

Fort Sumter: on April 10, 1861, the bombardment of Fort Sumter was the opening engagement of the American Civil War. Although there were no casualties during the bombardment, **this was a symbolic victory that gave the South confidence** that they could win a major battle so quickly. **Union Army and Confederate Army volunteers enlisted quickly after Fort Sumter; both sides expected “a short, glorious war.”**



Bull Run or Manassas: on July 21, 1861, Union army regiments marched south from Washington D.C. toward Richmond, Virginia, the capital of the Confederacy. They met about the same number of Confederate soldiers in their path near the town of Manassas on the banks of Bull Run creek. The leadership of Confederate General Thomas “Stonewall” Jackson encouraged other Confederate units to rally and fight during the chaos of the day, resulting in **the first of many Confederate victories. Many in the North and South begin to realize war is more difficult than they thought.**



Antietam or Sharpsburg: on September 17, 1862, after months of losing battles, the Union Army finally wins a battle in Maryland that protects Washington D.C. and Baltimore. **This battle helped Union soldiers feel more confident, and gave Abraham Lincoln the right occasion to issue the Emancipation Proclamation**



Emancipation Proclamation: On September 22, 1862, President Lincoln announced that he would order the **freeing of all slaves in any state of the Confederacy that did not return to the Union** by January 1, 1863. None returned, and the order, signed and issued January 1, 1863, freed slaves in any state “in rebellion.” The Proclamation weakened nations in Europe that wanted to help the Confederacy and wanted cotton and Southern business, but whose citizens thought slavery was wrong.



Gettysburg: During July 1-3, 1863, after a series of stunning Confederate victories and quick marches, Robert E. Lee’s army was in Pennsylvania, threatening to cut Washington D.C. off from the Union. The two armies struggled for three days, and in the end the Confederates retreated, unable to win this **turning point in the war.**



The Gettysburg Address: Invited to say “a few appropriate words” on Nov. 19, 1863 at the dedication of the Gettysburg National Cemetery President Lincoln **sums up the mission of the war:** “we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain, that this nation 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.**” Abraham Lincoln intended to end the war and bring the Southern states back into the Union without punishment of the leaders and without slavery for African-Americans.



Peace at Appomattox Courthouse: April 9, 1865. Union General Ulysses Grant keeps the Union Army close to the Confederate army for 14 months, fighting almost every day. With supplies low and few new recruits for his army, Robert E. Lee realizes the war is lost. At the town of Appomattox Courthouse, the two generals met in the home of Wilmer McLean to sign surrender papers. **General Grant takes no prisoners and allows Confederate soldiers to go home to their families and farms.** The war is over, and the states would be one nation again.

Union Leaders



President of the United States – Abraham Lincoln was elected in 1860 on a platform designed to stop the expansion of slavery into the western territories. The moment he was elected the people in the South began to talk seriously about what they had

only threatened before – they would secede from the Union and form their own nation.

Lincoln knew that he had **more men** to become soldiers and that he **had industry** sufficient to produce the **weapons and equipment** that the soldiers would need. He was not certain, however, if the entire population in the North was behind him. Many people in the North did not share his views on slavery and **many people sympathized with the South**. Lincoln knew he would have to blockade the southern ports to prevent ships from bringing supplies from Europe.

Lincoln had a terrible time finding a good leader for his army. He first asked General Robert E. Lee to lead the Union Army, but Lee felt that he would have to fight to protect Virginia. Lincoln had a series of generals who proved to be indecisive and ineffective until he finally selected General Grant following his successes in the West along the Mississippi River.



General Ulysses S. Grant – Commander of the Union Army in the latter part of the Civil War. Grant was thought to be a heavy drinker and many thought he would not make a good general.

However, he had a habit of winning battles. Once, when Lincoln heard someone criticizing Grant's sloppy clothing, cigar smoking, and drinking, he is said to have replied, **"I can't spare that man—he fights."**

Grant was respected as a military leader by his men. Many other officers wanted his job and many caused him problems, but he was a successful leader. Grant showed his humanity at the surrender, allowing ex-Confederate soldiers to keep their horses for plowing and the weapons they would need to get food for their families.

Confederate Leaders

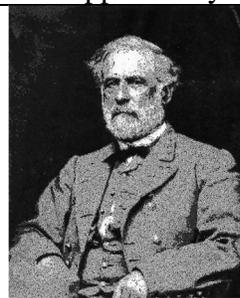


President of the Confederate States of America – Jefferson Davis was elected in 1861 to head the Confederacy as it broke away from the Union to begin a separate nation. Before long Davis found that war was inevitable and he would need to prepare the South to fight a war

without the same power Abraham Lincoln had as President—the Confederacy insisted on states' rights, so Davis would have difficulty leading the state governors throughout the war.

Jefferson knew that **he would have difficulty supplying their needs** because the **South was lacking in manufacturing facilities**. Everything needed to fight the war would have to be bought from European nations and brought in by ships. The South felt certain that European countries, especially England, would support them because the factories in Europe depended on the cotton produced in the South.

The men of the South were natural fighters. They knew how to ride and shoot and live off the land. Fighting a war would be much easier for them than for people who had been raised in the cities of the North. Furthermore, the man who was widely acknowledged as the greatest military leader in the country was leading the Confederate forces—Robert E. Lee. The soldiers had the skill and the will, but they did not have the supplies they would need for a long war.



General Robert E. Lee – Commander of the Army of Northern Virginia during the Civil War. He was considered the leader of the entire Confederate Army, though other generals had their own armies to command. Lee had made a successful career for himself from the time he was at

West Point training to be an army leader and as an officer in the United States Army during the Mexican War. When the Civil War was threatening, **President Lincoln asked Lee to head the Union army but he refused because he felt he had to be loyal to Virginia.**

Lee was respected and loved by soldiers and people of the South. They would have done anything for him and for that reason they fought on longer than they should have when it was apparent they were losing. Lee's decision to surrender helped many other Southerners decide to rejoin the Union.

After the War

Impact on the Nation – The Civil War tore the nation apart; brothers truly did fight brothers on different sides in the war. The issue of slavery was foremost in the causes of the war, but the South felt that they had certain states' rights that were not addressed. The ways of life of the two sections were so different that they had trouble keeping a balance in the government after the war in the same way they had before the war.

The South – Very little of the fighting took place in the North, so **most of the damage to the physical environment was in the South.** Homes and farms were burned by soldiers from the North after they looted the farms to get supplies. Land was made unfit for farming because of the battles that took place all over the South. Sherman's March to the Sea cut a wide swath across the South as he made his way through the area. His soldiers burned crops, homes, businesses, and towns in an attempt to destroy the will of the South to continue the fight.



Soldiers – All the men who fought in the Civil War were damaged by the war. They may have come home without a scratch but they would never be the same because of the scenes of violence they witnessed as Americans fought Americans. The toll was devastating for both sides. Hundreds of thousands of men died or were wounded as a result of the war. This decrease in population affected both sides. **Losing that much manpower hurt the factories, farms, and businesses in the North. The results were even more disastrous in the South.** Easily one-third of the men that fought for the Confederacy war did not come home again.

Women – Women in the Civil War, especially in the South, were engaged in the war effort to a great degree. They cut and rolled bandages, served as nurses, sometimes carried information from one unit to another (spies), worked the farms to continue to provide food, and a few of them even donned men's clothes and fought. In the South, with the death tolls so high, **many women had to lead their households and run farms or businesses in a culture where women did not traditionally own property or conduct business.**



African Americans – Just serving in the army was tough for African Americans who wanted to be soldiers.



Many had been kept from joining the army in 1861. Knowing that every man willing and able to fight would be needed to win the cause and save the Union, **Congress finally allowed the African Americans to enlist after the Emancipation Proclamation in 1862.** More than 186,000 joined the effort to save the Union and end slavery. These soldiers formed 166 regiments of artillery, cavalry, infantry, and engineers. Just because the African Americans were allowed to serve does not mean that they were treated fairly. They were under paid and under supplied. To make matters worse for the black soldiers, Confederate soldiers claimed that they would kill or enslave any black soldiers that they found.

Those who were among the enslaved African Americans in the South found themselves in as much turmoil as the rest of the population. **Once the slaves were set free they had the dilemma of where to go and what to do in order to provide for their families.** Many times they were exploited by the people with whom they came into contact. Their lives were harder in many cases than before the war. It was not until the Freedmen's Bureau established itself in the South and became a viable force that life began to get better for former slaves.

