented from having opportunities and freedom.

peril: great danger, or something that is very dangerous.

plunder: to steal goods violently from a place, especially during a war. 2 to

steal or remove something precious from something, in an immoral

or unnecessarily severe way.

scourge: something or someone that causes great suffering or a lot of

trouble

unfurled: used to add the meaning 'not', 'lacking' or 'the opposite of' before

adjectives, adverbs, verbs and nouns.

vain: unsuccessful or useless; of no value.

valiant: very brave or bravely determined, especially when things are

difficult or the situation gives no cause for hope.