The Civil War
1861 - 1865
Terms and People:

- **border state** – a slave state that did not secede
- **neutral** – not favoring either side
- **martial law** – a type of rule in which the military is in charge and citizens’ rights are suspended
- **blockade** – a military action to prevent traffic from coming into an area or leaving it
First Shots at Fort Sumter

As the Southern states seceded from the Union, they took over most of the federal forts inside their borders. Fort Sumter, located in the middle of Charleston harbor held out, but was running out of supplies. When Lincoln ordered ships to resupply the fort, Confederate leaders decided to attack before the supplies arrived. At 4:30 am on April 12, 1861, shore batteries opened fire on the fort. After 34 hours of bombardment the federal troops surrendered. The Civil War had begun.

Two days after the surrender of Fort Sumter, President Lincoln asked the Union states to provide 75,000 militiamen for 90 days to put down the uprising in the South. Northern & Southern citizens responded with enthusiasm. Many believed the war would be over soon.
Border States
Missouri
Kentucky
Maryland
Delaware

The United States split along regional lines.

Region Which states formed a transition zone between the two opposed regions?

Union and Confederate Resources, 1861

- Population: Union to Confederate = 2.5 to 1
- Miles of railroad track: Union to Confederate = 2.4 to 1
- Wheat production: Union to Confederate = 4.2 to 1
- Merchant ship tonnage: Union to Confederate = 9 to 1
- Naval ship tonnage: Union to Confederate = 25 to 1
- Iron production: Union to Confederate = 15 to 1
- Firearms production: Union to Confederate = 32 to 1
- Cotton production: Union to Confederate = 1 to 24

Source: The Times Atlas of World History
Strengths and Weaknesses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Union Forces</th>
<th>Confederate Forces</th>
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<td>1862</td>
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<tr>
<td>1865</td>
<td>600</td>
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Union Strategy
The Anaconda Plan:
2. Gain Control of the Mississippi.

Confederate Strategy
King Cotton:
1. Use Cotton to win Foreign Support.
2. Fight a Defensive War – Wear down the North.
3. Capture Washington, DC
Compare and contrast the North and South at the start of the Civil War:
On July 21, 1861, Union forces clashed with Confederate forces near a little creek called Bull Run just north of Manassas, Virginia.

Union forces were winning, then Confederate troops rallied around General Thomas Jackson. One officer cried “There is Jackson standing like a stone wall! Rally behind the Virginians”.

As fresh troops arrived the Confederates counter attacked and routed the Union lines. This victory thrilled the South and shocked the North. Northerners realized they underestimated their opponent.
Many of these soldiers were young and inexperienced.

When the Civil War began, thousands of soldiers volunteered for the Union and Confederate armies.

Many of these soldiers were young and inexperienced.
### Characteristics of a Civil War Soldier

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Characteristics</th>
<th>Details</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age</td>
<td>Between 18 and 30 – Average age 25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Occupation</td>
<td>Most were farmers, but jobs varied</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Training</td>
<td>Many long daily drill sessions</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hardships</td>
<td>Inadequate food and clothing, crude shelters, dirty camps that stank, poor personal hygiene, chronic sickness, poor medical treatment</td>
</tr>
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Civil War soldiers fought for their beliefs but many volunteered to join the armies of North and South for adventure or glory. Some joined to escape boredom or because their friends and neighbors joined. Some even joined for the money.

Army life was not what many expected. Soldiers in the field were often wet, muddy, and cold. Camps were unsanitary and the soldiers often went weeks without bathing or washing their clothes.

Poor hygiene resulted in widespread sickness. Most soldiers suffered from chronic diarrhea or other intestinal disorders. Typhoid and dysentery killed thousands.

Andersonville
More than 56,000 Civil War soldiers died in prison camps such as this one in Georgia, mostly due to starvation, disease, and other effects of the harsh and miserable conditions.

CIVIL WAR: PRISONERS OF WAR

Union
POW camps: 14
Total POWs: 214,865
Died in prison: 25,796
Death rate: 12%

Confederacy
POW camps: 20
Total POWs: 194,793
Died in prison: 30,218
Death rate: 15.5%

Source: The Civil War Day by Day
Terms and People:

- **ironclad** – warships covered with protective iron plates
- **casualty** – a person killed, missing, or wounded in action
- **George McClellan** – very organized but cautious Union General
- **Ulysses S. Grant** – Union General who was very successful in the West
- **emancipate** – to set free
Improvements to the weapons of war made the Civil War battlefield a very deadly environment. New *rifles* and *minié balls* allowed infantry soldiers to shoot farther and with more accuracy. As a result, casualties soared and battle tactics started to change.

The Civil War also introduced the use of *land mines*, *hand grenades*, *repeating rifles*, *revolving gun turrets*, and *ironclad ships*. *Hot-air balloons* were used to spot enemy positions and the *telegraph* allowed generals to communicate more quickly. *Railroads* supplied the armies and were often armed with artillery.

Deadly conditions on the battlefield led to the development of trench warfare and the strategy of “total war” targeted anything that could be used by the enemy.
The *USS Monitor* and the *CSS Virginia* met off the coast of Virginia in 1862. The Confederate navy hoped that the *Virginia* could break the Union blockade. The two ships fought for four hours but neither could inflict serious damage on the other and the battle ended in a draw. This battle ushered in a new era of naval warfare. Once these ironclad ships came into service every other navy in the world was obsolete.
Civil War doctors did not know that germs caused diseases and often failed to wash their hands or their instruments. Because the heavy lead minié balls shattered bones beyond repair, amputations were common. Still, more than twice as many men died of disease as died of battle wounds.
“Look at our company – 21 have died of disease, 18 have become so unhealthy as to be discharged, and only four have been killed in battle.” A Louisiana officer explained the high rate of disease during the Civil War.

More than twice as many men died of disease as died of battle wounds. Intestinal disorders including typhoid fever, diarrhea, and dysentery, killed the most. Pneumonia, tuberculosis, and malaria killed many others. Bad water and food, poor diet, exposure to cold and rain, unsanitary conditions, and disease-carrying insects all contributed to the high rate of disease.
After the Union defeat at Bull Run, President Lincoln placed **General George McClellan** in command.

McClellan trained his troops for seven months. The delay gave the Confederates time to prepare.

McClellan finally attacked in May 1862, Confederate troops stopped his advance near Richmond.

Although Union soldiers had been better trained, they were forced to retreat.
The capture of New Orleans completed the Union's naval blockade.

Union forces used waterways to gain control of the Mississippi River Valley.

**Movement** Use evidence from the map to describe the success of the Union's military campaign.

The spring of 1862 brought two important victories to the Union in the West. Ulysses S. Grant won a costly victory at Shiloh in Tennessee. David Farragut and the Union navy captured New Orleans, the largest and most important port city in the Confederacy.

In the Seven Days’ Battles, Robert E. Lee and the army of Northern Virginia stopped George McClellan’s advance and forced Union troops to retreat back to Washington.
Civil War Leaders

During the Civil War, thousands of citizens and soldiers acted with great dignity and courage. Leading these men and women were some of the most extraordinary leaders our nation has ever had.

Abraham Lincoln is one of the greatest presidents the United States has ever had.

Jefferson Davis, the confederate president, had the difficult task of keeping the South united.

Ulysses S. Grant took charge of the Union armies in March 1864.

Robert E. Lee was the military genius at the head of the Confederate armies.
McClellan attacked the larger part of Lee’s army in the Battle of Antietam. Both sides suffered huge casualties. Lee’s troops retreated. Lincoln was upset that McClellan did not pursue Lee.
The Battle of Antietam was the bloodiest day in all of American History, 25,000 men were killed or wounded. Matthew Brady’s photographs of *The Dead of Antietam* shocked the nation.
Should overly cautious military leaders, such as General George McClellan, have been commended or criticized?

Did they save more lives by not knowingly exposing their troops to excessive risks that would have produced incredibly high casualty rates; or did they prolong the war, thereby increasing the death toll due to their hesitancy?
Abolitionists such as Frederick Douglass had been urging Lincoln to emancipate, or free, the slaves since the beginning of the war. Lincoln hesitated because he did not believe he had the power under the Constitution to abolish slavery and he didn’t want to divide the nation further.

By the summer of 1862, Lincoln decided in favor of emancipation, feeling it could weaken the South. The **Emancipation Proclamation** was issued on January 1, 1863. It freed all slaves in Confederate territory, but **not** in the border states still part of the Union.

Although the Emancipation Proclamation didn’t actually free many people, symbolically the Civil War became a war of liberation.
Lincoln’s proclamation did not apply to the border states or to areas under Union control.
The Emancipation Proclamation had important effects.

The Civil War became a struggle for freedom.

Britain would not support the South.

African Americans united in support of the war.

Effects of the Proclamation
After President Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation, African Americans rushed to enlist in the Union army, despite being given the worst jobs and lower pay than white soldiers. The 54th Massachusetts Regiment distinguished itself by leading a heroic attack on Fort Wagner in South Carolina.

Christian A. Fleetwood, sergeant major of the 54th Massachusetts.
African American Union Soldiers

About 10 percent of the Union forces were African American. Their performance in battle proved to doubters their valor.
In the South, many enslaved African Americans did what they could to hurt the Confederacy.

- Working slowly
- Damaging equipment
- Giving information to Union armies
Terms and People:

• **habeas corpus** – constitutional protection against unlawful imprisonment

• **draft** – a system of required military service

• **income tax** – tax on the money people receive

• **inflation** – general rise in prices
In addition to dividing the nation, the Civil War also caused divisions within the North and South.

Not all northerners supported a war to end slavery.

Not all white southerners supported a war to defend slavery or secession.
In the South, support for the war varied from state to state.

Regions with large slaveholding plantations supported the war more than poor back country regions.

Georgia and North Carolina opposed the war.

South Carolina objected to officers from other states leading their troops.
Northerners were also divided over the war.

Many opposed the Emancipation Proclamation.

Some believed the South had a right to secede.

Others blamed Lincoln and the Republicans for forcing the war.

Those who opposed the war were strongest in Ohio, Illinois, and Indiana.
Disagreements About the War

As the war raged on people on both sides became weary of the hardships and sacrifices it demanded. Riots broke out in Northern and Southern cities. Mobs broke into shops and stole food, clothing, and other goods.

People on both sides protested draft laws, conscription, that required men to serve in the military. Southern planters who owned 20 or more slaves were exempt and both sides allowed draftees to hire substitutes, which enraged poor draftees. In New York City a draft riot lasted for four days.

A group of Northern Democrats called Cooperheads, protested the conduct of the war. Lincoln had the protesters arrested and suspended the writ of habeas corpus, which prevents the government from holding citizens without a trial.
Northerners and Southerners suffered economic hardships during the war. Food shortages were common in the South and when food got to market prices increased dramatically. Over the course of the war, prices rose 9,000 percent in the South.

**Inflation**, an increase in prices and decrease in the value of money, was much lower in the North, but prices still rose faster than wages.

In 1861, the federal government established the first **income tax** – a tax on earnings. The next year, the government issued new paper currency called **greenbacks** because of their color.
The war was costly for both sides. **The South was less able than the North to bear these costs.**

**Economic Costs of the Civil War**

- Union costs: $6.1 billion; inflation 80 percent
- Confederate costs: $2 billion; inflation 9,000 percent
- Many southern farms, factories, and railroads were destroyed.
- Southern industry was crippled.
- Confederate states lost two thirds of their wealth.
Women in the War  

With so many men away at war, women in both the North and the South assumed increased responsibilities. Women ran family businesses, farms, and plantations. They also took over jobs in offices and factories that had previously been done only by men.

Thousands of women served on the front lines as volunteer workers and nurses. By the end of the war, around 3,000 nurses had worked in Union hospitals. Relief agencies put women to work washing clothes, gathering supplies, and cooking for the soldiers.

Women also played a key role as spies for both the North and the South. Some women even dressed like men and fought along side them in the Confederate and Union armies.

Clara Barton

Sally Louisa Tompkins
Women on the Home Front

Women took over family farms and businesses while the men were away at war. These northern women (right) are part of a local militia, prepared to defend themselves against southern invaders. *The Return to Fredericksburg after the Battle* (far right) shows southern life during the war. **What does the painting show about the effects of the war on the home front?**
In early July 1863, the Confederate and Union armies fought on the rocky hills and fields around the town of Gettysburg, PA. George Meade and his 90,000 Union troops clashed with 75,000 Confederate troops under the command of Robert E. Lee in a battle that started over a stockpile of shoes.

On July 1\(^{st}\) and 2\(^{nd}\) the armies fought for position and tried to capture the high ground around the battlefield. The turning point came on July 3\(^{rd}\), when Lee ordered General George Pickett to mount a direct attack on the center of the Union lines.

The attack, known as **Pickett’s Charge**, was a Confederate disaster. Some 13,000 rebel troops charged into heavy Union fire and were torn to pieces.

When the battle was over the North lost 23,000 men and the South lost 28,000. Most historians consider this battle to be the **turning point** of the Civil War.
In June 1863, Robert E. Lee invaded the North a second time. In southern Pennsylvania, Confederate soldiers looking for shoes found Union troops instead. The fight that resulted grew into the largest battle of the Civil War.

**First Encounter**
Confederate troops are engaged by a small number of Union troops. When Union reinforcements arrive, a full-scale battle ensues.

**Union on High Ground**
The Union army begins to take superior positions on the hills and ridges in the area. Both sides suffered their heaviest losses on this day.

**Pickett's Charge**
Lee hoped that Pickett's fresh troops would be able to break through the Union line. Union lines held, and the Confederates retreated the next day.

**Geography Skills**
1. **Human-Environment Interaction** How did the geography of the area play a role in the battle?
2. **Movement** Trace the mounting severity of the conflict from July 1 to July 2. What were the Confederate and Union strategies? Who had the advantage by July 3? Explain.

See Skills Handbook, p. H1B
In November 1863, 15,000 people gathered at Gettysburg to honor the soldiers who died there. In his **Gettysburg Address**, Lincoln looked ahead to a final Union victory.

**Gettysburg Address**

“Four score and seven years ago our fathers brought forth on this continent a new nation, conceived in liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal... We here highly resolve 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 Battle for Vicksburg

“Vicksburg is the key!” President Abraham Lincoln told his generals and military advisers. “The war can never be brought to a close until that key is in our pocket.” Vicksburg, Mississippi, controlled the movement of supplies on the Mississippi River and was vital to keeping open the supply lines linking the Confederacy’s eastern and western halves. The city was situated high above a hairpin bend in the river, and Union boats could not get by Confederate guns. Capturing Vicksburg would give the Union control of the Mississippi River and split the Confederacy. Beginning in the spring of 1863, General Ulysses S. Grant undertook this daunting task.

1. Grant Crosses into Louisiana, March 29
   Grant’s original plan was to attack Vicksburg from the north. The swampy land, however, made the plan impossible. So Grant ordered his troops to cross the Mississippi River into Louisiana and to march south.

2. Grant Moves East, April 30
   Union gunboats and transports moved Grant’s forces back across the river into Mississippi. In a daring move Grant marched east without a supply line, allowing his troops to move quickly.

3. The Battle of Jackson, May 14
   Union troops defeated a Confederate army at Jackson, Mississippi, before moving on to Vicksburg. The Union victory kept Confederate forces from reinforcing Vicksburg.

4. The Siege of Vicksburg, May 18–July 4
   Grant’s first two assaults on Vicksburg failed, forcing him to lay siege to the city and the 30,000 Confederate troops trapped inside. After six weeks of bombardment, the Confederates surrendered. Grant’s bold campaign had given the Union control of the Mississippi River.

Ironclads
Union Ironclads were vital to the Vicksburg campaign. These gunboats protected Grant’s troops when they crossed the Mississippi. Later, they bombarded Vicksburg during the siege of the city.

**SKILLS**
**INTERPRETING MAPS**
- Location: How did Vicksburg’s location make it the “key” to winning the war?
- Place: Why would Grant want to split the Confederacy?

See Skills Handbook, p. 120

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Interactive Map
Try me! Get help.
Terms and People:

- **siege** – an attempt to capture a place by surrounding it with military forces and cutting it off until the people inside surrender

- **total war** – all-out attacks aimed at destroying an enemy’s army, its resources, and its people’s will to fight

- **William Tecumseh Sherman** – tough Union army general
**Ulysses S. Grant**
- Graduated West Point in 1843
- Rank: 21 in a class of 39
- Age in May 1864: 42
- Previous major victories: Battle of Shiloh, Siege of Vicksburg, Battle of Lookout Mountain, Battle of Missionary Ridge
- Grant's wife was a cousin of Confederate general James Longstreet.

**Robert E. Lee**
- Graduated West Point in 1829
- Rank: 2 in a class of 46
- Age in May 1864: 57
- Previous major victories: Second Battle of Bull Run, Battle of Fredericksburg, Battle of Chancellorsville
- Lee's great uncle, Richard Henry Lee, proposed and signed the Declaration of Independence.
In 1864, General Grant developed a plan to finally defeat the Confederacy. He would relentlessly pursue Lee’s army in Virginia, while Union forces under General William Tecumseh Sherman pushed through the deep South. Sherman waged total war: a war not only against enemy troops, but against everything that supports the enemy. Union troops tore up rail lines, destroyed crops, and looted and burned towns.

Meanwhile, in battle after battle, Grant attacked Lee, rested, and then attacked again, all the while moving south toward the Confederate capital of Richmond, VA.

Eventually, these tactics wore out the Confederate army. General Lee just couldn’t replace the losses of officers, troops, and supplies.
Total War

General William Tecumseh Sherman led a Union army toward Atlanta.

Sherman was a tough soldier who believed in total war.

Goals of Total War

- Strike military and civilian targets.
- Destroy materials and crops that enemy forces might be able to use.
- Destroy railroads and factories to damage the local economy.
- Break the people’s will to continue fighting.

Sherman’s troops captured Atlanta, and Sherman ordered it to be burned. From Atlanta, they moved east, destroying everything in their path. This is known as Sherman’s March to the Sea.
In April of 1865, Robert E. Lee wanted to continue fighting but realized that his situation was hopeless. He sent a message to General Grant that he was ready to surrender.

The two men met in the small Virginia town of **Appomattox Court House** on April 9, 1865. The terms of surrender were generous, allowing Confederate troops to return home with their possessions after laying down their weapons. Grant also offered food to the hungry Confederate soldiers.
The Civil War was the bloodiest conflict the U.S. has ever fought.

Civil War Casualties

- Total strength: 1,556,678
  - Union: 1,082,119
  - Confederacy: 474,559
- Death rate: 23%
- Wounded nonmortally: 275,175
  - Union: 100,000*
  - Confederacy: 175,175
- Died from wounds: 110,070
  - Union: 94,000*
  - Confederacy: 16,070
- Died from disease: 249,458
  - Union: 164,000*
  - Confederacy: 85,458

American Deaths in All Wars (estimates):

- Civil War: 623,000
- World War II: 407,500
- World War I: 116,500
- Vietnam War: 58,000
- Korean War: 37,000
- Mexican-American War: 13,500
- American Revolution: 4,500
- Other major wars: 8,000

Sources: U.S. Military History Institute; Department of Defense
Were General Sherman’s “Total War” military tactics necessary to bring about an end to the Civil War?

How did his “March to the Sea” both speed the end of the War and delay the post-war healing?
Consequences of the War

The Civil War made people see the United States as a **single nation** rather than a collection of states. **The national government to grew larger and more powerful** because of the demands of war. **New paper currency, income taxes, a new federal banking system, a government funded transcontinental railroad, and the Homestead Act** were all important legacies of the war.

The war also changed the Northern economy. **New industries** grew rapidly and began to replace farming as the basis of the national economy. For the South, however, the war brought **economic disaster**. **Farms and plantations were destroyed**, livestock were killed, machinery demolished, and thousands of miles of railroad tracks were torn up.

The economic differences between North and South would last for decades. And, how would the South be brought back into the Union? **How would four million former slaves be integrated into national life?**