Chapter 16

1861–1865

The Civil War

Why It’s Important

The Civil War—a war in which Americans fought other Americans—transformed the United States. It devastated the economy of the South while contributing to the rapid economic growth of the North and the West. African Americans gained freedom as slavery was abolished, but the war left a legacy of bitterness between North and South that lasted for generations. In addition the war established the power of the federal government over the states.

Chapter Themes

- Section 1, Government and Democracy
- Section 2, Geography and History
- Section 3, Groups and Institutions
- Section 4, Economic Factors
- Section 5, Individual Action

Primary Sources

See pages 966–967 for primary source readings to accompany Chapter 16

HISTORY AND ART

Fight for the Colors by Don Troiani  Troiani has painted several dramatic Civil War scenes, such as this one of the Battle of Gettysburg.
By February 1861, seven states had left the Union and formed the Confederacy. After the Confederate bombardment of Fort Sumter, President Abraham Lincoln issued a call for troops to save the Union. His action caused Virginia, North Carolina, Tennessee, and Arkansas to join the Confederacy. These four states brought needed soldiers, animals, industry, and food to the Confederacy, greatly increasing its chances of winning independence. For its capital, the Confederacy chose Richmond, Virginia, a city only about 100 miles from the Union capital of Washington, D.C.

Choosing Sides

Four states that allowed slavery—Missouri, Kentucky, Maryland, and Delaware—remained in the Union. The people of these border states were divided over whether to support the Union or join the Confederacy. Missouri, Kentucky, and Maryland had such strong support for the South that the three states teetered on the brink of secession.

Losing the border states would seriously damage the North. All had strategic locations. Missouri could control parts of the Mississippi River and major routes to the West. Kentucky controlled the Ohio River. Delaware was close to the important Northern city of Philadelphia.

Maryland, perhaps the most important of the border states, was close to Richmond. Vital
railroad lines passed through Maryland. Most significantly, Washington, D.C., lay within the state. If Maryland seceded, the North’s government would be surrounded.

Maryland’s key role became clear in April 1861—just a month after Lincoln’s inauguration as president. A mob in Baltimore attacked Northern troops marching through the city. Then, Confederate sympathizers burned railroad bridges and cut the telegraph line to Washington, isolating the capital from the rest of the North. Northern troops soon arrived, but the nation’s capital had suffered some anxious days.

**Remaining With the Union**

Lincoln had to move cautiously to avoid antagonizing people in the border states. If he announced that he aimed to end slavery, for instance, groups supporting the Confederacy might take their states out of the Union. If he ordered Northern troops into Kentucky, Confederate sympathizers there would claim the state had been invaded and swing it to the South.

In some ways Lincoln acted boldly. He suspended some constitutional rights and used his power to arrest people for active support of secession. Lincoln supported rebellion against Missouri’s pro-Confederate state government. In the end Lincoln’s approach worked. The four border states stayed in the Union—although thousands of their citizens left to join the armies of the South.

**A Secession from the South**

Most white Southerners favored secession. Still, pockets of Union support existed in eastern Tennessee and western Virginia. People in the Appalachian region generally opposed secession.

In western Virginia a movement to secede from the state and rejoin the Union grew. In 1861, 48 Virginia counties organized themselves as a separate state called West Virginia. Congress admitted this state to the Union in 1863.

**Comparing North and South**

When the war began, both sides had advantages and disadvantages. How they would use those strengths and weaknesses would determine the war’s outcome.

**Northern Strengths and Weaknesses**

The North enjoyed the advantages of a larger population to support the war effort, more industry, and more abundant resources than the South. It had a better banking system, which helped in raising money for the war. The North also possessed more ships, though most of them were old, and almost all the members of the regular navy remained loyal to the Union. Finally, the North had a larger and more efficient railway network.
The North also faced disadvantages. Bringing the Southern states back into the Union would be a difficult task. The North would have to invade and hold the South—a large area filled with a hostile population. Furthermore, public opinion in the North was divided over the war, and support for the war remained shaky until very near the end. Recalling the example of the American Revolution, when the smaller, weaker colonies had won independence from wealthy Great Britain, many people believed the South had a good chance of winning.

One Northern advantage was not obvious until later. Both sides greatly underestimated Abraham Lincoln. His dedication, intelligence, skill, and humanity led the North to victory.

Southern Strengths and Weaknesses

One of the main advantages of the South was the strong support its white population gave the war. Southerners also had the advantage of fighting in familiar territory—defending their land, their homes, and their way of life.

The military leadership of the South, at least at first, was superior to the North’s. Southern families had a strong tradition of military training and service, and military college graduates provided the South with a large pool of officers. Overseeing the Southern effort was Confederate president Jefferson Davis, a West Point graduate and experienced soldier who took a keen interest in the activities of his War Department.

The South faced material disadvantages. It had a smaller population of free men to draw upon in building an army. It also possessed very few factories to manufacture weapons and other supplies, and it produced less than half as much food as the North. With less than half the miles of railroad tracks and vastly fewer trains than the North, the Confederate government had difficulty delivering food, weapons, and other supplies to its troops.

The belief in states’ rights—a founding principle of the Confederacy—also hampered the South’s efforts. The individual states refused to give the Confederate government enough power to fight the war effectively.

War Aims and Strategy

The North and the South entered the Civil War with different war aims. To achieve these aims and win the war, each side devised its own strategy.

Northern Aims and Strategies

The main goal of the North at the outset was to win the war and bring the Southern states back into the Union. Ending slavery was not a major Northern goal at first, but this changed as the war continued.

The Union’s plan for winning the war included three main strategies. First, using its superior navy, the North would blockade, or close, Southern ports to prevent supplies from reaching the South—and to prevent the South from earning...
money by exporting cotton. Second, the Union intended to gain control of the Mississippi River to cut Southern supply lines and to split the Confederacy. Third, the North planned to capture Richmond, the Confederate capital.

Southern Aims and Strategies

For the South the primary aim of the war was to win recognition as an independent nation. Independence would allow Southerners to preserve their traditional way of life—a way of life that included slavery.

To achieve this goal, the South devised a defensive strategy. It planned to defend its homeland, holding on to as much territory as possible until the North tired of fighting and agreed to recognize the independence of the Confederacy. The South expected that Britain and France, which imported large quantities of Southern cotton, would pressure the North to end the war so that their cotton supply would be restored.

During the war Southern leaders sometimes changed strategy and took the offensive—went on the attack. They would move their armies northward to threaten Washington and other Northern cities, hoping to persuade the North that it could not win the war.

American People at War

Both North and South had to contend with conflicting loyalties that split families and divided friends. The Civil War was more than a war between the states. It often pitted brother against brother, parents against their children, and neighbor against neighbor.

American Against American

The leaders from both North and South—and their families—felt these divisions. President Lincoln’s wife, Mary Todd Lincoln, had a brother, three half brothers, and three brothers-in-law who fought in the Confederate army. John Crittenden, a senator from Kentucky, had two sons who became generals in the war—one for the Confederacy and one for the Union. Officers on both sides—including Confederate president Davis, Confederate general Robert E. Lee, and Union generals George McClellan and William Tecumseh Sherman—had attended the United States Military Academy at West Point, never dreaming that they would one day command forces against each other.

Sometimes, family members actually faced each other in combat. In one battle a Union regiment commanded by a man from West Virginia attacked a Confederate regiment from Virginia commanded by his cousin.

Who Were the Soldiers?

Most of the soldiers were inexperienced, and many were young. The average age of a recruit was about 25 years, but about 40 percent were 21 years or younger. Ted Upson of Indiana was only 16 when he begged his father to let him join the Union army. “This Union your ancestors and mine helped to make must be saved from destruction,” he said.

William Stone from Louisiana rushed to join the Confederate army after the attack on Fort Sumter. His sister Kate wrote that he was

“... wild to be off to Virginia. He so fears that the fighting will be over before he can get there.”
Soldiers came from all parts of both sections of the country and all walks of life. Most, though, came from farms. Almost half of the North’s troops and more than 60 percent of the South’s had owned or worked on farms. The Union army did not permit African Americans to join at first, but they did serve later.

Early terms of enlistment were short. After the shelling of Fort Sumter, Lincoln asked state governors to supply soldiers for 90 days. When the conflict did not end quickly, soldiers’ terms became longer. In the first year of the war, leaders in both the North and the South asked volunteers to sign up for 3 years of service.

By the summer of 1861, the Confederate army had about 112,000 soldiers, who were sometimes called Rebels. The Union had about 187,000 soldiers, or Yankees as they were also known. By the end of the war, about 850,000 men fought for the Confederacy and about 2.1 million men fought for the Union. The Union number included just under 200,000 African Americans. Approximately 10,000 Hispanic soldiers fought in the conflict.

False Hopes

When the war began, each side expected a brief conflict and an early victory. Many Southerners believed that Northern soldiers lacked the conviction needed to win the war. A Confederate soldier from Alabama expected the war to be over within a year because “we are going to kill the last Yankee before that time if there is any fight in them still.” Northerners were just as confident that they would beat the South quickly—“in thirty days,” according to one newspaper.

Some leaders saw the situation more clearly. Northern general William Tecumseh Sherman wrote, “I think it is to be a long war—very long—much longer than any politician thinks.” The first spring of the war proved that Sherman’s prediction was accurate.
Early Years of the War

Read to discover... 
- what successes and failures the North and the South had in the early years of the Civil War.
- how the North’s naval blockade hurt the South.

Terms to learn
blockade runner casualty ironclad

The Storyteller

Sunday, July 21, 1861, was a pleasant, sunny day in Washington, D.C. Hundreds of cheerful residents, food baskets in hand, left the city and crossed the Potomac River to spend the day in Virginia. They planned to picnic while watching the first battle between the Union and the Confederate armies. Expecting to see the Union troops crush the Rebels, they looked forward to a quick victory. The Confederate soldiers also expected a quick victory. They “carried dress suits with them, and any quantity of fine linen. Every soldier, nearly, had a servant with him, and a whole lot of spoons and forks, so as to live comfortably and elegantly in camp. . . .”

First Battle of Bull Run

The first major battle of the Civil War was fought in northern Virginia, about 5 miles from a town called Manassas Junction near Bull Run—a small river in the area. Usually called the First Battle of Bull Run, it began when about 30,000 inexperienced Union troops commanded by General Irvin McDowell attacked a slightly smaller, equally inexperienced Confederate force led by General P.G.T. Beauregard.

The Yankees drove the Confederates back at first. Then the Rebels rallied, inspired by reinforcements under General Thomas Jackson. Jackson, who was seen holding out “like a stone wall,” became known thereafter as “Stonewall” Jackson. The Confederates unleashed a savage counterattack that forced the Union lines to break.

The Confederates surged forward with a strange, unearthly scream that came to be known as the Rebel yell. Terrified, the Northern soldiers began to drop their guns and packs and run. One observer, Representative Albert Riddle, reported:

“A cruel, crazy, mad, hopeless panic possessed them. . . . The heat was awful . . . the men were exhausted—their mouths gaped, their lips cracked and blackened with the powder of the cartridges they had bitten off in the battle, their eyes staring in frenzy.”
The Union army began an orderly retreat that quickly became a mad stampede when the retreating Union troops collided with the civilians, fleeing in panic back to Washington.

The Confederates, though victorious, were too disorganized and weakened to pursue the retreating Yankees. Regardless, the South rejoiced. Edmund Ruffin of Virginia thought it meant “the close of the war.”

**A Shock for the North**

The outcome of the battle shocked the North. Northerners began to understand that the war could be a long, difficult, and costly struggle. Although discouraged by the results, President Abraham Lincoln was also determined. Within days he issued a call for more volunteers for the army. This time he requested 1 million soldiers who would serve for 3 years. Volunteers soon crowded into recruiting offices. Lincoln also appointed a new general, George B. McClellan, to head the Union army of the East—called the **Army of the Potomac**—and organize the troops.

**War at Sea**

Even before Bull Run, Lincoln had ordered a planned naval blockade of Southern ports. An effective blockade would prevent the South from exporting its cotton and importing the supplies necessary to continue the war.

**Enforcing the Blockade**

When the war began, the North did not have enough ships to blockade the South’s entire 3,500-mile coastline. Many Confederate ships, called **blockade runners**, could sail in and out of Southern ports. In time, the North built more ships and became better able to enforce the blockade.

The blockade caused serious problems for the South. Although the blockade could never close off all Southern trade, it did reduce the trade by two-thirds. Goods such as coffee, shoes, nails, and salt—as well as guns and ammunition—were in short supply throughout the war.

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**Footnotes to History**

**Different Names, Same Battle** Many Civil War battles have two names. The Union named battles after the nearest body of water. The Confederacy named them after the nearest settlement. Therefore, the battle called the Battle of Bull Run (a river) in the North was known as the Battle of Manassas (a settlement) in the South.
The Monitor Versus the Merrimack

The South did not intend to let the blockade go unchallenged. Southerners salvaged the **Merrimack**, a Union warship that Northern forces had abandoned when Confederate forces seized the naval shipyard in **Norfolk, Virginia**. The Confederates rebuilt the wooden ship, covered it with thick iron plates, and renamed it the **Virginia**.

On March 8, 1862, this **ironclad** warship attacked a group of Union ships off the coast of Virginia. The North’s wooden warships could not damage the Confederate ship—shells simply bounced off its sides.

Some Northern leaders feared the South would use the ironclad warship to destroy much of the Union navy, steam up the Potomac River, and bombard Washington, D.C. However, the North had already built an ironclad ship of its own, the **Monitor**. Described as looking like a “tin can on a shingle,” the Monitor rushed south to engage the Confederate ship in battle.

On March 9, the two ironclads exchanged fire, but neither ship could sink the other. The Union succeeded in keeping the **Merrimack** in the harbor, so it never again threatened Northern ships. The battle marked a new age in naval warfare—the first battle between two metal-covered ships.
War in the West

After the First Battle of Bull Run in July 1861, military operations in the East settled into a long stalemate as each side built up its strength. Generals focused on training their raw recruits, trying to turn civilians into disciplined soldiers. For a while the action shifted to the West.

Early Victories for the North

One of the North’s primary goals in the West was to gain control of the Mississippi and Tennessee Rivers. This would split the Confederacy and hinder Southern efforts to transport goods.

In February 1862, Union forces under General Ulysses S. Grant captured Fort Henry on the Tennessee River and Fort Donelson on the Cumberland River, both in northern Tennessee. Grant’s victories helped secure the lower Tennessee River. They also opened a path for Union troops to march into Tennessee, Mississippi, and Alabama. The victories drove the Confederates out of Kentucky, where the South had been attempting to persuade Kentuckians to secede.

The Battle of Shiloh

General Grant and about 40,000 troops then headed south along the Tennessee River toward Corinth, Mississippi, an important railroad junction. In early April the Union army camped at Pittsburg Landing, 20 miles from Corinth. Nearby was a small church named Shiloh. Additional Union forces started from Nashville to join Grant.

Confederate leaders decided to strike first before the reinforcements arrived. Early in the morning of April 6, Confederate forces led by Albert Sidney Johnston and P.G.T. Beauregard launched a surprise attack on the Union troops. The Battle of Shiloh lasted 2 days, with some of the most bitter and bloody fighting of the war. On the first day of battle, the Confederates drove Grant and his troops back to the Tennessee River. On the second day, the Union forces recovered. Aided by the 25,000 troops from Nashville and shelling by gunboats on the river, they defeated the Confederates, who withdrew to Corinth.

The losses in the Battle of Shiloh were enormous. Together the two armies suffered 20,000 casualties—people killed or wounded. Confederate general Johnston also died in the bloodbath. One Confederate soldier lamented that the battle “was too shocking [and] too horrible.”

After their narrow victory at Shiloh, Union forces gained control of Corinth on May 30. Memphis, Tennessee, fell to Union armies on June 6. The North seemed well on its way to controlling the Mississippi River.

New Orleans Falls

A few weeks after Shiloh, the North won another important victory. On April 25, 1862, Union naval forces under David Farragut captured New Orleans, Louisiana, the largest city in the South. Farragut, who was of Spanish descent, had grown up in the South but remained loyal to the Union.

His capture of New Orleans, near the mouth of the Mississippi River, meant that the Confederacy could no longer use the river to carry its crops to sea. Coupled with Grant’s victories to the north, Farragut’s capture of New Orleans gave Union forces control of almost all the Mississippi River.

War in the East

In the East General McClellan was training the Army of the Potomac to be an effective fighting force. An expert at training soldiers, McClellan showed great caution when faced with
the prospect of battle, and he worried continually that his troops were not ready. He also hesitated to fight because of reports that overestimated the size of the Rebel forces. Finally, in March 1862, the Army of the Potomac was ready for action. Its goal was to capture Richmond, the Confederate capital.

**Union Defeat at Richmond**

Instead of advancing directly overland to Richmond as Lincoln wished, McClellan moved his huge army by ship to a peninsula between the York and the James Rivers southeast of the city. From there he began a major offensive known as the Peninsula Campaign. The operation took many weeks.

Time passed and opportunities to attack slipped away as General McClellan readied his troops and tried to evaluate the enemy’s strength. Lincoln, constantly prodding McClellan to fight, ended one message with an urgent plea: “You must act.” Complaining of his difficult situation, McClellan did not attack. His delays allowed the Confederates to prepare their defense of Richmond.

McClellan and his army inched slowly toward Richmond, getting so close that the troops could hear the city’s church bells ringing. At the end of June, the Union forces finally met the Confederates in a series of encounters known as the Seven Days battles.

In these battles Confederate general Robert E. Lee took command of the army opposing McClellan. Before the battles began, Lee’s cavalry leader, James E.B. (J.E.B.) Stuart, performed a daring tactic. He led his 1,200 troopers in a circle around the Union army, gathering vital information about Union positions and boosting Southern morale. Stuart lost only one man in the action. General Lee then boldly countered Union advances and eventually drove the Yankees back to the James River. The Union troops had failed to capture Richmond.

**Gloom in the North**

Reports from Richmond disheartened the North. Despite the good news in the West, failure to take the Confederate capital left Northerners with little hope. There was another call for volunteers—300,000 this time—but the response was slow. The Southern strategy of making the North weary of war seemed to be working.

The defeat had not been complete, however. McClellan’s army had been pushed back, but it was still larger than Lee’s and still only 25 miles from Richmond. When McClellan failed to renew the attack, President Lincoln ordered him to move his army back to northern Virginia and join the troops led by Major General John Pope.

The bold Lee sent Stonewall Jackson’s forces north to attack Pope’s supply base at Manassas. Jackson’s troops marched 50 miles in 2 days and were then joined by the rest of Lee’s army. On
August 29 Pope attacked the approaching Confederates and started the Second Battle of Bull Run. This battle, like the first, ended in a Confederate victory. Richmond was no longer threatened. Indeed the situation of the 2 sides was completely reversed. Lee and the Confederates now stood only 20 miles from Washington, D.C.

The Battle of Antietam

Following these Southern victories, Confederate president Jefferson Davis ordered Lee to launch an offensive into Maryland northwest of Washington. He hoped another victory would win aid from Great Britain and France. Davis also issued a proclamation urging the people of Maryland to join the Confederacy, but he received no response.

As Lee’s army marched into Maryland in September 1862, McClellan and 80,000 Union troops moved slowly after them. On September 13 the North had an extraordinary piece of good luck. In a field near Frederick, Maryland, 2 Union soldiers found a copy of Lee’s orders for his army wrapped around 3 cigars. The small bundle had probably been dropped by a careless Southern officer. Now McClellan knew exactly what Lee planned to do. He also learned that Lee’s army was divided into 5 parts, providing McClellan with an opportunity to overwhelm Lee’s army one piece at a time.

Once again, however, McClellan was overly cautious. He waited four days before he decided to attack the Confederates. This enabled Lee to gather most of his forces together near Sharpsburg, Maryland, along the Antietam Creek.

The Union and the Confederate armies clashed on September 17 in the Battle of Antietam. It was the single bloodiest day of the entire war. A Union officer wrote that “the slain lay in rows precisely as they had stood in their ranks a few minutes before.” By the time the fighting ended, close to 6,000 soldiers lay dead or dying, and another 17,000 were seriously wounded. Although both armies suffered heavy losses, neither was destroyed.

The day after the battle, Lee withdrew to Virginia. The Confederate retreat allowed the Union troops to claim victory. However, McClellan, who had been ordered by President Lincoln to “destroy the rebel army,” did not pursue the Confederate troops. The president, disgusted with McClellan’s failure to follow up his victory, removed McClellan from his command in November. Lincoln placed General Ambrose Burnside in command of the Army of the Potomac.

Antietam had a profound impact on the war. The Army of the Potomac finally gained some confidence, having forced Lee and his soldiers back south. More important, the battle marked a major change in Northern war aims. President Lincoln used the battle to take action against slavery.

Checking for Understanding

1. Identify George B. McClellan, Monitor and Merrimack, Ulysses S. Grant, David Farragut, Robert E. Lee.
2. Define blockade runner, ironclad, casualty.
3. Explain why the North wanted to blockade Southern ports.

Reviewing Themes

4. Geography and History What were the

Critical Thinking

5. Analyzing Information Why was Union general McClellan not effective as a military commander?

Activity

Drawing a Cartoon Draw a cartoon that would accompany a front-page story describing the battle between the Merrimack and Monitor.
A Call for Freedom

Read to Discover . . .

- Why Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation.
- What role African Americans played in the Civil War.

Terms to Learn

emancipate ratify

Storyteller

The rain poured on the little cabin in South Carolina. Inside, old and young slaves filled the room, sitting around a large, wooden table. One held a watch in his hand, staring at it intently. A young boy held a lit torch so a Yankee officer could see to read the president’s Proclamation of Freedom. As the watch ticked closer to midnight, a deep silence fell. The holder of the watch counted: five, four, three, two, . . . Just then a loud strain of a banjo was heard. Free! They were free Americans at last!

From the start of the war through the brutal Battle of Antietam, the Northerners’ main goal was to preserve the Union rather than to destroy slavery. Abolitionists did not control the North, or even the Republican Party. Abraham Lincoln and other Republican leaders insisted on many occasions that they would act only to prevent the expansion of slavery.

Although Lincoln considered slavery immoral, he hesitated to move against slavery because of the border states. Lincoln knew that making an issue of slavery would divide the people—both in the border states and in the North—and make the war less popular.

In August 1862, Abraham Lincoln responded to pressure to declare an end to slavery with a public letter stating his views.

“If I could save the Union without freeing any slave, I would do it; and if I could save it by freeing all the slaves, I would do it; and if I could save it by freeing some and leaving others alone, I would also do that.”

That was, Lincoln added, his official position. His personal wish was “that all men everywhere could be free.”

Emancipation

As the war went on, attitudes toward slavery began to change. More and more Northerners believed that slavery was helping
the war effort in the South. The 3.5 million slaves in the Confederacy formed the backbone of the Southern economy. They raised much of the crops used to feed the armies, and they did the heavy work in the trenches at the army camps. In their view anything that weakened slavery struck a blow against the Confederacy.

As early as May 1861, some African Americans in the South escaped slavery by going into territory held by the Union army. In 1861 and 1862, Congress passed laws that freed enslaved people who were used to support the Confederate war effort or held by people active in the rebellion against the Union.

The Emancipation Proclamation

Lincoln was keenly aware of the shifts in public opinion. He also knew that striking a blow against slavery would make Britain and France less likely to aid the South. Moreover, Lincoln became convinced that slavery helped the South continue fighting. Every enslaved person who worked enabled a white Southerner to fight in the Confederate army.

Lincoln had political reasons as well for taking action on slavery. He believed it was important that the president rather than the antislavery Republicans in Congress make the decision on ending slavery. Lincoln told his cabinet, “I must do the best I can, and bear the responsibility.”

By the summer of 1862, Lincoln had decided to emancipate, or free, all enslaved African Americans in the South. He waited, however, for the right moment. He did not want to appear to be acting in desperation when the North seemed to be losing the war.

After the Union forces turned back the Confederate troops at the Battle of Antietam, Lincoln decided to act. Five days after that battle, on September 22, 1862, he announced his plan to issue an order freeing all enslaved people in the Confederacy. On January 1, 1863, Lincoln formally signed the Emancipation Proclamation, which said that

“... all persons held as slaves within any state ... in rebellion against the United States, shall be then, thenceforward, and forever free.”

Effects of the Proclamation

Because the Emancipation Proclamation applied only to areas that the Confederacy controlled, it did not actually free anyone. Lincoln knew, however, that many enslaved people would hear about the proclamation. He hoped that knowledge of it would encourage them to run away from their slaveholders. Even before the Emancipation Proclamation, some 100,000 African Americans had left slavery for the safety of Union lines.

Despite the limitations of the Emancipation Proclamation, African Americans in the North greeted it joyfully. On the day it was signed, a crowd of African Americans gathered at the White House to cheer the president. Frederick
Douglass wrote, “We shout for joy that we live to record this righteous decree.”

The proclamation had the desired effect in Europe as well. The Confederacy had been seeking support from its longtime trading partners, Britain and France. However, the British took a strong position against slavery. Once Lincoln proclaimed emancipation, Britain—and France as well—decided to withhold recognition of the Confederacy.

In 1864 Republican leaders in Congress prepared a constitutional amendment to abolish slavery everywhere in the United States. In 1865 Congress passed the Thirteenth Amendment, which was ratified, or approved, the same year by states loyal to the Union. It was this amendment that truly freed the slaves in the United States.

**African Americans Help**

The Emancipation Proclamation and the Thirteenth Amendment changed the status of enslaved African Americans. Meanwhile, in both the South and the North, the war changed the lives of all African Americans.

**In the South**

When the Civil War began, about 3.5 million enslaved people lived in the Confederacy. Making up almost 40 percent of the region’s population and the bulk of its workforce, slaves labored on plantations and in the vital iron, salt, and lead mines. Some also worked as nurses in military hospitals and cooks in the army. By the end of the war, about one-fourth of the enslaved population had fled to areas controlled by Union armies.

The possibility of a slave rebellion terrified white Southerners. For this reason most Southerners refused to consider using African Americans as soldiers—for then they would be given weapons.

Near the end of the war, however, the military situation of the Confederacy became desperate. Robert E. Lee and some other leaders supported using African Americans as soldiers and believed that those who fought should be freed. The Confederate Congress passed a law in 1865 to enlist enslaved people, although the law did not include automatic freedom. The war ended before any regiments could be organized.

**Helping the North**

The story was different in the North. At the start of the war, African Americans were not permitted to serve as soldiers in the Union army. This was a bitter disappointment to thousands of free African Americans living in the North who volunteered to fight for the Union.

Yet African Americans who wished to help the war effort found ways to do so. Although the army would not accept African American volunteers, the Union navy did. African Americans who had escaped slavery often proved to be especially useful to the North as guides and spies because of their knowledge of the South. Some women helped in this way as well. Harriet Tubman, who had helped hundreds escape slavery by way of the Underground Railroad, repeatedly spied behind Confederate lines.

In 1862 Congress passed a law allowing African Americans to serve in the Union army. As a result both free African Americans and those who had escaped slavery began enlisting. In the Emancipation Proclamation, Lincoln supported

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**Footnotes to History**

_A Soldier’s ID_ Heavy death tolls in battle led Civil War soldiers to devise the first dog tags for identification if they were killed. Soldiers printed their names and addresses on handkerchiefs or paper, which they pinned to their clothing before going into battle.
the use of African American soldiers, and this helped increase the movement of African Americans into the military.

By the end of the war, African American volunteers made up nearly 10 percent of the Union army and 20 percent of the navy. In all, more than 200,000 African Americans served. About 37,000 lost their lives defending the Union.

By becoming soldiers, African Americans were taking an important step toward securing civil rights. Abolitionist Frederick Douglass, himself an escaped slave, understood the point well:

“[Just] once let the black man get upon his person the brass letters, U.S.; let him get an eagle on his button, and a musket on his shoulder and bullets in his pocket, and there is no power on earth which can deny that he has earned the right to citizenship.”

African American Soldiers

African American soldiers were organized into regiments separate from the rest of the Union army. Most commanding officers of these regiments were white. African Americans received lower pay than white soldiers at first, but protests led to equal pay in 1864.

One of the most famous African American regiments was the 54th Massachusetts, led by white abolitionists. On July 18, 1863, the 54th spearheaded a dramatic attack on a Confederate fortification near Charleston, South Carolina. With Colonel Robert Gould Shaw shouting, “Forward Fifty-Fourth!” the troops charged ahead and battled their way to the top of the fort. The Confederates drove them back with heavy fire. Nearly half of the soldiers in the 54th were wounded, captured, or killed. Their bravery under fire won respect for African American troops.

Lincoln’s political opponents criticized the use of African American soldiers. Lincoln replied by quoting General Grant. Grant had written him that African Americans “will make good soldiers and taking them from the enemy weakens him in the same proportion they strengthen us.”

Many white Southerners, outraged by the African American soldiers, threatened to execute any that they captured. In a few instances, this threat was carried out. However, slaves were overjoyed when they saw that the Union army included African American soldiers. As one African American regiment entered Wilmington, North Carolina, a soldier wrote, “Men and women, old and young, were running throughout the streets, shouting and praising God. We could then truly see what we have been fighting for.”

Section 3 Assessment

Checking for Understanding
1. Identify Emancipation Proclamation, Thirteenth Amendment, Harriet Tubman.
2. Define emancipate, ratify.
3. Summarize President Lincoln’s reasons for issuing the Emancipation Proclamation.

Reviewing Themes
4. Groups and Institutions Why did abolitionist Frederick Douglass think it was important for African Americans to be allowed to fight in the Civil War?

Critical Thinking
5. Making Comparisons How did President Lincoln’s political and personal stands on slavery differ during the war?

Activity
Sewing a Banner Imagine that you are an enslaved African American and you learn about the passage of the Thirteenth Amendment. Using material, thread, beads, and/or felt letters, sew a banner that you anticipate carrying in a parade after the Civil War is over.
In both the North and the South, civilians and soldiers suffered terrible hardships and faced new challenges. In touching letters to their families and friends at home, soldiers described what they saw and how they felt—their boredom, discomfort, sickness, fear, and horror.

**The Lives of Soldiers**

At the start of the war, men in both the North and the South rushed to volunteer for the armies. Their enthusiasm did not last. Most of the time, the soldiers lived in camps. Camp life had its pleasant moments of songs, stories, letters from home, and baseball games. Often, however, a soldier’s life was dull, a routine of drills, bad food, marches, and rain.

During lulls between battles, Confederate and Union soldiers sometimes forgot that they were enemies. A Southern private described a Fourth of July on the front lines in 1862:

“Our boys and Yanks made a bargain not to fire at each other . . . and talked over the fight, and traded tobacco and coffee and newspaper as peacefully and kindly as if they had not been engaged . . . in butchering one another.”

**The Reality of War**

In spite of the fleeting moments of calm, the reality of war was never far away. Both sides suffered terrible losses in the fighting. The new rifles
used during the Civil War fired with greater accuracy than the muskets of earlier wars.

Both sides used trench warfare. Soldiers dug trenches in the ground to hold their positions; they often inflicted great damage on attackers. Some generals, however, continued to launch charge after charge toward the trenches, resulting in thousands of casualties.

Medical facilities were overwhelmed by the thousands of casualties in each battle. After the Battle of Shiloh, many wounded soldiers lay in the rain for more than 24 hours waiting for treatment. A Union soldier reported, “Many had died there, and others were in the last agonies as we passed. Their groans and cries were heart-rending.”

Faced with such horrors, many men deserted. About one of every 11 Union soldiers and one of every 8 Confederates ran away because of fear, hunger, or sickness. Rebel soldiers suffered from a lack of food and supplies that worsened during the war. One reason for Lee’s invasion of Maryland in 1862 was to allow his hungry army to feed off Maryland crops. A woman who saw the Confederates march to Antietam recalled the “gaunt starvation that looked from their cavernous eyes.”

Women and the War

Many Northern and Southern women took on new responsibilities during the war. They became teachers, office workers, salesclerks, and government workers. They worked in factories and managed farms. They also suffered the loss of husbands, fathers, sons, and brothers. As Southerner Mary Chesnut wrote:

“Does anyone wonder [why] so many women die? Grief and constant anxiety kill nearly as many women at home as men are killed on the battle-field.”

Aiding the Troops

Women performed many jobs that helped the soldiers and the armies. They rolled bandages, wove blankets, and made ammunition. Many women collected food, clothing, and medicine for distribution to the troops. They also raised money to buy needed supplies.

Some women served as spies. While Harriet Tubman spied for the North, Rose O’Neal Greenhow entertained Union leaders in Washington, D.C., picking up information about Union plans that she passed to the South. Greenhow was caught, convicted of treason, and exiled, eventually going to Britain. Belle Boyd of Front Royal, Virginia, kept Confederate generals informed of Union army movements in the Shenandoah Valley. A few women even disguised themselves as men and became soldiers. Loretta Janeta Velázquez fought for the South at the First Battle of Bull Run and at Shiloh. Later the Havana, Cuba, native became a spy for the Confederacy.

Treating the Sick and Wounded

In the Civil War, for the first time, thousands of women served as nurses. At first many doctors did not want women nurses on the grounds that women were too delicate for such work. Men also
disapproved of women doing what was considered male work, and they felt it was improper for women to tend the bodies of unknown men.

Strong-minded women disregarded these objections. In the North Dorothea Dix organized large numbers of women to serve as military nurses. Another Northerner, Clara Barton, became famous for her work with wounded soldiers. Barton later founded the American Red Cross. In the South Sally Tompkins established a hospital for soldiers in Richmond, Virginia.

Nursing was not easy work. Kate Cummings of Alabama, who nursed the wounded in Corinth after the Battle of Shiloh, wrote, “Nothing that I had ever heard or read had given me the faintest idea of the horrors witnessed here.” Yet women did a remarkable job in the war.

Opposition to the War

The war efforts of the Union and the Confederate governments faced opposition. Politicians objected to wartime policies, and ordinary citizens protested the way the war affected their lives.

Opposition in the North

When the war began, Northern Democrats split into two groups. One group supported most of Lincoln’s wartime policies. The other, the “Peace Democrats,” opposed the president and favored negotiating with the Confederacy. The Peace Democrats warned that continuing the war would lead to “terrible social change and revolution.” They also appealed to racist feelings among Northern whites. Republican newspapers likened the Peace Democrats to poisonous snakes, calling them Copperheads. When Union armies fared poorly, support for the Copperheads rose.

Some Republicans suspected Copperheads of actively aiding the Confederates. The president ordered the arrest of anyone who interfered with the war effort—such as discouraging men from enlisting in the army. Several times Lincoln suspended the right of habeas corpus, which guarantees accused individuals the right to a hearing before being jailed. Lincoln defended his actions by asking, “Must I shoot a simple-minded soldier boy who deserts while I must not touch a hair of a wily agitator who induces him to desert?”

Enlistments Decline

As the war dragged on, the numbers of volunteers declined in both the North and the South. Enlisting enough soldiers became a problem, and both sides tried new measures.

In April 1862, the Confederate Congress passed a draft law that required men between ages 18 and 35 to serve in the army for three years. A person could avoid the draft by hiring a substitute. Later, certain groups—including slaveholders with 20 or more slaves—were exempted from the draft. This led ordinary people to complain of “a rich man’s war but a poor man’s fight.”

In The Hospital, 1861 by William Sheppard

Soldier-artist William Sheppard portrays a fashionably dressed Southern woman visiting a wounded soldier after the Battle of Bull Run (Manassas). In what other ways did women help in the war effort?
reality people from all levels of society served in the Confederate and Union armies.

Union states encouraged enlistment by offering **bounties**—payments of $100 or more—to volunteers. In March 1863, when this system failed, the North turned to a draft. All men over 20 and under 45 had to register, and the army drew the soldiers it needed from this pool of names. A person could avoid the draft by hiring a substitute or by paying the government $300.

**Resistance to the Draft**

Draft laws aroused opposition in both the North and the South, with protests erupting into riots in several Northern cities. The worst disturbance took place in **New York City** in July 1863. Angry mobs opposed to the draft and to fighting to free African Americans went on a rampage of burning, looting, and killing. After 4 days of terror, more than 100 people, including about 15 African Americans, were dead. Troops from the Army of the Potomac had to be rushed in to end the rioting.

No disturbance as severe took place in the South, but many opposed the draft. The strong opposition led the president of the Confederacy, Jefferson Davis, to proclaim military law and suspend habeas corpus as Lincoln had done early in the war. Davis’s action outraged Southerners who feared that they would lose the liberties for which they had gone to war.

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**Civil War Camera**

Mathew Brady and his many assistants recorded the camps, lives, and deaths of Union soldiers in more than 10,000 photos. **What is the biggest difference between this camera and a modern one?**

1. The photographer looks at the soldier through a glass plate at the back panel and the lens at the front.

2. A **plate holder** carrying another glass plate coated with light-sensitive chemicals is inserted into the back panel.

3. The photographer opens the **lens**. Light reflects from the soldier and passes through the lens. The lens creates a reversed, upside-down image on the “wet” plate.

4. The plate holder and the exposed wet plate are removed from the back panel, then developed into a negative in the photographer’s “traveling” **darkroom**.

The **body** of the camera protects the wet plate from all light except that which enters through the lens when a picture is taken.
War and the Economy

The Civil War strained the Northern and the Southern economies. The North, with its greater resources, was better able to cope with wartime demands.

Both the Union and the Confederacy financed the war by borrowing money, increasing taxes, and printing paper money. The North borrowed more than $2 billion, mainly by selling war bonds that promised high interest. The South borrowed more than $700 million. It issued so many bonds that people stopped buying them.

Both sides imposed new taxes as well. The Union passed an income tax in 1861. When Southern states did not provide sufficient funds, the Confederacy also imposed an income tax.

Because neither borrowing nor taxes raised enough money to pay for the war, both sides simply began printing paper money. Northern money was called greenbacks because of its color. The Confederacy also issued paper money, several times the amount printed in the North.

The North Prospers

During the war prices rose faster than wages in the North. This inflation—general increase in prices—caused great hardship for working people. Overall, however, the Northern economy boomed. Railroad traffic increased, as did the production of coal, iron, and clothing. The need for a steady supply of food for Union troops helped farmers prosper. Industry and agriculture responded to wartime needs by adopting new, more efficient methods of production.

Economic Troubles in the South

The economy of the South suffered far more than that of the North. Because most fighting occurred in the South, Southern farmland was overrun and rail lines were torn up. By the end of the war, large portions of the South lay in ruins, thousands of people were homeless, and many Southern cities were burned.

The North’s blockade of Southern ports caused severe shortages of essential goods. A scarcity of food led to riots in Atlanta, Richmond, and other cities. Inflation, too, was much worse in the South. During the course of the war, prices rose 9,000 percent—compared to a rise of 80 percent in the North.

These conditions affected soldiers. Worries about their families caused many men to desert. A Mississippi soldier who overstayed his leave to help his family wrote the governor: “We are poor men and are willing to defend our country but our families [come] first.”

Section 4 Assessment

Checking for Understanding
1. Identify Dorothea Dix, Clara Barton, Sally Tompkins, Copperheads.
2. Define habeas corpus, draft, bounty, greenback, inflation.
3. Name three ways that the North raised money for the war.

Reviewing Themes
4. Economic Factors How did war affect the economy of the South?

Critical Thinking
5. Making Inferences Why do you think President Lincoln believed the Copperheads were a threat to the Union war effort?

Activity

Creating a Travel Brochure Create a travel brochure of a Civil War battlefield site that you would like to visit. Include the name, location, and other activities in the area.
You have probably listened to your favorite music on compact discs. There is another type of compact disc, called a CD-ROM, that holds information. Learning how to use a CD-ROM can help you research information without spending a long time or using many resources.

**Learning the Skill**

CD-ROM stands for Compact Disc, Read-Only Memory. A CD-ROM stores huge amounts of information that a computer equipped with a CD-ROM drive can access in both audio and video form. This makes a CD-ROM a perfect storage place for games, simulations, dictionaries, encyclopedias, and other reference books. Using a CD-ROM disc or software loaded on your computer, you can “view” the information on your computer screen in many forms—words, pictures, video images, and even sounds.

**Practicing the Skill**

Follow these steps to use a CD-ROM to get information about the Civil War:

1. Check out a CD-ROM encyclopedia at your local library, and insert it into your CD-ROM drive.
2. Find your topic by using the mouse to click on the Search button in the main toolbar, typing in “Civil War,” and clicking on the word Search. (If there is no Search button, click the Help button to learn what features are available and how to use them.)
3. Use the arrow key to scroll—move up, down, left, or right—through the list of article titles on the screen. If you double-click while pointing to an article title, the article will appear on the screen. Click the Print button on the toolbar to print the article.  
4. To find out what photos are available on the Civil War, click the Picture Index button on the toolbar. When the list of picture titles appears, double-click the title of the picture you want to see. Click the Caption button to read the picture’s caption.
5. Each encyclopedia is different. Check the Help menu to see how to access sound clips, videos, animations, outlines, or any other features that may be available to give you information on the Civil War.

**Applying the Skill**

Using a CD-ROM Using the steps just described and a CD-ROM encyclopedia, find enough information about Abraham Lincoln to tell a classmate where and when he was born, what he looked like, what his role was during the Civil War, and what he said in one of his speeches.
The Way to Victory

**Read to Discover . . .**
- what great battles turned the tide of the war in 1863.
- what events led the South to surrender in 1865.

**Terms to Learn**
entrenched  total war

**The Storyteller**

“My shoes are gone; my clothes are almost gone. I’m weary, I’m sick, I’m hungry. My family have been killed or scattered, and may be now wandering helpless and unprotected in a strange country. And I have suffered all this for my country. I love my country. I would die—yes, I would die willingly because I love my country. But if this war is ever over, I’ll . . . [n]ever love another country!” So wrote a Confederate soldier in 1863.

**Southern Victories**

The winter of 1862–1863 saw gloom in the North and hope in the South as Robert E. Lee’s Army of Northern Virginia seemed unbeatable. With bold plans, quick movements, and knowledge of the countryside, Lee managed to surprise and defeat weak Union generals.

**Fredericksburg and Chancellorsville**

Lee needed little skill to win the Battle of Fredericksburg. On December 13, 1862, Union general Ambrose Burnside clashed with Lee near the Virginia town. Burnside had the larger army, but the Confederates were entrenched, or set up in a strong position, on a number of hills south of the town. Repeated attacks failed to overcome Lee’s troops as thousands of Union soldiers fell on the hillside. A newspaper report concluded, “It can hardly be in human nature for men to show more valor [bravery], or generals to manifest less judgment.” Devastated by his failure, Burnside resigned his command and was replaced by General Joseph Hooker.
Hooker rebuilt the army and then, in early May 1863, launched a campaign against Lee. Before Hooker could mount a major attack, Lee struck at Chancellorsville, Virginia, a few miles west of Fredericksburg.

Boldly dividing his troops for an assault on the Union forces, Lee won another victory—but it proved costly. The battle’s heavy casualties included General Stonewall Jackson. On May 2 Jackson and his troops attacked Union troops just before dark. One of the Confederate companies fired on Jackson’s party by mistake, wounding the general in the left arm. Jackson’s arm had to be amputated and he died a week later.

The Tide of War Turns

Despite his own heavy losses, Lee decided to invade the North. Another victory—one on Northern soil—might persuade Britain and France to aid the Confederacy and convince the North to give up.

The Battle of Gettysburg

In June Lee began moving north with an army of 75,000. Confederate spirits were high. A Richmond newspaper wrote, “We can . . . carry our armies far into the enemy’s country, exacting peace by blows leveled at his vitals.”

Union general Hooker wanted to advance against Richmond, but Lincoln told him, “I think Lee’s Army, and not Richmond, is your true objective.” When Hooker started to make excuses for not attacking the Confederate forces, Lincoln replaced him with General George Meade. Meade’s mission was to find and fight Lee’s forces and, at the same time, to protect Washington and Baltimore from Confederate attack. Meade began moving his army to meet the enemy.

The two armies met by accident on July 1, 1863, near the small town of Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. The three-day Battle of Gettysburg began when Union cavalry surprised Rebel infantry raiding the town for shoes. Outnumbered, the Northerners fought desperately to hold the town before retreating to Cemetery Ridge, a line of hills south of Gettysburg. They established strong positions along the ridge and prepared to defend it. The following day the Rebels launched another major assault and almost overran part of the Yankee line, but a counterattack saved the Union position.

Pickett’s Charge

On the third and final day of battle, Lee’s boldness proved his undoing. He decided to launch one more attack, determined to “create a panic and virtually destroy the [Union] army.”
This last attack, led by General George Pickett, is remembered as Pickett’s Charge. About 13,000 Confederate soldiers advanced across about one-half mile of open ground toward the Union lines. Faced with this bold attack, the Union soldiers rushed to defend their position.

Confederate soldiers made easy targets for Union fire as they marched across the open fields. Few of the Rebels reached the center of the Union lines, and barely half returned from the charge. The next day a Union officer said:

“I tried to ride over the field but could not, for dead and wounded lay too thick to guide a horse through them.”

Lee knew the battle was lost. “It’s all my fault,” he told his troops. He waited one day for a counterattack that never came and then painfully retreated to Virginia.

General Meade was proud of the victory, but Lincoln was disappointed. Upset that the Union army had once again allowed Lee and his soldiers to get away, Lincoln exclaimed, “We had them in our grasp. We had only to stretch forth our hands and they were ours.”

Victory at Vicksburg

While Confederate and Union troops were fighting at Gettysburg, a great battle was also taking place at Vicksburg, Mississippi. Vicksburg stood on a high bluff above the Mississippi River. To gain control of the river, one of the North’s major war goals, the Union needed to seize Vicksburg. For several months, Union forces under Ulysses S. Grant had laid siege to the town. Finally, on July 4, 1863, Vicksburg surrendered.

With the surrender of Vicksburg and then Port Hudson—another Confederate fort in Louisiana—the Union now held the entire Mississippi River. Texas, Louisiana, and Arkansas were sealed off from the rest of the Confederacy.

The Union victories at Gettysburg and Vicksburg marked a turning point in the war. They drove Lee’s army out of Pennsylvania, secured the Mississippi as a Union highway, and cut the South in two. Nevertheless, the South still had troops and a will to fight. The war would continue for two more terrible years.

Lincoln at Gettysburg

On November 19, 1863, at a ceremony dedicating a cemetery at Gettysburg, Edward Everett, a prominent scholar, gave a two-hour address. Then President Lincoln rose to speak. In a two-minute speech, called the Gettysburg Address, Lincoln beautifully expressed what the war had come to mean:
It is for us the living . . . to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us . . . that these dead shall not have died in vain—that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom—and that government of the people, by the people, for the people shall not perish from the earth.

The speech helped war-weary Americans look beyond the images of the battlefield and focus on their shared ideals.

**Final Phases of the War**

In November 1863, Grant and General William Tecumseh Sherman won an important victory at Chattanooga, Tennessee. Following the Northern triumphs at Vicksburg and Gettysburg, Chattanooga further weakened the Confederates. The following March, President Lincoln turned to Grant for help.

**Grant Takes Command**

Ulysses S. Grant was small and unimpressive in appearance. His early army career was not impressive either, and in 1854 he had been forced to resign because of a drinking problem. When the Civil War broke out, he rejoined the army. Grant’s victories in the West and his willingness to attack hard and keep fighting impressed President Lincoln. “I can’t spare this man,” the president said. “He fights.” After the victory at Chattanooga, Lincoln named Grant commander of all the Union armies.

Grant devised a plan to attack the Confederacy on all fronts at once. The Army of the Potomac would try to crush Lee’s army in Virginia. The western army, under Sherman, would advance to Atlanta, Georgia, and crush the Confederate forces in the Deep South. If the plan succeeded, they would destroy the Confederacy.

**Virginia Battles**

Grant soon put his strategy into effect. In May and June of 1864, his army of 115,000 men smashed into Lee’s 65,000 troops in a series of 3 battles near Richmond—the Battles of the Wilderness, Spotsylvania Courthouse, and Cold Harbor. Each time, Confederate lines held, but each time, Grant quickly resumed the attack.

The battles were vicious, costing the North more than 60,000 men. Critics called Grant a butcher, but he said, “I propose to fight it out on
this line if it takes all summer.” Lincoln supported him, knowing that Lee could not afford the continuing casualties in his army.

After Cold Harbor, Grant swung south of Richmond to attack Petersburg, an important railroad center. If it fell, Richmond would be cut off from the rest of the Confederacy. Petersburg, however, had strong defenses. Grant’s assault turned into a nine-month siege.

The Election of 1864

To the war-weary North, the events of the first half of 1864 looked like yet another stalled offensive. Grant was stuck outside Richmond and Petersburg, and Sherman was stuck outside Atlanta. Sentiment for a negotiated peace grew.

The Democrats wanted to make peace with the South, even though that might result in Confederate independence. Lincoln was determined to push for restoring the Union and ending slavery. In the summer of 1864, Lincoln’s chances for reelection did not look good. “I am going to be beaten and unless some great change takes place, badly beaten,” he said.

Great changes did take place. In August David Farragut, now an admiral, led a Union fleet into Mobile Bay, braving the Confederate defenses. Union control over the Gulf of Mexico was now complete. Then, in early September, news arrived

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The Final Battles of the Civil War, 1864–1865

1. Movement Which Union general took

2. Analyzing Information Where did Lee surrender to Grant?
that Sherman had captured Atlanta. More news followed in October, when General Sheridan’s Union force completed a campaign that drove the Rebels out of the Shenandoah Valley in Virginia. The North’s mood changed. With the end of the war in sight, Lincoln easily won reelection, taking 55 percent of the popular vote.

The fall of Atlanta created a deep sense of gloom in the South. “Since Atlanta I have felt as if all were dead within me, forever,” Mary Chesnut wrote. “We are going to be wiped off the earth.”

**Total War**

Leaving Atlanta in ruins, Sherman convinced Grant to let him try a bold plan. Sherman’s army began a historic “march to the sea” to Savannah, Georgia. As the army advanced, it abandoned its supply lines and lived off the land it passed through. Union troops took what food they needed, tore up railroad lines and fields, and killed animals in an effort to destroy anything useful to the South. They cut a path of destruction 50 miles wide. This method of waging war is known as total war. Sherman said:

“We are not only fighting hostile armies, but a hostile people, and must make old and young, rich and poor, feel the hard hand of war.”

After capturing Savannah in December, Sherman turned north. The army marched through South Carolina, devastating the state. Sherman planned to join Grant’s forces in Virginia.

**Richmond Falls**

Throughout the fall and winter of 1864, Grant continued the siege of Petersburg. Lee and his troops desperately defended the town, but sickness, hunger, casualties, and desertion weakened them. Finally, on April 2, 1865, the Confederate lines broke and Petersburg fell to the Union.

Richmond fell the same day. Rebel troops, government officials, and many residents fled the Confederate capital. They set fire to much of the city to keep it from falling into Union hands.

On April 4 Lincoln visited Richmond. As he walked its streets, African Americans crowded around him. One elderly man approached the president, took off his hat, and bowed. With tears rolling down his cheeks, he said, “May God bless you.” Lincoln removed his own hat and bowed in return.

**Footnotes to History**

No Escaping Wilmer McLean could not escape the Civil War, which started in his front yard and ended in his front parlor! The First Battle of Bull Run was fought on his property, and his home became headquarters for several Confederate generals. McLean tried to escape the devastation of war by moving to Appomattox Court House, Virginia. On April 9, 1865, Grant and Lee discussed the terms of surrender in his parlor.
On April 9 Lee and his troops surrendered to Grant in a small Virginia village called Appomattox Court House. Grant’s terms were generous. The Confederate soldiers had to lay down their arms but then were free to go home. Grant allowed them to keep their horses so that they could, as he said, “put in a crop to carry themselves and their families through the next winter.” Grant also ordered three days’ worth of food to be sent to Lee’s hungry troops.

Several days after Lee’s surrender, the Confederate forces in North Carolina surrendered to General Sherman. Jefferson Davis, the president of the Confederacy, was captured in Georgia on May 10. The Civil War was over at last.

Results of the War

The Civil War was the most devastating conflict in American history. More than 600,000 soldiers died, and the war caused billions of dollars of damage, most of it in the South. The war also created bitter feelings among defeated Southerners that lasted for generations.

The war had other consequences as well. The North’s victory saved the Union. The federal government was strengthened and was now clearly more powerful than the states. Finally, the war freed millions of African Americans. How the nation would treat these new citizens remained to be seen.

Surrender at Appomattox

Lee moved his army west of Richmond, hoping to link up with the small Confederate force that was trying to stop Sherman’s advance. But the Union army blocked his escape route. Realizing that the situation was hopeless, Lee said:

“There is nothing left for me to do but go and see General Grant, and I would rather die a thousand deaths.”

Checking for Understanding

1. **Identify** Gettysburg Address, William Tecumseh Sherman, Appomattox Court House.
2. **Define** entrenched, total war.
3. **Identify** the reasons that Gettysburg and Vicksburg were important battles.

Reviewing Themes

4. **Individual Action** Why did President Lincoln name Ulysses S. Grant commander of all the Union armies?

**Critical Thinking**

5. **Drawing Conclusions** How did the Union victory in the war strengthen the federal government?

**Activity**

**Composing a Poem** Write a poem that a Civil War soldier might have written after hearing that the war was over.
Abraham Lincoln was the nation's sixteenth president. During his presidency, he had the task of guiding our country through one of the most difficult experiences in its history—the Civil War. Many historians regard him as one of our greatest presidents. To research more about Lincoln's presidency, look on the Internet.

**Getting There**

Follow these steps to gather information about Abraham Lincoln's presidency.

1. Use a search engine. Type in the phrase **Abraham Lincoln**.
2. After typing in the subject **Abraham Lincoln**, enter words like the following to focus your search: **Civil War**, **Library of Congress**, **history**, **presidency**.

**What to Do When You Are There**

Use the Internet to research Abraham Lincoln and his presidency. Click on the links to navigate through the pages of information. Gather your findings. Then, using a word processor, write a research report on the presidency of Abraham Lincoln. Be sure to cite the various web page sources.

**Field Trip to Gettysburg**

**Setting up the Video**

With a group of your classmates, view “Gettysburg” on the videodisc **Historic America: Electronic Field Trips**.

During the Civil War, one of the most devastating battles was the battle at Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. The battle lasted 3 days, and about 40,000 soldiers died or were wounded. The program gives different perspectives of the battle and its results.

**Hands-On Activity**

Civil War soldiers and prisoners of war played chess and card games while stationed in military camps. Some soldiers made their own chess sets. Make your own Civil War chess set labeled with the names of presidents, generals, spies, doctors, drummers, and foot soldiers from both the Union and the Confederacy.
Reviewing Key Terms

On a sheet of paper, define the following terms:
- border state
- blockade
- offensive
- Rebel
- Yankee
- blockade runner
- ironclad
- casualty
- emancipate
- habeas corpus
- draft
- bounty
- greenback

Reviewing Key Facts

1. What three advantages did the South have in the Civil War?
2. What did most Northerners expect to happen at the First Battle of Bull Run?
3. Why did Lincoln hesitate to make a move against slavery in the early stages of the war?
4. What roles did women play in the war?
5. How did the war help to strengthen the economy of the North?

Critical Thinking

Analyzing Information
Sherman’s “march to the sea” left a wide path of destruction in the South.
1. Do you think waging total war at this stage of the fighting was necessary? Why or why not?
2. How do you think Sherman’s actions would affect the South’s ability to rebuild its economy after the war?

Time Line Activity
Create a time line on which you place the following events in chronological order:
- Lincoln elected to second term as president
- Battle between the Monitor and Merrimack
- Jefferson Davis is captured
- First Battle of Bull Run
- Confederate army surrenders at Appomattox Court House
- Lincoln issues Emancipation Proclamation
- Battle of Gettysburg

Skill Practice Activity
Using a CD-ROM
Using the steps described on page 481 and a CD-ROM encyclopedia, find enough information about the Battle of Shiloh to tell a classmate where and when it took place, who were the generals involved, what their role was during the battle, and what was the outcome of the battle. Compare what you find to the details shown in this painting. Is the art accurate? Explain.

Battle of Shiloh
**Geography Activity**

*Study the map below and answer the questions that follow.*

1. **Location** Along what ridge were the Union troops positioned? The Confederate troops?
2. **Movement** Who led the attack on Union troops at Little Round Top?
3. **Movement** What five Confederate commanders are shown on the map?

**Cooperative Activity**

**History and Geography** Work with members of your group to create a three-dimensional relief map of one of the battle sites described in the chapter. Do research to find out the geography of the area and use clay, cardboard, or other materials to construct your map. Then use different colored objects to demonstrate troop movements.

**Technology Activity**

**Using the Internet** Search the Internet for a list of museums that have Civil War artifact and photo collections. Make a map to show the names and locations of the museums.

**Reviewing Themes**

1. **Government and Democracy** How did the people of western Virginia respond to Virginia’s secession from the Union?
2. **Geography and History** Why was controlling the Mississippi River vital to both the North and the South?
3. **Groups and Institutions** What two government orders changed the status of enslaved African Americans during the war?
4. **Economic Factors** How did inflation affect the lives of people during the war?
5. **Individual Action** Why was General Lee such an effective military leader?
Morse Code

“What hath God wrought!” On May 24, 1844, Samuel Morse tapped this message on his telegraph and sent it across wire from Washington, D.C., to Baltimore, Maryland. A few seconds later the operator in Baltimore tapped back the same message. Americans were astonished. Astonish yourself by building your own simple telegraph.

The Way It Was

Armies in the Civil War made use of the newest communication system—the telegraph. Inventor Samuel Morse sent the first long-distance message in 1844, using a code of short and long (dot-dash) electrical signals invented by Morse and Alfred Vail. Telegraph operators throughout the world began using this Morse code to send messages. By 1846 more than 5,000 miles (8,045 km) of telegraph wire had been strung, and 3,000 more miles (4,827 km) were under construction.

Materials

- Size D battery
- tape
- 2 feet of insulated wire, cut into 3 pieces
- 1 metal paper clip
- 2 metal thumbtacks
- flashlight-sized lightbulb and holder
- piece of thick cardboard about 1 foot square

The fastest speed recorded for a hand-key transmission of Morse code is 175 symbols a minute. A member of the United States Army Signal Corps accomplished this feat in 1942.
2 What To Do

1. Push one thumbtack into the cardboard.
2. Trap the end of one piece of wire under the thumbtack and tape the other end to one terminal of the battery.
3. Tape another piece of wire to the other battery terminal and connect it to the lightbulb holder.
4. Connect a third piece of wire to the lightbulb holder and to a second tack about 1 inch from the first tack.
5. Trap a paper clip under the first thumbtack and bend the end up at an angle. The paper clip will act as a telegraph key. Tap the bent paper clip down on the second thumbtack and observe what happens.

3 Lab Report

1. What happened when you touched the paper clip to the thumbtack in Step 5?
2. Was it easy or difficult to send a coded message with your paper clip? Explain why.
3. Drawing Conclusions How do you think the use of the telegraph might have affected the outcome of the Civil War?

Go Further

Use the Morse code dot-dash symbols listed on page 492 to tap a message to a friend. Then have someone tap you a message. For easier translation, write down the dot-dashes as the light flashes. Decipher the message after you have written down the entire code of dots and dashes.