CHAPTER FOCUS

This chapter describes the years of the Civil War, the period between 1861 and 1865 when the nation divided and North fought South. The Confederate states of the South struggled to gain self-government and to retain a way of life supported by the institution of slavery. The Northern or Union states battled to maintain the unity of the nation.

The Why Study History? page at the end of this chapter explores the ways in which Americans today remember the Civil War.

VIEWING HISTORY

Union soldiers practice a drill in this 1861 painting by James Walker. Culture What regional differences between the North and the South contributed to the Civil War?
1 From Bull Run to Antietam

SECTION PREVIEW

Objectives
1 Describe the First Battle of Bull Run and the war preparations of the two sides.
2 Explain the importance of Union victories in the western part of the Confederacy during 1862.
3 Describe the outcome of the battles in the East during 1862.
4 Key Terms Define: Civil War; First Battle of Bull Run; casualty; war of attrition; shell; canister; Battle of Shiloh; Battle of Antietam.

Main Idea
Bloody fighting during the first two years of the Civil War made it clear to both the North and the South that the struggle would be long and difficult.

Reading Strategy
Formulating Questions Reread the Main Idea above. Then rewrite it as a question. As you read, take notes about events that help answer the question.

In May 1861, after the Upper South (Virginia, North Carolina, Tennessee, and Arkansas) seceded from the Union, the Confederate states shifted their capital from Montgomery, Alabama, to Richmond, Virginia. By July, some 35,000 northern volunteers were training in Washington, D.C., just 100 miles away. “Forward to Richmond!” urged a headline in the New York Tribune. Many Northerners believed that capturing the Confederate capital would bring a quick end to the Civil War. No one predicted that this war between the Northern (Union) and Southern (Confederate) states would last from 1861 to 1865.

The First Battle of Bull Run

General Irvin McDowell, commander of the Union troops, was not yet ready to fight. Most of his troops, however, had volunteered for just 90 days and their term of service was nearly finished. “This is not an army,” he told the President. “It will take a long time to make an army.” Despite this warning, Lincoln ordered his general into action.

On July 16, McDowell marched his poorly prepared army into Virginia. His objective was the town of Manassas, an important railroad junction southwest of Washington. Opposing him was a smaller Confederate force under General P.G.T. Beauregard, the officer who had captured Fort Sumter. The Confederates were camped along Bull Run, a stream that passed about four miles north of Manassas.

The Union army took nearly four days to march 25 miles to Manassas. The soldiers’ lack of training contributed to their slow pace. McDowell later explained, “They stopped every moment to pick blackberries or get water. . . . They would not keep in the ranks, order as much as you pleased.”

Beauregard had no trouble keeping track of McDowell’s progress. Accompanying the troops was a huge crowd of reporters, politicians, and other civilians from Washington, planning to picnic and watch the battle.

McDowell’s delays allowed Beauregard to strengthen his army. Some 11,000 additional Confederate troops were packed into freight cars and sped to the scene. (This was the first
time in the history of warfare that troops were moved by train.) When McDowell finally attacked on July 21, he faced a force nearly the size of his own. Beyond the Confederate lines lay the road to Richmond.

After hours of hard fighting, the Union soldiers appeared to be winning. Their slow advance pushed the Southerners back. However, some Virginia soldiers commanded by General Thomas Jackson refused to give up. Seeing this, another Confederate officer rallied his retreating troops, shouting: “Look! There is Jackson standing like a stone wall! Rally behind the Virginians!” The Union advance was stopped, and “Stonewall” Jackson had earned his nickname.

Tired and discouraged, in late afternoon the Union forces began to fall back. Then a trainload of fresh Confederate troops arrived and launched a counterattack. The orderly Union retreat fell apart. Hundreds of soldiers dropped their weapons and started to run north. They stampeded into the sightseers who had followed them to the battlefield.

As the army disintegrated, soldiers and civilians were caught in a tangle of carriages, wagons, and horses on the narrow road. Terrified that the Confederate troops would catch them, they ran headlong for the safety of Washington. The Confederates, however, were also disorganized and exhausted, and they did not pursue the Union army.

The first major battle of the Civil War thus ended. It became known as the First Battle of Bull Run, because the following year another bloody battle occurred at almost exactly the same site.†

Compared to what would come, this battle was not a huge action. About 35,000 were involved on each side. The Union suffered about 2,900 casualties, the military term for those killed, wounded, captured, or missing in action. Confederate casualties were fewer than 2,000. Later battles would prove much more costly.

Preventing for War

Bull Run caused some Americans on both sides to suspect that winning the war might not be easy. “The fat is in the fire now,” wrote Lincoln’s private secretary. “The preparations for the war will be continued with increased vigor by the Government.” Congress quickly authorized the President to raise a million three-year volunteers. In Richmond, a clerk in the Confederate War Department began to worry, “We are resting on our oars, while the enemy is drilling and equipping 500,000 or 600,000 men.”

Strengths and Weaknesses In several respects, the North was much better prepared for war than was the South. For example, the North had more than double the South’s miles of railroad track. This made the movement of troops, food, and supplies quicker and easier in the North. More than twice as many factories were in the North as in the South. The North was thus better able to produce the guns, ammunition, shoes, and other items it needed for its army. The North’s economy was well balanced between farming and industry, and the North had far more money in its banks than the South. Finally, the North already had a functioning government and, although they were small, an existing army and navy.

† Many Civil War battles have two names, one given by the South and the other given by the North. The South tended to connect a battle with the nearest town, the North with some physical feature close by the battlefield.
Most importantly, two thirds of the nation's population lived in Union states. This made more men available to the Union army, but allowed for a sufficient labor force to remain behind for farm and factory work.

The Confederates had some advantages, too. Because seven of the nation's eight military colleges were in the South, a majority of the nation's trained officers were Southerners. When the war began, most of these officers sided with the Confederacy. In addition, the southern army did not need to initiate any military action to win the war. All they needed to do was maintain a defensive position and keep from being beaten. In contrast, to restore unity to the nation the North would have to attack and conquer the South. Southerners had the added advantage of fighting to preserve their way of life and, they believed, their right to self-government.

**Union Military Strategies** After the fall of Fort Sumter, President Lincoln ordered a naval blockade of the seceded states. By shutting down the South's ports along the Atlantic Coast and the Gulf of Mexico, Lincoln hoped to keep the South from shipping its cotton to Europe. He also wanted to prevent Southerners from importing the manufactured goods they needed.

Lincoln's blockade was part of a strategy developed by General Winfield Scott, the hero of the Mexican War and commander of all U.S. troops in 1861. The general realized it would take a long time to raise and train an army that was big enough and strong enough to invade the South successfully. Instead, he proposed to choke off the Confederacy with the blockade and to use troops and gunboats to gain control of the Mississippi River. Scott believed this would pressure the South to seek peace and would restore the nation without a bloody war.

Northern newspapers sneered at Scott's strategy. They scornfully named it the Anaconda Plan, after a type of snake that coils around its victims and crushes them to death. Despite the Union defeat at Bull Run, political pressure for action and a quick victory remained strong in 1861. This public clamor for results led to several more attempts to capture Richmond.

**Confederate War Strategies** The South's basic war plan was to prepare and wait. Many Southerners hoped that Lincoln would let them go in peace. "All we ask is to be let alone," announced Confederate president Jefferson Davis, shortly after secession. He planned for a defensive war.

Southern strategy called for a war of attrition. In this type of war, one side inflicts continuous losses on the enemy in order to wear down its strength. Southerners counted on their forces being able to turn back Union attacks until Northerners lost the will to fight. However, this strategy did not take into account the North's tremendous advantage in the resources needed to fight a long war. In the end, it was the North that waged a war of attrition against the South.

Southern strategy in another area also backfired. The South produced some 75 percent of the world's cotton. Historically, much of this cotton supplied the textile mills of Great Britain and France. However, Confederate leaders convinced most southern planters to stop exporting cotton. The South believed that the sudden loss of southern cotton would cause problems for the textile industries in Great Britain and France. They hoped that European industrial leaders would then pressure their governments to help the South gain its independence in exchange for restoring the flow of cotton.

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**Gunboats gave Union forces a great advantage in river warfare.** One Union naval commander was reported to have preached a Sunday sermon to his sailors in which he said, "Let not your heart be troubled. Ye believe in God; believe also in gunboats." Geography Why did the Union want to control the Mississippi River?
Instead the Europeans turned to India and Egypt for their cotton. By the time Southerners recognized the failure of this strategy, the Union blockade had become so effective that little cotton could get out. With no income from cotton exports, the South lost the money it needed to buy guns and maintain its armies.

**Tactics and Technology** For generations, European commanders had fought battles by concentrating their forces, assaulting a position, and driving the enemy away. Cannons and muskets in early times were neither accurate nor capable of repeating fire very rapidly. Generals relied on masses of charging troops to overwhelm the enemy.

Most generals in the Civil War had been trained in these methods. Many on both sides had seen such tactics work well in the Mexican War. However, the technology that soldiers faced in the 1860s was much improved over what these officers had faced on the battlefields of the 1840s.

By the Civil War, gun makers knew that bullet-shaped ammunition drifted less as it flew through the air than a round ball, the older type of ammunition. They had also learned that rifling, a spiral groove cut on the inside of a gun barrel, would make a fired bullet pick up spin, causing it to travel farther and straighter.

Older muskets, which had no rifling, were accurate only to about 100 yards. Bullets fired from rifles, as the new guns were called, hit targets at 500 yards. In addition, they could be reloaded and fired much faster.

Improvements in artillery were just as deadly. Instead of relying only on iron cannon balls, gunners could also fire shells, devices that exploded in the air or when they hit something. Artillery often fired canister, a special type of shell filled with bullets. This turned cannons into giant shotguns.

Thousands of soldiers went to their deaths by following orders to cross open fields against such weapons. Commanders on both sides, however, were slow to recognize that traditional methods exposed their troops to slaughter.

### War in the West

After the disaster at Bull Run, President Lincoln named General George McClellan to build and command a new army. While McClellan was involved with this task, Union forces in the west invaded the Confederacy.

The states of Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Tennessee held the key to control of the Mississippi River. Although some battles did take place farther west, the fighting in these four states is generally referred to as the “war in the West.”

The most successful Union forces in the West were led by General Ulysses S. Grant. A graduate of the United States Military Academy at West Point, Grant had left the military after serving in the Mexican War. Over the next several years he tried and failed at a number of civilian jobs. After the fall of Fort Sumter, Grant organized a group of Illinois volunteers and became a colonel. His success at organizing and training troops caused Lincoln to promote him to general. He was assigned to command the Union forces based in Paducah, Kentucky, where the Ohio and Tennessee rivers meet.
Forts Henry and Donelson In February 1862, Grant advanced south along the Tennessee River with more than 15,000 troops and several gunboats. Powered by steam and built to navigate shallow bodies of water, these gunboats were basically small floating forts fitted with cannons.

Grant’s objectives were Fort Henry and Fort Donelson, located just over the border in the Confederate state of Tennessee. The forts protected the Tennessee and Cumberland rivers, important water routes into the western Confederacy.

On February 6 the Union gunboats pounded Fort Henry into surrender before Grant’s troops arrived. The general then marched his army east and attacked Fort Donelson on the Cumberland River. Following three days of shelling by the gunboats, Fort Donelson also gave up.

The battles caused a sensation in both North and South. Northerners rejoiced that at last the Union had an important victory. Southerners worried that loss of the forts exposed much of the region to attack. Indeed Nashville soon fell to another Union army. Meanwhile, Grant and some 42,000 soldiers pushed farther south along the Tennessee River to threaten Mississippi and Alabama.

The Battle of Shiloh In late March, Grant’s army neared Corinth, Mississippi, an important railroad center near the Tennessee-Mississippi border. Confederate general Albert Sidney Johnston gathered troops from throughout the region to halt the Union advance. As Grant’s forces approached, Johnston had assembled an army of about 40,000 to oppose them.

Grant, however, stopped at Pittsburg Landing, Tennessee, a small river town about 20 miles north of Corinth. Here he waited for more Union troops that General Don Carlos Buell was bringing from Nashville. Johnston decided to launch an attack against Grant’s army before it got any larger.

On April 6, 1862, Johnston’s Confederates surprised some of Grant’s troops, who were camped at Shiloh Church outside Pittsburg Landing. Fighting quickly spread along a battle line six miles long. By the end of the first day of the Battle of Shiloh, the Southerners had driven the Union forces back, nearly into the Tennessee River. That night, some of Grant’s officers advised a retreat before the Confederates could renew their attack the next day. “Retreat?” Grant scoffed. “No. I propose to attack at daylight and whip them.”

Fortunately for Grant, Buell’s troops arrived during the night. The next day, Union forces counter-attacked and defeated Johnston’s army. However, the cost to both sides was high. The Union suffered more than 13,000 casualties, the Confederates nearly 11,000. Johnston was among the Confederate dead.

Shiloh was the bloodiest single battle that had taken place on the North American continent to that time. It shattered on both sides any remaining illusions about the glory of war and destroyed northern hopes that the Confederacy would be soon defeated.

Action on the Mississippi While Grant advanced into the Confederacy from the north, Union forces were also moving up the Mississippi River from the Gulf of Mexico. In late April 1862, a naval squadron commanded by David Farragut fought its way past two forts in the Louisiana swamps to force the surrender of New Orleans. Pushing upstream, Farragut soon captured Baton Rouge, Louisiana, and Natchez, Mississippi. In her diary, Southerner Mary Chesnut voiced her concerns about the Confederate losses:

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**American Voices**

“Battle after battle—disaster after disaster. How can I sleep? The power they are bringing to bear against our country is tremendous. . . . Are we not cut in two? . . . The reality is hideous.”

—Mary Chesnut

On June 6, the Union navy seized Memphis, Tennessee. Only two major posts on the Mississippi River now remained in
Confederate hands. These were Vicksburg, Mississippi, and Port Hudson, Louisiana. If northern forces could find some way to capture them, the entire Mississippi River valley would finally be under Union control. The Confederacy would be split into two parts.

**War in the East**

While the Union army marched through the western Confederate states, Union warships maintained the blockade of Virginia's coast. The Confederates, however, had developed a secret weapon with which to fight the blockade. In early March 1862, a Confederate ship that resembled a floating barn roof steamed out of the James River. When the Union warships guarding the mouth of the river opened fire on the strange-looking vessel, their cannon shots bounced off it like rubber balls. In hours, the Confederate vessel destroyed or heavily damaged three of the most powerful ships in the Union navy.

The **Monitor and the Merrimack** Southerners had created the strange-looking vessel by bolting iron plates to an old wooden steamship called the Merrimack. (Although the ship was renamed the Virginia, it is still called the Merrimack in most historical accounts.) The Union's wooden navy was no match for this powerful ironclad warship. Northern leaders feared the new weapon might soon break apart the entire blockade.

Fortunately for the Union, early reports of the Confederates' work on the Merrimack had reached the North. Reacting to the threat of a powerful weapon, President Lincoln had ordered construction of a similar Union warship. It was made entirely of iron and was rushed to completion in about 100 days. Named the Monitor, it looked like a tin can on a raft.

On March 9, the Monitor arrived off the Virginia coast to confront the Confederate ironclad. Neither ship was able to do serious damage to the other. After several hours of fighting, the Merrimack finally withdrew.

The two ships never met again. The Confederates blew up the Merrimack at its base in Norfolk, Virginia, in May 1862. The following December the Monitor sank in a storm. Their one encounter, however, changed the history of warfare. In a single day, the wooden navies of the world became obsolete.

**The Peninsular Campaign** The Confederates destroyed the Merrimack because they feared it would fall into Union hands. They knew that Union general George McClellan had landed troops nearby, launching the North's second attempt to capture Richmond.

At 36 years old, McClellan was young for a commanding general. However, he was an outstanding organizer and an excellent strategist. In addition, he was well liked by his troops. McClellan's great weakness was that he was very cautious and never seemed quite ready to fight. This irritated Lincoln and other northern leaders, who were impatient to avenge the Union’s defeat at Bull Run.

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*Confederate states* | *Confederate forces*
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In March 1862, McClellan finally ordered the Army of the Potomac out of Washington. Because he thought that marching to Manassas again would be a mistake, he transported some 100,000 soldiers by boat to a peninsula southeast of Richmond. As the Union troops moved up the peninsula, they encountered some 15,000 Southerners at Yorktown, Virginia, about 60 miles from the Confederate capital.

Although the enemy force was much smaller than his own, McClellan asked for more troops. Lincoln dispatched a stern message to his general:

“IT is indispensable to you that you strike a blow... The country will not fail to note—and is now noting—that the present hesitation to move upon an entrenched enemy is but the story of Manassas repeated... I have never written you... in greater kindness of feeling than now... But you must act.”

—President Lincoln

McClellan, however, waited outside Yorktown for about a month. When he was finally ready to advance, the defenders abandoned their positions and retreated toward Richmond.

On May 31, as they neared the capital, the Southerners suddenly turned and attacked McClellan’s army. Although the North claimed victory at the Battle of Seven Pines, both sides suffered heavy casualties. Among the wounded was the Confederate commander, General Joseph Johnston. Command of his army fell to Robert E. Lee.

**Robert E. Lee**

A warm and charming southern gentleman, Robert E. Lee came from an old, distinguished Virginia family. Among his relatives were two signers of the Declaration of Independence. His father, Henry Lee, was a hero of the American Revolution. After falling into debt, however, his father fled the country, leaving Robert to be raised by his mother.

In 1829 Lee graduated second in his class from West Point. During the next 17 years, he became expert in designing defensive military fortifications. His outstanding service in the Mexican War caught the attention of the army’s top officers, and in the early 1850s he served a short time as the head of West Point.

As the southern states seceded, Lincoln offered Lee command of Union forces. Although he was opposed to slavery and secession, Lee refused, explaining “I cannot raise my hand against my birthplace, my home, my children.” Instead, he resigned from the army and became the top military advisor to Confederate president Jefferson Davis. In May 1862 he took command of the Army of Northern Virginia, a post he held for the rest of the war. After the war Lee served as president of what is now Washington and Lee University in Lexington, Virginia, until his death in 1870 at age 63.

As a commander, Lee earned the loyalty and trust of his troops. “I would follow him onto the battlefield blindfolded,” Stonewall Jackson said. Like all great generals, Lee believed in good training and planning. However, he also understood that victory sometimes depends on the willingness to take chances.

**The South Attacks**

With McClellan’s forces still threatening Richmond, Lee had his opportunity to take a chance. In early June he divided his 55,000-man army, sending several thousand troops to strengthen Stonewall Jackson’s forces in western Virginia. The Seven Pines battle had reduced McClellan’s army to about 80,000 soldiers. Lee was gambling that the overly cautious McClellan, who was awaiting reinforcements, would not attack Richmond while the Confederate army was weakened.

General Jackson then began to act as though he intended to attack Washington. This tactic caused Lincoln to cancel the order for McClellan’s additional troops, keeping them in Washington to protect the Union capital. Jackson then slipped away to join Lee outside Richmond. In late June their combined forces attacked McClellan’s larger army in a series of encounters called the Seven Days’ Battles. Although the Confederates lost more than 20,000 soldiers, to the Union’s nearly 16,000, McClellan decided to retreat.

**The Second Battle of Bull Run** With McClellan having failed, Lincoln turned to General John Pope, who was organizing a new army outside Washington. The President
ordered McClellan's troops back to Washington and put Pope in overall command. Lee knew that he must draw Pope's army into battle before McClellan's soldiers joined it. Otherwise, the size of the Union force would be overwhelming.

Lee again divided his army. In late August he sent Jackson's troops north in a sweeping movement around Pope's position. After marching 50 miles in two days, they struck behind Pope's army and destroyed some of his supplies, which were stored at Manassas. Enraged, Pope ordered his 62,000 soldiers into action to smash Jackson. On August 29, while Pope's force was engaged, Lee also attacked it with the main body of the Confederate army.

The battle was fought on virtually the same ground where McDowell had been defeated the year before. Pope met the same fate at this Second Battle of Bull Run. After Pope's defeat, McClellan was returned to command. "We must use what tools we have," Lincoln said in defense of his decision. "If he can't fight himself, he excels in making others ready to fight."

The Battle of Antietam With Richmond no longer threatened, Lee decided that the time had come to invade the North. Lee hoped that a victory on Union soil would arouse support in Europe for the South and turn northern public opinion against the war.

In early September 1862, Lee's army bypassed the Union troops guarding Washington and slipped into western Maryland. McClellan had no idea where the Confederates were. Then one of his soldiers found a copy of Lee's orders wrapped around some cigars near an abandoned Confederate camp. Now that he knew the enemy's strategy, McClellan crowed, "If I cannot whip Bobbie Lee, I will be willing to go home."

True to his nature, however, McClellan delayed some 16 hours before ordering his troops after Lee. This gave the Confederate general, who had learned that his plans were in enemy hands, time to prepare for the Union attack. The two armies met at Antietam Creek near Sharpsburg, Maryland, on September 17. Lee had about 40,000 troops, McClellan over 75,000, with nearly 25,000 more in reserve.

Union troops attacked throughout the day, suffering heavy losses. In the first three hours of fighting, some 12,000 soldiers from both sides were killed or wounded. By day's end Union casualties had grown to over 12,000. Lee's nearly 14,000 casualties amounted to more than a third of his army.

The next day the battered Confederates retreated back into Virginia. Lincoln telegraphed McClellan, "Destroy the rebel army if possible." But the ever-cautious general did not take advantage of his opportunity to destroy the Army of Northern Virginia.

The Battle of Antietam became the bloodiest day of the Civil War. "God grant these things may soon end and peace be restored," wrote a Pennsylvania soldier after the battle. "Of this war I am heartily sick and tired."

### Comprehension

1. **Key Terms** Define: (a) Civil War; (b) First Battle of Bull Run; (c) casualty; (d) war of attrition; (e) shell; (f) canister; (g) Battle of Shiloh; (h) Battle of Antietam.

2. **Summarizing the Main Idea** Why was it clear by the end of 1862 that the Civil War would be a long and bloody struggle?

3. **Organizing Information** Write the following column headings on a piece of paper: Union Strategies, Confederate Strategies, Union Victories, Confederate Victories. Then fill in details from the text in the appropriate column.

### Critical Thinking

4. **Analyzing Time Lines** Review the time line at the start of the section. Choose one battle that you think would have been encouraging for the Confederacy. Explain why you chose that event.

5. **Recognizing Cause and Effect** How did the development of new military technologies affect the Civil War?

### Writing Activity

6. **Writing a Persuasive Essay** In your view, was the North or the South more prepared to fight a war? Write an essay explaining your opinion. Support your ideas with specific examples.
In early 1862 the South faced a crisis. As Grant moved toward Mississippi and McClellan's army threatened Richmond, many Confederate soldiers neared the end of their enlistments. Few seemed ready to reenlist. "If I live this twelve months out, I intend to try mighty hard to keep out [of the army]," pledged one Virginia soldier.

Politics in the South

The branches and powers of the Confederate government were similar to those of the government of the United States. However, the framers of the Confederate constitution made certain that it recognized states' rights and slavery. These two differences caused difficulties for the South throughout the war.

Like the government of the North, the Confederate government had to persuade individual citizens to sacrifice their personal interests for the common good. Confederate leaders had to find a way to build Southerners' loyalty to their new government. Furthermore, because the South had fewer resources than the North, its war effort depended more on making the best possible use of what it had. Since the southern state governments were strong and sometimes fiercely independent, meeting these objectives would prove difficult.

Mobilizing for War

Fearing the war would be lost if there were not enough soldiers to fight, General Lee called for a draft, or required military service. Opponents of strong central government claimed that the proposal violated the principles the South was fighting for. One Texas senator disagreed with such arguments:

> "Cease this child's play. . . . The enemy are in some portions of almost every state in the Confederacy. . . . We need a large army. How are you going to get it? . . . No man has any individual rights, which come into conflict with the welfare of the country."

—Senator Louis Wigfall

Medals of Honor like this one were awarded to many Civil War soldiers, both white and African American.
In April 1862 the Confederate congress passed a draft law requiring three years of military service for white men between the ages of 18 and 35. This automatically extended the service of all volunteers for two more years. After the horrible losses at the Battle of Antietam, the upper age for the draft became 45. Later it was raised again to 50. Owners of 20 or more slaves were excused from serving, and so were Southerners wealthy enough to hire a substitute to serve in their place.

The Confederate government took charge of the South’s economy. It determined the amount of production of wool, cotton, and leather, and seized control of southern railroads from private owners. Farmers were required to contribute one tenth of their produce to the war effort.

To help raise money for the war, the Confederate congress imposed a tax on personal incomes. The Confederate government also authorized the army to seize male slaves for military labor. Though they were paid a monthly fee for borrowed slaves, planters resented this practice because it disrupted work on their plantations.

The Impact of States’ Rights A fierce commitment to states’ rights worked against the Confederate government and harmed the war effort in many ways. Georgia governor Joseph Brown proclaimed, “I entered into this revolution . . . to sustain the rights of the states . . . and I am still a rebel . . . no matter who may be in power.”

Many Southerners shared the governor’s point of view. Local authorities sometimes refused to cooperate with draft officials. Whole counties in some states were ruled by armed bands of draft-dodgers and deserters. It is estimated that perhaps half of Confederate men eligible for the draft failed to cooperate. “If we are defeated,” warned an Atlanta newspaper, “it will be by the people at home.”

Seeking Help from Europe Although the blockade effectively prevented southern cotton from reaching Great Britain and France, Southerners continued to hope for British and French intervention in the war. In May 1861 the Confederate government sent representatives to both nations. Even though the Confederacy failed to gain recognition, or official acceptance, as an independent nation, it did receive some help.

Great Britain agreed to allow its ports to be used to build Confederate privateers. One of these vessels, the Alabama, captured more than 60 northern merchant ships. In all, 11 British-built Confederate privateers forced most Union shipping from the high seas for much of the war.

Recognition did seem possible for a time in 1862. Napoleon III, the ruler of France, had sent troops into Mexico, trying to rebuild a French empire in the Americas. He welcomed the idea of an independent Confederate States of America on Mexico’s northern border. However, France would not give the Confederacy open support without Great Britain’s cooperation.

British opinion about the war was divided. Some leaders clearly sympathized with the Southerners. Many believed an independent South would be a better market for British products. Others, however, questioned whether the Confederacy would be able to win the war. The British government adopted a wait-and-see attitude. To get foreign help, the South would have to first prove itself on the battlefield.

Politics in the North

After early losses to Confederate forces, President Lincoln and his government had to convince some northern citizens that maintaining the Union was worth the sacrifices they were being asked to make. In addition, the federal government found itself facing international crises as it worked to strengthen civilian support for the war.

Tensions with Great Britain British talks with the South aroused tensions between Great Britain and the United States. Late in 1861 Confederate president Davis again sent two representatives from the Confederacy to England and France. After evading the Union blockade, John Slidell and James Mason boarded the British mail ship Trent and steamed for Europe.

Soon a Union warship stopped the Trent in international waters, removed the two Confederates, and brought them to the United States. An outraged British government sent troops to Canada and threatened war unless Slidell and Mason were freed. President Lincoln ordered the release of the Confederates. “One war at a time,” he said.

The Union vigorously protested Great Britain’s support of the Confederacy. Lincoln demanded $19 billion compensation from
Great Britain for damages done by the privateers, and for other British actions on the South's behalf. This demand strained relations between the United States and Great Britain for nearly a decade after the war.

**Republicans in Control** With southern Democrats out of the United States Congress, the Republicans had little opposition. The Civil War Congresses thus became among the most active in American history. Republicans were able to pass a number of laws during the war that would have a lasting impact on the United States.

Southerners had opposed building a rail line across the Great Plains since Illinois senator Stephen Douglas first proposed it in the early 1850s. In July 1862, however, Congress passed the Pacific Railroad Act with little resistance. The law allowed the federal government to give land and money to companies for construction of a railroad line from Nebraska to the Pacific Coast. The Homestead Act, passed in the same year, offered free government land to people willing to settle on it.

The disappearance of southern opposition allowed Congress to raise tariff rates as well. The tariff became more a device to protect northern industries than to provide revenue for the government. Union leaders turned to other means to raise money for the war.

**Financial Measures** In 1861 the Republican-controlled Congress passed the first federal tax on income in American history. It collected 3 percent of the income of people earning more than $800 a year. The Internal Revenue Act of 1862 imposed taxes on items such as liquor, tobacco, medicine, and newspaper ads. Nearly all these taxes ended when the war was over.

During the war, Congress reformed the nation's banking system. Since 1832, when President Jackson vetoed the recharter of the Second Bank of the United States, Americans had relied on state banks. In 1862 Congress passed an act that created a national currency, called **greenbacks** because of their color. This paper money was not backed by gold, but was declared by Congress to be acceptable for legal payment of all public and private debts.

**Emergency Wartime Actions** Like the government of the Confederacy, the United States government exercised great power during the Civil War. As in the South, efforts focused on raising troops and uniting the nation behind the war effort.

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**Abraham Lincoln**

"A house divided against itself cannot stand."

—Speech in 1858

Abraham Lincoln entered the White House with little training in national politics. Before being elected in 1860, he had been a successful lawyer in Illinois and a member of the House of Representatives for a single term. Nothing, however, could have prepared him for the extraordinary challenges he would face as President.

Lincoln confronted crises on every side. Southern states began seceding from the Union even before he took office. The border states somehow had to be kept in the Union. Many Northerners, while opposing secession, did not want to fight the South, and white Northerners disagreed among themselves about slavery.

Lincoln's actions as President all pointed toward one goal: preserving the Union. He changed commanding generals again and again in a desperate search for one who could defeat the Confederate army. He suppressed freedom of speech and assembly. He issued the Emancipation Proclamation to free the slaves living behind Confederate lines, and in 1863 he called on free blacks to join the Union army. All of these actions brought a torrent of criticism on Lincoln. To some critics he was a power-hungry tyrant; to others he was weak and indecisive.

Along with his commitment to preserving the Union, Lincoln's greatest strengths were his sense of compassion and his ability to express powerful ideas in simple yet moving language. In fact, his words have come to help define the Civil War, from his warning before the war that "A house divided against itself cannot stand" to his hope in 1865 that Americans would face the future "with malice toward none, with charity for all." Assassinated shortly before the war's end, Lincoln would not live to work for the compassionate peace he favored. But he had done more than any other single person to preserve the nation at its time of greatest danger.

**Connecting to Today**

Lincoln is remembered for leading the nation through a time of crisis. His ability to express ideas clearly created support for maintaining a unified nation. **How important is it that the President be able to rally the people behind a cause?** Defend your opinion.
This cartoon of 1863 echoes Lincoln's warning that "the enemy behind us is more dangerous to the country than the enemy before us." Government Explain the symbols in the cartoon.

Four slave states remained in the Union—Delaware, Maryland, Missouri, and Kentucky. Because of their locations, the continued loyalty of these border states was critical to the Union. Lincoln considered Delaware, where few citizens held slaves, to be secure. In nearby Maryland, however, support for secession was strong. In September 1861 Lincoln ordered that all "disloyal" members of the Maryland state legislature be arrested. This action prevented a vote on secession and assured that Washington would not be surrounded by the Confederacy.

The North needed the loyalty of Kentucky and Missouri in order to keep control of the Ohio and Mississippi rivers. In Missouri, Lincoln supported an uprising to overthrow the pro-Confederate state government. To secure Kentucky, he put the state under martial law for part of the war. This is emergency rule by military authorities, during which some Bill of Rights guarantees are suspended. Although Jefferson Davis imposed martial law on parts of the Confederacy, Lincoln is the only United States President ever to exercise this power.

The Union also established a draft. In March 1863 President Lincoln signed a law requiring military service of all white males age 20 to 45. Like the southern law, there were exceptions. To avoid the draft, a Northerner could pay the government $300 or he could hire a substitute to serve in his place.

Opposition to the War Riots broke out in the North after the draft law was passed. Mobs of whites in New York City vented their rage at the draft in July 1863. More than 100 people died during four days of destruction. At least 11 of the dead were African Americans, who seemed to be targeted by the rioters.

Although Democrats could not control Congress, some raised their voices in protest against the war. Nicknamed Copperheads, after a type of poisonous snake, these Democrats warned that Republican policies would bring a flood of freed slaves to the North. They predicted these freed slaves would take jobs away from whites. Radical Copperheads tried to persuade Union soldiers to desert the army and other Northerners to resist the draft.

To silence the Copperheads and other opponents of the war, Lincoln resorted to extreme measures. He used the army to shut down opposition newspapers and denied others the use of the mails.

In some places Lincoln suspended the writ of habeas corpus. This is a legal protection requiring that a court determine if a person is lawfully imprisoned. Without it, people can be held in jail for indefinite periods without even being charged with a crime. The Constitution allows suspension of the writ during a rebellion.

More than 13,000 Americans who objected to the Union government's policies were imprisoned without trial during the war. They included newspaper editors and elected state officials, plus southern sympathizers and some who actually did aid the Confederacy. Most Northerners approved of Lincoln's actions as necessary to restore the Union.

Emancipation and the War

While the Copperheads attacked Lincoln for making war on the South, abolitionists and others attacked him for not making it a war to end slavery. As the Union's battlefield casualties mounted, many Northerners began to question whether it was enough to simply restore the nation. Some, including a group in the Republican party called Radical Republicans, wanted the Confederacy punished for causing so much suffering. No punishment could be worse, the Radical Republicans argued, than freeing the slaveholders' "property."

Lincoln and Slavery At first, the President resisted pressure to make the abolition of slavery a Union war goal. He insisted that under the Constitution he was bound only to preserve and protect the nation. Lincoln explained this view in a letter to Horace Greeley, an abolitionist newspaper editor:
Although Lincoln personally opposed slavery, he did not believe that he had the legal authority to abolish it. He also worried about the effect such an action would have on the loyalty of the border states. However, Lincoln recognized the importance of slavery to the South’s war effort. Every slave working in a field or factory freed a white Southerner to fire a gun at Union soldiers. Gradually, he came to regard ending slavery as one more strategy for winning the war.

The Emancipation Proclamation In the fall of 1862, as Lee retreated south from Antietam, Lincoln proclaimed that on January 1, 1863, slaves in areas of rebellion against the government would be free. Then, on New Year’s Day, 1863, he issued the final Emancipation Proclamation:

> “I, Abraham Lincoln, President of the United States, by virtue of the power in me vested as Commander-in-Chief, of the Army and Navy of the United States ... as a fit and necessary war measure for suppressing said rebellion ... do order and declare that all persons held as slaves within said designated States, and parts of States, are and henceforward shall be free. ...”

—The Emancipation Proclamation, January 1863

Reaction to the Proclamation The decree had little direct impact on slavery because it applied only to places that were under Confederate control. Nevertheless, it was condemned in the South and debated in the North. Some abolitionists criticized Lincoln for not having gone far enough. The proclamation did nothing to free people enslaved in the border states, nor did it free slaves living in Confederate areas controlled by Union forces.

Other Northerners, fearing that freed people coming north would cause unemployment, criticized even this limited action. After Lincoln’s September announcement, the Democratic party made gains in the congressional elections of November 1862.

The response of black Northerners was much more positive. “We shout for joy that we live to record this righteous decree,” abolitionist Frederick Douglass exclaimed. Even if the proclamation brought no immediate end to slavery, it promised that an enslaved people would be free when the North won the war.

Perhaps the most significant reaction occurred in Europe. The abolition movement was strong in England. The Emancipation Proclamation, coupled with news of Lee’s defeat at Antietam, ended any real chance that France and Great Britain would intervene in the war.

African Americans Fight

The Emancipation Proclamation had two immediate effects. It inspired southern slaves who heard about it to free themselves by escaping to the protection of Union troops. It also encouraged African Americans to serve in the Union army.

The Contraband Issue Southern slaveholders usually fled with their slaves when the Union
army approached. Frequently, however, slaves remained behind or escaped to the safety of nearby Union forces. Believing they had no choice, some Union officers gave these slaves back to slaveholders who demanded return of their "property."

Early in the war, Union general Benjamin Butler devised a legal argument that allowed the Union army to free captured and escaped slaves. During war, one side's possessions may be seized by its enemy. Called **contraband**, these captured items become property of the enemy government. Butler maintained that if slaves were property then they could be considered contraband of war. The Union government, as their new owner, could then let the slaves go.

At first, the army employed these African Americans to build fortifications, drive wagons, and perform countless other noncombat jobs. After the Emancipation Proclamation, however, many enlisted to fight the Confederacy.

**African American Soldiers** When the Civil War began, black volunteers were not allowed to join the Union army. In July 1862, following McClellan's defeats in Virginia, Congress authorized Lincoln to accept African Americans in the army. Several months later, he made the announcement in the Emancipation Proclamation.

Given this encouragement, African Americans rushed to join the fight. By 1865 nearly 180,000 African Americans had enlisted in the Union army. More than half were black Southerners who had been freed from slavery by the fighting. For these soldiers, fighting to help free others who were still enslaved held special meaning. Many African Americans viewed the chance to fight against slavery as a milestone in their history. In total, African Americans composed almost 10 percent of the troops who served the North during the war.

On warships, black and white sailors served together. African American soldiers, however, served in all-black regiments under the command of white officers. Until June 1864 African Americans also earned less pay than white soldiers.

In July 1863, an African American regiment earned a place in history at Fort Wagner, a stronghold that protected the harbor at Charleston, South Carolina. On July 18, the 54th Massachusetts Infantry, commanded by Colonel Robert Gould Shaw, led the attack on the fort. The regiment's charge across a narrow spit of sand cost it nearly half its men. Frederick Douglass's two sons were among the survivors; so was Sergeant William Carney, who became the first African American to earn the Congressional Medal of Honor.

The actions of the 54th Massachusetts demonstrated what Frederick Douglass wrote in his newspaper the following month:

> "Once let a 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."

—Frederick Douglass
The Hardships of War

The Union's changing policies regarding slavery in the South prompted thousands of slaves to escape to freedom. This development hurt the Confederacy in two ways. It depleted the South's labor force, and it provided the North with even greater numerical advantages in the war effort.

The war produced drastic changes in the lives of Northerners and Southerners. With the majority of men off fighting, women on both sides took on new responsibilities. Wives and mothers lived with the fear that every day could bring news of the loss of a loved one. In addition, both sides faced labor shortages, inflation, and other economic problems during the war. By 1863, however, it was clear that the North's greater resources were allowing it to meet these challenges, while the South could not.

The Southern Economy

Among the problems the Confederacy faced during the war was a food shortage. Invading armies disrupted the South's food-growing regions as well as its production of cotton. In parts of the South not threatened by Union forces, the Confederate draft pulled large numbers of white males out of rural areas. Southern women worked the land, oversaw slaves, and tried to keep farms and plantations operating. However, food production declined in the South as the war progressed.

Many planters made the problem worse by resisting the central government's pleas to shift from raising cotton to growing food crops. While cotton piled up in warehouses, due to the Union blockade, food riots erupted in southern cities. The worst of these occurred in Richmond, where nearly 1,000 women looted bakeries and other shops in April 1863.

Although the Confederacy never was able to provide all the manufactured goods its army needed, southern industry grew during the war. The Confederate government supervised construction of factories to make railroad track, guns and ammunition, and many other items. Women filled many of the jobs in these factories.

The labor shortage and lack of goods contributed to inflation. By late 1862 a bag of salt that cost $2 before the war was selling for $60 in some places. The hardships at home increased desertions in the Confederate army. "We are poor men and are willing to defend our country but our families [come] first," a Mississippi soldier declared.

The Northern Economy

The war hurt industries that depended heavily on southern markets or southern cotton. However, most northern industries boomed. Unlike the Confederacy, the North had the farms and factories to produce nearly everything its army and civilian population needed. War-related industries fared especially well. Philip Armour made a fortune packaging pork to feed Union soldiers. Samuel Colt ran his factory night and day producing guns for the army.

As in the South, when men went off to war, women filled critical jobs in factories and on farms. Many factory owners preferred women employees because they were paid less. This hiring practice kept wages down overall. Prices rose faster than pay during the war.

A few manufacturers made their profits even greater by selling the Union government inferior products: rusty rifles, boats that leaked, hats that dissolved in the rain. Uniforms made from compressed rags quickly fell apart. The soles came off some boots after a few miles of marching.

Prison Camps

Captured Confederate soldiers were sent to prison camps throughout the North, including Point Lookout in

Conditions at Georgia’s Andersonville prison evoked outrage from Northerners and calls for prisoner exchanges. Economy How did the state of the South’s economy contribute to the horrible conditions of Confederate prison camps?
Maryland and Camp Chase in Ohio. The Ohio Penitentiary also housed some Confederate prisoners. The South’s prison camps were located wherever there was room. Andersonville, its most notorious camp, was in a field in Georgia. Richmond’s Libby Prison was a converted tobacco warehouse.

The North and South generally treated their prisoners about the same. In most cases officers received better treatment than other prisoners. Andersonville was the exception. Built to hold 10,000 Northerners, it eventually confined nearly 35,000 men in a fenced, 26-acre open area. About 100 prisoners a day died, usually of starvation or exposure. The camp’s commander was the only Confederate to be later tried for war crimes. He was convicted and hanged.

**Improving Medical Conditions** While soldiers faced miserable conditions in prison camps, life was not much better in the battle camps. Health and medical conditions on both sides were frightful. About one in four Civil War soldiers did not survive the war. A Union soldier was three times more likely to die in camp or in a hospital than he was to be killed on the battlefield. In fact, about one in five Union soldiers wounded in battle later died from their wounds. While most doctors were aware of the relationship between cleanliness and infection, they did not know how to sterilize their equipment. Surgeons sometimes went for days without even washing their instruments.

On both sides, thousands of women volunteered to care for the sick and wounded. Government clerk Clara Barton quit her job in order to provide needed supplies and first aid to Union troops in camp and during battle. Known to soldiers as the “angel of the battlefield,” Barton continued her service after the war by founding the American Red Cross. Mental health reformer Dorothea Dix volunteered to organize and head the Union army’s nursing corps. Some 4,000 women served as nurses for the northern army. By the end of the war, nursing was no longer only a man’s profession.

Sanitation in most army camps was nonexistent. Rubbish and rotting food littered the ground. Human waste and heaps of animal manure polluted water supplies. Epidemics of contagious diseases, such as mumps and measles, swept through camps. Sick lists were lengthy. Sometimes only half the troops in a regiment were available for battle.

The United States Sanitary Commission, created in June 1861, attempted to combat these problems. Thousands of volunteers, mostly women, inspected army hospitals and camps. They organized cleanups and provided advice about controlling infection, disease prevention, sewage disposal, and nutrition. Despite these and similar efforts, about twice as many soldiers on each side died from disease as from the guns of the enemy.

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**SECTION 2 REVIEW**

**Comprehension**

1. **Key Terms** Define: (a) draft; (b) recognition; (c) greenback; (d) martial law; (e) Copperhead; (f) writ of habeas corpus; (g) Emancipation Proclamation; (h) contraband.

2. **Summarizing the Main Idea** Give some examples of steps the Confederate and Union governments took to support the war effort.

3. **Organizing Information** Create a web diagram showing the legislation passed by the Republican Congress during the war. Label the center circle Republican Legislation 1861–1862. Note three or four pieces of legislation in surrounding circles.

**Critical Thinking**

4. **Analyzing Time Lines** Review the time line at the start of the section. Which event on the time line, in your opinion, had the greatest impact on the Civil War?

5. **Determining Relevance** In what ways did the Emancipation Proclamation affect the war?

**Writing Activity**

6. **Writing an Expository Essay** Use information from the section to write a one-page essay describing the effects the war had on the economies of the North and the South.
Using Letters as Primary Sources

When people write letters, they report firsthand about something of interest to themselves. For this reason, letters are a valuable source of historical evidence. Not only do they present factual information about a subject, but they also give clues to the attitudes of people in a particular historical period.

Use the following steps to analyze the historical evidence in the letters on this page.

1. Lay the groundwork for analyzing the letters by asking who, when, where, and what. (a) What clues do the letters give about the identity of the writers? (b) To whom were the letters written? (c) When were they written? (d) Where were they written? (e) What are the topics of the letters?

2. Analyze the information in each letter. Study the letters to identify their main points. (a) What specific problems does the writer of letter A describe? (b) What tasks does the writer of letter B perform?

3. Study each letter to see what it reveals about conditions and attitudes during the period in which it was written. (a) What general difficulties did farm wives face when their husbands were away at war? (b) Summarize what conditions were like for the wounded after Civil War battles. (c) Generalize about the contribution to the war effort made by women during the Civil War.

Lowndes County, Alabama, June 1, 1862

Dear husband,

I now take my pen in hand [to] drop you a few lines to let you know that we are all well as common and I am in about the same health that I was when you left. I hopes these lines may find you the same. The boys [her sons] has come home to see me on a furlough [leave from the army] and stayed 10 days. They started back yesterday to the camp. . . . John, my corn is out now and I have not drawed [harvested] any thing yet but hope I will. My crop is nice but Pane [a hired man] has quit and left my crop in bad fix, but the neighbors says they will help us. You said you wanted me to pray for you. As for prayers, I pray for you all the time. I pray for you nearly every breath I draw. . . . Your baby is the prettiest thing you ever saw in your life. She can walk by herself and your little grandson is pretty as pink and grows the fastest in the world. You must come home and see all of your babies and kiss them. I have got the rye cut. . . . Your old mare is gone blind in one eye and something is the matter with one of her feet so that she can't hardly walk. Your hogs and cows is coming on very well, I want you to come home for I want to see you so bad I don't know what to do. I must come to a close by saying I remain your loving wife until death. You must write to me as soon as you get this letter. Goodbye to you.

Lucy Lowe to John P. Lowe

Adapted from Katherine P. Jones, Heroines of Dixie, 1955

Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, July 8, 1863

My Dear Cousin,

I am very tired tonight; have been on the field all day. . . . There are no words in the English language to express the sufferings I witnessed today. The men lie on the ground; their clothes have been cut off them to dress [bandage] their wounds; they . . . have nothing but hardtack [biscuit] to eat only as Sanitary Commissioners, Christian Associations [volunteer workers], and so forth give them. . . . To give you some idea of the extent and numbers of the wounds, four surgeons, none of them whom were idle fifteen minutes at a time, were busy all day amputating legs and arms. I gave to every man that had a leg or arm off a gill [measure] of wine, to every wounded in the Third Division, one glass of lemonade, some bread and preserves and tobacco—as much as I am opposed to the latter. . . . I would get on first rate [remain in good spirits] if they would not ask me to ask to write to their wives; that I cannot do without crying, which is not pleasant to either party.

Cornelia

Cornelia Hancock, South After Gettysburg, 1956
Moresoldiers died from disease and from infections caused by wounds than were killed in battle. Field hospitals were ill-equipped to treat the wounded.

John Singleton Mosby, a Confederate scout and guerrilla leader, wore this jacket. Mosby and his Partisan Rangers often operated behind enemy lines in Virginia and Maryland.

Some Confederate soldiers wore this shoulder plate. The plate saved his life by stopping a musket bullet.

Many soldiers used a musket, but the rifled musket soon replaced it as the standard weapon. A rifle was more accurate over long distances.

Bowie knives—named after frontiersman Jim Bowie, who died defending the Alamo during the Texas War for Independence in 1836.

More soldiers died from disease and from infections caused by wounds than were killed in battle. Field hospitals were ill-equipped to treat the wounded.

The soldier who wore this shoulder plate was very lucky. The plate saved his life by stopping a musket bullet.

Civil War Musket

Field Hospital

Bullet in Shoulder Plate

Quinine relieved some symptoms, but did not cure soldiers of the disease.
A soldier carried his own eating implements with him. Most had only a cup, knife, fork, spoon, and metal plate. This more-elaborate mess kit was privately purchased.

Although not very tasty, this chewy bread lasted a long time without spoiling and was easy to carry.

**Mess Tins**

**Hard Tack**

When Union and Confederate soldiers set off to war in 1861, both sides expected it to last only a short time. They soon realized that the struggle would not be settled quickly, and that they would have to adapt to long years of war.

As in most wars, much of what the soldiers did was boring or uncomfortable—training for battle, securing food, idling with their fellow soldiers, and marching. Soldiers far preferred these daily activities, however, to the deadly horrors they faced from battle and disease.

Scarcity of clothing was also a problem, especially for the Confederates because of the Union blockade. It was common to see Confederate soldiers barefoot or wearing the blue uniforms taken from Union soldiers killed in battle. See 1.

Technological advances changed the way the war was fought. While both sides relied on older weapons such as knives, bayonets, and muskets at the start of the war, rifles became more common as the war progressed. The greater range and accuracy of rifles enabled defenders to cut down attacking troops with terrible efficiency. See 2, 3, and 4.

Medical care on the battlefield was crude. Surgeons routinely cut off injured arms and legs of wounded soldiers. Without medicines to fight infection, minor wounds often became infected. Diseases like pneumonia and malaria killed more men than guns or cannons. See 5 and 6.

The armies survived mainly on hard tack, a kind of biscuit that, with bacon and coffee, was the main part of the soldiers' diet. See 7 and 8.

By the war's end, more than 600,000 people had died—the greatest number of Americans ever to die in a war. Four of every ten men who went off to the Civil War were killed or wounded.
3 The Tide of War Turns

SECTION PREVIEW

Objectives
1. Analyze the importance of Lee’s victories at Fredericksburg and Chancellorsville.
2. Explain how the Battles of Gettysburg and Vicksburg turned the war in the North’s favor.
3. Describe the importance of 1863 and the message of the Gettysburg Address.
4. Key Terms Define: Battle of Fredericksburg; Battle of Chancellorsville; Battle of Gettysburg; Pickett’s Charge; siege; Gettysburg Address.

Main Idea
Despite southern victories at Fredericksburg and Chancellorsville, the tide of war turned in the summer of 1863, when the North won important battles at Gettysburg and Vicksburg.

Reading Strategy
Reinforcing Key Ideas Write the headings Gettysburg and Vicksburg on a sheet of paper and take notes about each battle as you read. When finished reading the section, write briefly about why each battle was important in turning the tide of the war.

The Emancipation Proclamation may have renewed enthusiasm for the war among some Northerners, but it had little effect on the battlefield. When General George McClellan delayed in following up on his victory over Robert E. Lee at the Battle of Antietam, Lincoln again removed the general from command.

Victories for Lee
In November 1862 the President named General Ambrose Burnside to replace McClellan. Sadly for Lincoln, Burnside was better known for his thick whiskers, the origin of the term “sideburns,” than for his skills as a military strategist. He soon proved that his poor reputation was justified.

The Battle of Fredericksburg
Knowing that McClellan had been fired for being too cautious, Burnside quickly advanced into Virginia. His plan was simple—to march his army of some 122,000 men straight toward Richmond. In response, Lee massed his army of nearly 79,000 at Fredericksburg, Virginia, on the south bank of the Rappahannock River. Lee spread his troops along a ridge called Marye’s Heights, behind and overlooking the town.

Incredibly, instead of crossing the river out of range of the Confederate artillery, Burnside decided to cross directly in front of Lee’s forces. “The enemy will be more surprised [by this move],” he explained. Lee was surprised only by the poor strategy of Burnside’s plan.

Union troops poured across the river on specially constructed bridges and occupied the town. Lee let them cross. He knew that his artillery had the area well covered. Lee believed that if Burnside’s army attacked, the Confederate forces could easily deal it a crushing defeat.

On December 13, 1862 the Battle of Fredericksburg began. Throughout the day Burnside ordered charge after charge into the Confederate gunfire. Some Union army units lost more than half their men. When the
fighting ceased at nightfall, the Union had suffered nearly 13,000 casualties. Confederate losses were just over 5,000. A demoralized Burnside soon asked to be relieved of his command.

The Battle of Chancellorsville After accepting Burnside’s resignation, a worried Lincoln turned to yet another general, Joseph “Fighting Joe” Hooker. The general’s plan was to move the Union army around Fredericksburg and attack the Confederates’ strong defenses from behind. “May God have mercy on General Lee, for I will have none,” Fighting Joe promised.

In late April 1863, Hooker put his plan into action. Leaving about a third of his 115,000-man army outside Fredericksburg, he marched the rest of his troops several miles upriver and slipped across the Rappahannock. Lee soon became aware of Hooker’s actions. Confederate cavalry commanded by General J.E.B. “Jeb” Stuart discovered Hooker’s force camped about ten miles west of Fredericksburg, near a road crossing called Chancellorsville.

Dividing his forces, Lee sent more than 40,000 Confederate soldiers westward to meet Hooker. About 10,000 troops remained in Fredericksburg. Lee ordered them to build many fires at night, so the enemy across the river would not realize most of the army was gone.

The Battle of Chancellorsville began on May 1, 1863. When the Union troops started their march toward Fredericksburg, they suddenly saw Lee’s army in front of them. After a brief clash, Fighting Joe ordered them to pull back into the thick woods and build defenses.

The next day, when the Confederates did not attack, Hooker assumed they were in retreat. Instead, Lee had daringly divided his forces a second time. He sent General Stonewall Jackson and 26,000 men on a 12-mile march around the Union army for a late-afternoon attack on its right side. The movement of Jackson’s troops was concealed by heavy woods that covered the area.

Again, Hooker was taken by surprise. The only warning was a wave of rabbits and deer that poured into the Union camp moments ahead of the Confederate charge. If darkness had not halted his attack, Jackson would have crushed the Union army.

That night, Jackson and some other officers left the Confederate camp to scout the Union positions for a renewed attack. As they returned, in the darkness some Confederate soldiers mistook them for enemies and opened fire. Three bullets hit Jackson, one shattering his left arm so badly that it had to be amputated.

On May 3, with Stuart now leading Jackson’s command, the Confederate army completed its victory. On May 5, Hooker’s badly beaten troops withdrew back across the river. Chancellorsville was Lee’s most brilliant victory, but it was also his most costly one. On May 10, Jackson died of complications from his wounds. Stonewall Jackson was probably Lee’s most brilliant general. His popularity with the troops was exceeded only by Lee’s. His death deprived Lee of a man he called his “strong right arm.”

The Battle of Gettysburg

The crushing defeats at Fredericksburg and Chancellorsville were the low point of the war for the Union. The mood in Washington was dark. Rumors swept the capital that Lincoln would resign as President. Some northern leaders began to talk seriously of making peace with the South. “If there is a worse place than Hell,” Lincoln said, “I am in it.”

In June 1863 Lee marched his forces northward. The Union blockade and the South’s lack of resources were beginning to weaken his army. With all the fighting in Virginia, supplies there had become scarce. Lee hoped to find some in Pennsylvania. More importantly, he
The Battle of Gettysburg was fought over three days. Notice the changes in troop positions over the course of the battle. Human-Environment Interaction How did each side attempt to use the terrain to gain an advantage?

July 1, 1863 hearing the gunfire coming from Gettysburg, units of both armies rushed to the scene. At first, the Confederates outnumbered the Union forces. Fighting through the day, they pushed the Northerners back onto some hills south of town. Meanwhile, troops on both sides continued to gather. Among the Union soldiers to arrive that night was General George Meade, the new head of the Union army. He had been in command for less than a week.

As units arrived, both armies took up positions on a series of hills. Each army’s lines stretched from the outskirts of town, in a southerly direction, for about four miles. The center of the Union line was a long hill called Cemetery Ridge. Another series of hills, called Seminary Ridge, was the center of the Confederate position. Between these ridges was a large field several hundred yards wide.

That evening, Lee discussed his battle plan with General James Longstreet, his second-in-command since Jackson’s death. Having won the day’s fighting, and fresh from his victory at Chancellorsville, Lee’s confidence in his troops was high. He proposed to continue the battle the next day. Longstreet advised against attacking such a strong Union position, but Lee had made up his mind. “The enemy is there,” said Lee, pointing to Cemetery Ridge, “and I am going to attack him there.” He ordered Longstreet to lead an attack on the southern end of the Union line the next morning.

July 2, 1863 Although a graduate of West Point, Longstreet preferred more peaceful endeavors. An accountant, he wanted to be in charge of the Confederate army’s payroll. Lee made him a field commander instead. “Longstreet is a very good fighter when he . . . gets everything ready,” Lee said of him, “but he is so slow.”
On the second day of the battle, Longstreet was not ready to attack until about 4:00 P.M. His delays gave Meade the chance to bring up reinforcements. The battle raged into the early evening. Heavy fighting took place in a peach orchard, a wheat field, and a mass of boulders known locally as the Devil's Den.

At one point, some Alabama soldiers noticed that one of the hills in the Union position, called Little Round Top, was almost undefended. They rushed to capture the hill. From it, Confederate artillery could have bombarded the Union lines.

However, Union commanders also had noticed Little Round Top's weakness. About 350 Maine soldiers under Colonel Joshua Chamberlain, a college professor before the war, were ordered to defend the position. They arrived on the hill just before the Alabamans' assault and then held off repeated attacks until they ran out of ammunition. Unwilling to capture, Chamberlain ordered a bayonet charge. The surprised Confederates retreated back down the hill. The Maine soldiers' heroic act likely saved the Union army from defeat. At the end of the day, the Union lines remained intact.

July 3, 1863 The third day of battle began with a brief Confederate attack on the north end of the Union line. Then the battlefield fell quiet. Finally, in the early afternoon, about 150 Confederate cannons began the heaviest artillery barrage of the war. Some Union generals thought the firing might be to protect a Confederate retreat. However, they were wrong. Lee had decided to risk everything on an infantry charge against the center of the Union position. As he had two days before, Longstreet opposed such a direct attack. Again Lee overruled him.

After a two-hour artillery duel, the Union guns stopped returning fire. Thinking that the Confederate artillery had destroyed the enemy's guns, Longstreet reluctantly ordered the direct attack. Actually, the Union artillery commander had ceased fire only to save ammunition. Now, however, northern soldiers on Cemetery Ridge saw nearly 15,000 Confederates, formed in a line a mile long and three rows deep, coming toward them.

Although this event is known in history as Pickett's Charge, General George Pickett was only one of three southern commanders on the field that day. Each led an infantry division of about 5,000 men. As the Confederates marched across about a mile of open ground between the two ridges, the Union artillery resumed firing. Hundreds of canister shells rained down on the soldiers, tearing huge gaps in their ranks. When they closed to within about 200 yards of the Union lines, northern soldiers poured rifle fire into those who remained standing.

Only a few hundred Confederates reached the Union lines—at a bend in a stone wall that became known as the Angle. A survivor described the fighting there:

"Men fire into each other's faces, not five feet apart. There are bayonet-thrusts, sabre-strokes, pistol-shots; . . . men going down on their hands and knees, spinning round like tops, throwing out their arms, falling; legless, armless, headless. There are ghastly heaps of dead men."

—Soldier at Gettysburg

In about 30 minutes it was over. Scarcely half the Confederate force returned to Seminary Ridge. Lee ordered Pickett to reform his division.
In order for Grant to capture Vicksburg, navy gunboats under Commander David Porter had to sail past the city at night under heavy fire. "It was as if hell itself were loose," said one observer. The gunboats survived their mad dash past Vicksburg and linked up with Grant's forces south of the city.

**Geography** Why was it important for the Union to capture Vicksburg?

In case Meade counterattacked. "General Lee, I have no division," Pickett replied.

Pickett's Charge ended the bloodiest battle of the Civil War. Losses on both sides were staggering. The Union army of about 85,000 suffered over 23,000 casualties. Of some 75,000 Southerners, about 28,000 were casualties. For the second time, Lee had lost more than a third of his army. The next day, July 4, the Confederates began their retreat back to Virginia.

**Vicksburg**

While armies clashed in the East, a Union army in the West struggled to capture the city of Vicksburg, Mississippi. Only this stronghold and a fortress at Port Hudson, Louisiana, prevented the Union from having complete control of the Mississippi River.

Vicksburg seemed safe from attack. It sat on a bluff, high above a sharp bend in the river. From this bluff, Confederate artillery could lob shells at any Union ships that approached the city. In addition, much of Vicksburg was surrounded by swamps. The only approach to the city over dry land was from the east and Confederate forces held that territory.

**Grant Attacks** The Union general who faced these challenges was Ulysses S. Grant. Between December 1862 and April 1863 he made several attempts to either capture or bypass the city.

First, he sent General William Tecumseh Sherman and several thousand troops in an unsuccessful attack on Vicksburg from the north. Next he had his army dig a canal across the bend in the river, so Union boats could bypass the city's guns. However, the canal turned out to be too shallow. Then he tried to attack from the north by sending gunboats down another river. This too failed.

An attempt to approach the city through a swampy backwater called Steele's Bayou nearly ended in disaster. The Confederates cut down trees to slow the boats and fired on them from shore. Finally, Sherman's troops had to come and rescue the fleet.

By mid-April 1863, the ground had dried out enough for Grant to try a daring plan. He marched his army down the Louisiana side of the river and crossed into Mississippi south of Vicksburg. Then he moved east and attacked Jackson, the state capital. This drew out the Confederate forces from Vicksburg, commanded by General John Pemberton, to help defend the capital. Before they could arrive, Grant captured Jackson. Then he turned his troops west to fight Pemberton.

On May 16 the two armies clashed at Champion's Hill halfway between Jackson and Vicksburg. Although Grant won another victory, he could not trap Pemberton's army. The Confederates were able to retreat back to Vicksburg's fortifications. In late May, after two more unsuccessful attacks, Grant began a **siege**, a tactic in which an enemy is surrounded and starved in order to make it surrender.

**The Siege of Vicksburg** When Union cannons opened fire on Vicksburg from land and water, a bombardment began that would average 2,800 shells a day. For more than a month, citizens of Vicksburg endured a nearly constant pounding from some 300 guns. The constant schedule of shelling took over everyday life.

Residents dug caves in hillsides, some complete with furniture and attended by slaves. "It was living like plant roots," one cave dweller said. As the siege dragged on, residents and soldiers alike were reduced to eating horses, mules, and dogs. Rats appeared for sale in the city's butcher shops.
By late June, Confederate soldiers' daily rations were down to one biscuit and one piece of bacon per day. On July 4, some 30,000 Confederate troops marched out of Vicksburg and laid down their arms. Pemberton thought he could negotiate the best terms for the surrender on the day that celebrated the Union's independence.

**The Importance of 1863**

For the North, 1863 had begun disastrously. However, the Fourth of July 1863 was the most joyous Independence Day since the first one 87 years earlier. Thousands of former slaves for the first time could truly celebrate American independence. The holiday marked the turning point of the Civil War.

In the West, Vicksburg was in Union hands. For a time, the people of that city had been sustained by the hope that President Jefferson Davis would send some of Lee's troops to rescue them. But Lee had no reinforcements to spare. His weakened army had begun its retreat into Virginia, never again seriously to threaten Union soil.

Four days later, Port Hudson surrendered to Union forces. The Mississippi River was in Union hands, cutting the Confederacy in two. "The Father of Waters again goes unvexed [undisturbed] to the sea," announced Lincoln in Washington, D.C.

In Richmond there began to be serious talk of making peace. Although the war would continue for nearly two years more, for the first time the end seemed in sight.

**The Gettysburg Address**

On November 19, 1863, some 15,000 people gathered at Gettysburg. The occasion was the dedication of a cemetery to honor the Union soldiers who had died there just four months before. The featured guest was Edward Everett.
"In times like the present," Lincoln said, "men should utter nothing for which they would not willingly be responsible through time...." Government How do Lincoln's words at Gettysburg represent his goals in the Civil War?

of Massachusetts, the most famous public speaker of the times. President Lincoln was invited to deliver "a few appropriate remarks" to help fill out the program. Everett delivered a grand crowd-pleasing speech that lasted two hours. Then it was the President's turn to speak. In his raspy, high-pitched voice, Lincoln delivered his remarks, which became known as the Gettysburg Address. In a short, two-minute speech he eloquently explained the meaning of the Civil War. The speech began simply and ended with a statement that redefined the meaning of the United States:

> "Fourscore 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. . . . That 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."

—Lincoln's Gettysburg Address, November 19, 1863

Lincoln spoke with a wisdom ahead of his time. Most Americans in 1863 did not like his speech. They thought it was too short and simple. But in the years since then, people have come to appreciate that Lincoln's words marked a dramatic new definition of the United States. Freedom and equality no longer belonged to a few, as they had in 1776. They were the right of everyone. Democracy and the Union did not exist to serve the interests of only white men. They existed to preserve freedom for all. Lincoln's Gettysburg Address marked a great milestone in the expansion of liberty to all Americans.

SECTION 3 REVIEW

**Comprehension**

1. **Key Terms** Define: (a) Battle of Fredericksburg; (b) Battle of Chancellorsville; (c) Battle of Gettysburg; (d) Pickett's Charge; (e) siege; (f) Gettysburg Address.

2. **Summarizing the Main Idea** In what ways were the Battles of Gettysburg and the siege of Vicksburg turning points in the Civil War?

3. **Organizing Information** Create a chart that details the major battles discussed in this section. In the first column, write the names of the battles. In the next column note the important Confederate officers for each battle. In the third column note the Union officers, and in the last column write if the battle is considered a Confederate or Union victory.

**Critical Thinking**

4. **Analyzing Time Lines** Review the time line at the start of the section. Write a sentence or phrase that connects each entry to the entry that follows it.

5. **Identifying Central Issues** Explain how the Gettysburg Address redefined the concept of freedom for Americans.

**Writing Activity**

6. **Writing an Expository Essay** The events of 1863 are considered to be vital in determining the outcome of the Civil War. Write a one-page essay explaining why. Support your essay with specific examples.
4 A New Birth of Freedom

SECTION PREVIEW

Objectives
1 Explain Grant’s and Sherman’s strategies for defeating the South.
2 Summarize the issues and the outcome of the election of 1864.
3 Describe the end of the war and the assassination of President Lincoln.
4 Key Terms Define: Battle of the Wilderness; Battle of Spotsylvania; Battle of Cold Harbor; Thirteenth Amendment; guerrilla.

Main Idea
After years of fighting and countless casualties, the South surrendered in April 1865.

Reading Strategy
Arranging Events in Order As you read, create a timeline that lists in order the major events in the section. Beneath each entry write a brief sentence or phrase that connects each event to the entry that follows it.

The Confederates’ war strategy for 1864 was a simple one—to hold on. They knew the North would have a presidential election in November. If the war dragged on and casualties mounted, northern voters might replace Lincoln with a President willing to grant the South its independence. “If we can only subsist,” wrote an official in the Confederate War Department, “we may have peace.”

Grant Takes Command
President Lincoln understood that his chances for reelection in 1864 depended on the Union’s success on the battlefield. In March he summoned Ulysses S. Grant to Washington and gave him command of all Union forces. Grant’s plan was to confront and crush the Confederate army and end the war before the November election.

Placing General William Tecumseh Sherman in charge in the West, Grant remained in the East to battle General Lee. He realized that Lee was running short of men and supplies. Grant now proposed to use the North’s superiority in population and industry to wear down the Confederates. In the West he ordered Sherman to do the same.

Battle of the Wilderness In early May 1864 Grant moved south across the Rapidan River in Virginia with a force of some 120,000 men. Lee had about 65,000 troops. The Union army headed directly toward Richmond. Grant knew that to stop the Union advance, Lee would have to fight. In May and June the Union and Confederate armies clashed in three major battles. This was exactly what Grant wanted.

The fighting began on May 5 with the two-day Battle of the Wilderness. This battle occurred on virtually the same ground as the Battle of Chancellorsville the year before.† The two armies met in a dense forest. The fighting was so heavy that the woods caught fire, causing many of the wounded to be

† The Confederate forces felt a sense of repetition when General Longstreet, Lee’s second-in-command, was accidentally shot and wounded by his own soldiers only three miles from where Stonewall Jackson had been shot the year before.
burned to death. Unable to see in the smoke-filled forest, units got lost and fired on friendly soldiers, mistaking them for the enemy.

Grant took heavy losses at the Wilderness. However, instead of retreating as previous Union commanders had done after defeats, he moved his army around the Confederates and again headed south. Despite the high number of casualties, Union soldiers were proud that under Grant’s leadership they would not retreat so easily.

**Spotsylvania and Cold Harbor** Two days later, on May 8, the Confederates caught up to the Union army near the little town of Spotsylvania Court House. The series of clashes that followed over nearly two weeks are called the *Battle of Spotsylvania*.

The heaviest fighting took place on May 12. In some parts of the battlefield the Union dead were piled four deep. When Northerners began to protest the huge loss of life, a determined Grant notified Lincoln, “I propose to fight it out on this line [course of action] if it takes all summer.” Then he moved the Union army farther south.

In early June the armies clashed yet again at the *Battle of Cold Harbor*, just eight miles from Richmond. In a dawn attack on June 3, Grant launched two direct charges on the Confederates, who were behind strong fortifications. Some 7,000 Union soldiers fell in less than an hour.

**The Siege of Petersburg** Unable to reach Richmond or defeat Lee’s army, Grant moved his army around the capital and attacked Petersburg, a railroad center south of the city. He knew that if he could cut off shipments of food to Richmond, the city would have to surrender. The attack failed, however.

In less than two months, Grant’s army had suffered some 65,000 casualties. The toll had a chilling effect on the surviving Union troops. At Cold Harbor, many soldiers pinned their names and addresses on their uniforms so their bodies could be identified.

Grant then turned to the tactic he had successfully used at Vicksburg. On June 18, 1864, he began the siege of Petersburg. Lee responded by building defenses. While he had lost many fewer men than Grant, it was becoming difficult for Lee to replace all his casualties. He was willing to stay put and wait for the northern election in November.

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**MAP Skills**

Grant’s stubborness and Sherman’s campaign of total war brought the Civil War to a bloody close. Compare the relative forces of the Union and the Confederacy in the final months of the Civil War. *Movement* Why do you think Sherman met with little resistance?
Sherman in Georgia

As Grant’s army advanced against Lee, Sherman began to move south from Chattanooga, Tennessee, to threaten the city of Atlanta. Sherman’s strategy was identical to Grant’s in Virginia. He would force the main Confederate army in the West to attempt to stop his advance. If the southern general took the bait, Sherman would destroy the enemy with his huge 98,000-man force. If the Confederates refused to fight, he would seize Atlanta, an important rail and industrial center.

The Capture of Atlanta Sherman’s opponent was General Joseph Johnston, the Confederate commander who had been wounded at the Battle of Seven Pines in Virginia in 1862. Johnston’s tactics were similar to Lee’s. He would engage the Union force to block its progress. At the same time, he would not allow Sherman to deal him a crushing defeat. In this way, he hoped to delay Sherman from reaching Atlanta before the presidential elections could take place in the North.

Despite Johnston’s best efforts, by mid-July 1864 the Union army was just a few miles from Atlanta. Wanting more aggressive action, Confederate president Jefferson Davis replaced Johnston with General James Hood.

The new commander gave Davis—and Sherman—exactly what they wanted. In late July, Hood engaged the Union force in a series of battles. With each clash the southern army lost thousands of soldiers. Finally, with the Confederate forces reduced from some 62,000 to less than 45,000, General Hood retreated to Atlanta’s strong defenses. Like Grant at Petersburg, Sherman laid siege to the city. Throughout the month of August, Sherman’s forces bombarded Atlanta. In early September the Confederate army pulled out and left the city to the Union general’s mercy.

Sherman Marches to the Sea “War is cruelty,” Sherman once wrote. “There is no use trying to reform it. The crueler it is, the sooner it will be over.” It was from this viewpoint that the tough Ohio soldier conducted his military campaigns. Although a number of Union commanders considered Sherman to be mentally unstable, Grant stood by him. As a result, Sherman was fiercely loyal to his commander.

Now, Sherman convinced Grant to permit a daring move. Vowing to “make Georgia howl,” in November 1864, Sherman led some 62,000 Union troops on a march to the sea to capture Savannah, Georgia. Before abandoning Atlanta, however, he ordered the city evacuated and then burned.

After leaving Atlanta in ruins, Sherman’s soldiers cut a nearly 300-mile long path of destruction across Georgia. The troops destroyed bridges, factories, and railroad lines. They seized and slaughtered livestock. Grain that had recently been harvested for the Confederate troops went to Union soldiers instead.

As the Northerners approached Savannah, the small Confederate force there fled. On December 21 the Union army entered the city without a fight. “I beg to present you, as a Christmas gift, the city of Savannah,” read General Sherman’s message to Lincoln. For the President, it was the second piece of good news since the November election.

The Election of 1864 “I am going to be beaten,” Lincoln said of his reelection chances in 1864, “and unless some great change takes place, badly beaten.” In an attempt to broaden Lincoln’s appeal, the Republicans dumped Vice President Hannibal Hamlin and nominated Andrew Johnson of
Tennessee to run with the President. Johnson was a Democrat and a pro-Union Southerner.

The Democrats nominated General George McClellan as their candidate. McClellan was only too happy to oppose Lincoln, who had twice fired him. The general was still loved by his soldiers, and Lincoln feared that McClellan would find wide support among the troops. McClellan promised that if elected, he would negotiate an end to the war.

Sherman’s capture of Atlanta, however, changed the political climate in the North. Sensing victory, Northerners became less willing to support a negotiated settlement. In November, with the help of ballots cast by Union soldiers, Lincoln won an easy victory, gathering 212 out of a possible 233 electoral votes.

By reelecting Lincoln, voters not only showed their approval of his war policy, but also their increasing acceptance of his stand against slavery. Three months later, in February 1865, Congress joined him in that stand and passed the Thirteenth Amendment to the Constitution. It was ratified by the states and became law on December 18, 1865. In a few words, the amendment ended slavery in the United States forever:

> **KEY DOCUMENTS**
> 
> "Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for crime whereof the party shall have been duly convicted, shall exist within the United States, or any place subject to their jurisdiction."
>
> —Thirteenth Amendment to the Constitution

As President Lincoln prepared to begin his second term, it was clear to most Northerners that the war was nearly over. In his Second Inaugural Address, in March 1865, Lincoln reflected on the meaning of the previous four years:

> **KEY DOCUMENTS**
> 
> "Both [North and South] read the same Bible and pray to the same God, and each invokes His aid against the other. It may seem strange that any men should dare ask a just God’s assistance in wringing their bread from the sweat of other men’s faces; but let us judge not that we be not judged. The prayers of both could not be answered. That of neither has been answered fully. The Almighty has His own purposes."
>
> —Lincoln’s Second Inaugural, March 1865

### The End of the War

As Grant strangled Richmond and Sherman prepared to move north from Savannah to join him, Southerners’ gloom deepened. President Davis claimed that he had never really counted on McClellan’s election, or on a negotiated peace. “The deep waters are closing over us,” Mary Chesnut observed in her diary.

**Sherman Moves North** In February 1865 General Sherman’s troops left Savannah and headed for South Carolina. As the first state to secede, many Northerners regarded it as the heart of the rebellion. “Here is where the treason began and, by God, here is where it shall end,” wrote one Union soldier as the army marched northward.

Unlike Virginia and many other Confederate states, the Carolinas had seen relatively little fighting. Sherman had two goals as he moved toward Grant’s position at
Petersburg: to destroy the South's remaining resources and to crush Southerners' remaining will to fight. In South Carolina he did both. The Confederate army could do little but retreat in front of Sherman's advancing force.

South Carolina was treated even more harshly than Georgia. In Georgia, for example, Union troops burned very few of the houses that were in their path. In South Carolina, few houses were spared.

On February 17 the Union forces entered the state capital, Columbia. That night a fire burned nearly half of the city to the ground. Although no one could prove who started the fire, South Carolinians blamed Sherman's troops for the destruction. When the Union army moved into North Carolina, all demolition of civilian property ceased.

**Surrender at Appomattox** By April 1865, daily desertions had shrunk the Confederate army defending Richmond to less than 35,000 starving men. Realizing that he could no longer protect the city, on April 2 Lee tried to slip around Grant's army. He planned to unite his troops with those of General Johnston, who was retreating before Sherman's force in North Carolina. Lee hoped that together they would be able to continue the war.

Units of General Grant's army tracked the Confederates as they moved west. Each time Lee tried to turn his soldiers south, Grant's troops cut them off. On April 9, Lee's army arrived at the small Virginia town of Appomattox Court House. There the Confederates were surrounded by a much larger Union force. Some of Lee's officers suggested that the army could scatter and continue to fight as guerrillas—soldiers who use hit-and-run tactics. Lee rejected this idea, fearing it would bring more devastation to Virginia. Reluctantly he admitted, "There is nothing left for me to do but go and see General Grant, and I would rather die a thousand deaths." He knew the war was over.

That afternoon Lee and Grant met in a private home in the town. General Lee was in his dress uniform, a sword at his side. Grant, wearing his usual private's uniform, was splattered with mud. They briefly chatted about the weather and their service in the Mexican War.

Then Lee asked Grant about the terms of the surrender. These were generous. Southern soldiers could take their horses and mules and go home. They would not be punished as traitors as long as they obeyed the laws where they lived. Grant also offered to feed the starving Confederate army. After the two men signed the surrender papers, they talked for a few more minutes. Then Lee mounted his horse and rode away.

As news of the surrender spread through the Union army, soldiers began firing artillery salutes. Grant ordered the celebration stopped. He did not want rejoicing at the Southerners' misfortune because, as he pointed out, "the rebels are our countrymen again."

**Lincoln's Assassination**

A few weeks after Lee's surrender, General Johnston surrendered to Sherman in North Carolina. Throughout May, other Confederate forces large and small also gave up.

Tragically, Abraham Lincoln did not live to see the official end of the war. Throughout the winter of 1864–1865 a group of southern conspirators in Washington, D.C., had worked on a plan to aid the Confederacy. Led by John Wilkes Booth, a Maryland actor with strong southern sympathies, the group plotted to kidnap Lincoln and exchange him for Confederate prisoners of war. After several unsuccessful attempts, Booth revised his plan. He assigned members of his group to kill top Union officials, including General Grant and Vice President Johnson. Booth himself would murder the President.

On April 14, 1865, Booth slipped into the back of the President's unguarded box at
Lincoln's body was displayed in several major cities, such as New York shown here, on its way from Washington, D.C., to its resting place in Springfield, Illinois. Culture Why do you think Lincoln was given such an elaborate and lengthy funeral?

Ford's Theater in Washington, D.C. Inside, the President and Mrs. Lincoln were watching a play. Booth pulled out a pistol and shot Lincoln in the head. Leaping over the railing, he fell to the stage, breaking his leg in the process. Booth then limped off the stage and escaped out a back alley.

The army tracked Booth to his hiding place in a tobacco barn in Virginia. When he refused to surrender, they set the barn on fire. In the confusion that followed, Booth was shot to death, either by a soldier or by himself.

Mortally wounded, the unconscious President was carried to a boarding-house across the street from the theater. While doctors and family stood by helplessly, Lincoln lingered through the night. He died early the next morning without regaining consciousness.

In the North, citizens mourned for the loss of the man who had led them through the war. Lincoln’s funeral train took 14 days to travel from the nation’s capital to his hometown of Springfield, Illinois. As the procession passed through towns and cities, people lined the tracks to show their respect.

Both the North and the South had suffered great losses during the war, but they also both gained by it. They gained an undivided nation, a democracy that would continue to seek the equality Lincoln had promised for it. They also gained new fellow citizens—the African Americans who had broken the bonds of slavery and claimed their right to be free and equal, every one.

SECTION 4 REVIEW

Comprehension

1. Key Terms Define: (a) Battle of the Wilderness; (b) Battle of Spotsylvania; (c) Battle of Cold Harbor; (d) Thirteenth Amendment; (e) guerrilla.

2. Summarizing the Main Idea What strategies did Grant and Sherman use to finally bring victory to the Union?

3. Organizing Information Create a flowchart that shows the battles leading up to Lee’s surrender at Appomattox. Label the first box Battle of the Wilderness. Label the last box Lee surrenders at Appomattox Court House.

Critical Thinking

4. Analyzing Time Lines Review the time line at the start of the section. Which event, in your opinion, had the greatest impact on the outcome of the Civil War?

5. Drawing Conclusions At the end of the Civil War, General Sherman was called a traitor to the North because of his generosity to the defeated South. Yet many people believe his hatred for the South prompted Sherman's destructive actions in South Carolina. How could the same person be so forgiving during the war yet generous after it?

Writing Activity

6. Writing a Persuasive Essay In your view, would Lincoln have won the election of 1864 if the South had continued to triumph on the battlefield? Write an essay explaining your opinion. Support it with specific examples.
Americans Remember the Civil War

More than a century after the Civil War, Americans in both northern and southern states remember that tragic conflict in a variety of ways.

Confederate and Union soldiers, their rifles drawn, clash in an open field near Sharpsburg, Maryland, on a crisp September day. The battle is not real. It is a reenactment of the Battle of Antietam.

Each year thousands of Americans witness or take part in reenactments of famous Civil War battles such as Antietam, Vicksburg, and Gettysburg. Civil War reenactments are staged with historically accurate uniforms and firearms. They are often organized alongside other activities such as parades, talks, and demonstrations of military camp life during the Civil War.

**The Impact Today**
The Civil War’s enduring power to engage Americans’ memory and imagination reflects the impact of the war on the nation. The Civil War pitted American against American, dividing families and causing an enormous amount of death and destruction.

Reenactments are just one way in which Americans remember the conflict. Civil War novels, histories, feature films, and documentaries remain extremely popular among Americans. Towns across the nation have established memorials to Union and Confederate soldiers. Monuments mark almost every Civil War battle site. Literally thousands of Web sites offer information on the conflict.

The oldest intact Civil War monument is a stone cemetery at the Stones River Battlefield near Murfreesboro, Tennessee. It was erected in 1863 to honor a Union brigade led by Colonel William B. Hazen of Ohio. One of the newest monuments, dedicated in 1998, is the African American Civil War Memorial in Washington, D.C. It honors the 235,000 African Americans who fought bravely for freedom. The Gettysburg National Military Park, perhaps the best-known Civil War site, receives more than 1.5 million visitors each year.

**The Impact on You**
Research the history of a particular military unit in the Civil War, such as a unit consisting of men from your community or state. Write a report describing when the unit was formed, where it fought, what casualties it suffered, and whether there are any monuments commemorating its achievements.
Great generals study the geography of the land where they are fighting and use it to their advantage. Like geographers, they pay careful attention to location. Because of its location, the Shenandoah Valley played a crucial role in the Civil War.

**Location of the Valley**

One of the Southern general Stonewall Jackson's deadliest weapons was a detailed map of the Shenandoah Valley. The Valley is a corridor about 150 miles long and 25 miles wide between the Blue Ridge Mountains and the Alleghenies. Swift and decisive movement was the secret of the Confederate military strategy. Southern armies were able to travel up through the Valley toward the Northern capital of Washington, D.C.

As a Union route, the corridor proved less useful. Union armies traveling south through the Valley would end up in the mountains, far away from the Southern capital of Richmond. Eventually, however, Northern armies would devise another tactic.

**The Southern Advantage**

As a valley, the Shenandoah formed an excellent corridor for Confederate movement. Its slopes, though forested, were not too steep or rocky for troops on foot or horseback. Furthermore, the Valley Pike, the main road through the Shenandoah, allowed even a large army like that of Confederate general Robert E. Lee to travel rapidly from the heart of Virginia to the borders of the North. And the many gaps in the Blue Ridge mountain chain allowed Southern forces like those led by Stonewall Jackson to duck easily in and out of the Shenandoah Valley as it suited their purposes.

The special characteristics of the Valley also made it valuable to the South for another reason. The population of the Valley was mostly sympathetic to the Confederacy, so Union invaders had to endure constant attacks by armed raiders. Even more helpful to the South were the Valley's splendid pastures and fields, which supplied the Confederate army in Virginia with meat and grain.

**The North Fights Back**

Confederate control of the Valley posed an ongoing threat to Union forces. As Union troops marched toward Richmond, Confederate armies would sneak up through the Shenandoah. Union commanders would then have to send part of their troops to defend...
Washington, thus diminishing the main part of their army. Hoping to put an end to this, Northern generals repeatedly tried to take control of the Shenandoah during the early years of the war. Even though they did win parts of the Valley at times, they were soon forced to give up their conquests. One key town in the upper Shenandoah Valley, Winchester, changed hands 72 times between 1861 and 1865. The Shenandoah was soon known to Northerners as the “Valley of Humiliation.”

The North Wins the Valley

This was not the end of the story. The commander of Union forces, General Grant, decided in the summer of 1864 that the Southern source of supply had to be shut down once and for all.

He gave these specific instructions to General Phil Sheridan: “Do all the damage to railroads and crops you can. . . . If the war is to last another year, we want the Shenandoah Valley to remain a barren waste.”

Sheridan carried out these orders to the letter. In the fall of 1864 he wrote Grant: “The people here are getting sick of the war.” Grant answered: “Keep on, and your good work will cause the fall of Richmond.”

In the spring of the next year, Grant’s words came true. As one Confederate soldier wrote, “There are a good many of us who believe that this shooting match has been carried on long enough. A government that has run out of rations [food for its army] can’t expect to do much more fighting.”

Early in April 1865, Lee abandoned Richmond and surrendered. In some respects, the war had been lost months before—in the Shenandoah Valley.

GEOGRAPHIC CONNECTIONS

1. How did the Valley’s geographical characteristics help Southerners?

2. Why did Grant want to make the Shenandoah Valley “a barren waste”?

Themes in Geography

3. Location How did the Valley’s relative location to Richmond and Washington affect its value to both sides during the war?
Chapter 12 Review

Chapter Summary
The major concepts of Chapter 12 are presented below. See also the Guide to the Essentials of American History or Interactive Student Tutorial CD-ROM, which contains interactive review activities, time lines, helpful hints, and test practice for Chapter 12.

Reviewing Main Ideas
Between the years 1861 and 1865, the North and the South fought a violent Civil War that set neighbor against neighbor and father against son. Hundreds of thousands of Americans were killed or maimed, and property worth billions of dollars was destroyed. By the end of the conflict, African Americans had won their freedom and the Union was preserved.

Section 1: From Bull Run to Antietam
Bloody fighting during the first two years of the Civil War made it clear to both the North and the South that the struggle would be long and difficult.

Section 2: Life Behind the Lines
The Union and Confederate governments struggled to support their armies and care for their citizens. The Union government also moved to abolish slavery.

Section 3: The Tide of War Turns
Despite southern victories at Fredericksburg and Chancellorsville, the tide of war turned in the summer of 1863 when the North won important battles at Gettysburg and Vicksburg.

Section 4: A New Birth of Freedom
After years of fighting and countless casualties, the South surrendered in April 1865.

Key Terms
For each of the terms below, write a sentence explaining how it relates to this chapter.

1. Copperhead
2. Pickett’s Charge
3. canister
4. siege
5. martial law
6. Thirteenth Amendment
7. Emancipation Proclamation
8. war of attrition
9. Gettysburg Address
10. writ of habeas corpus
11. Civil War
12. greenback

Comprehension
1. What gains did Union forces make in the western part of the Confederacy in the first two years of the Civil War?
2. Briefly summarize Union efforts to capture the southern capital of Richmond in 1861–1863.
3. Why did Lincoln suspend the writ of habeas corpus?
4. What laws did the Republican Congress pass during the Civil War to support economic development?
5. Describe the medical and health conditions faced by Union and Confederate soldiers.
6. What was the result of the Battle of Gettysburg?
7. What were the immediate and the long-term effects of Sherman’s march to the sea?
8. Briefly describe the events of 1865 that led to Lee’s surrender.

Using Graphic Organizers
On a separate piece of paper, copy the multi-flow map to organize the main ideas of the chapter. On the left side note the causes leading to the Civil War. On the right side note the effects of the Civil War.

Why Study History?
More than a century after the Civil War, Americans remember that tragic conflict in a variety of ways. People take part in or witness battle reenactments, read novels or histories, watch films and documentaries, and honor the dead at memorials.
Analyzing Political Cartoons

1. England and France look on as a pair of combatants fight. Identify the two fighters. (a) What does the figure on the left, labeled “Secession,” represent? (b) What does the figure on the right, labeled “The People shall Rule!” represent?

2. What additional threat does the figure on the right face? Explain how you know.

3. What is being trampled? What does it stand for?

4. Identify the political leanings of the cartoonist.

Critical Thinking

1. Applying the Chapter Skill Review the Using Letters as Primary Sources skill on page 357. How does the writer of letter B feel about the duties she performs for the soldiers?

2. Making Comparisons Compare the Union and Confederate military strategies.

3. Identifying Alternatives What alternatives did President Lincoln have at the start of the Civil War? How might United States history have been different if he had chosen a different course of action?

4. Testing Conclusions Lincoln came to believe that the Union could not survive if slavery were preserved. Give evidence to support this conclusion.

INTERNET ACTIVITY

For your portfolio: CREATE A PHOTO ESSAY

Access Prentice Hall’s America: Pathways to the Present site at [www.Pathways.phschool.com](http://www.Pathways.phschool.com) for the specific URLs to complete the activity. Additional resources and related Web sites are also available.

Select a Civil War topic from the links provided at the sites. Choose from the available photographs to create a photographic essay on your topic. Write detailed captions to explain each photograph and its importance in the Civil War. Include an introductory paragraph describing the theme of your photo essay.

INTERPRETING DATA

Turn to the “Civil War Casualties” chart on page 369.

1. Which statement best describes Union deaths due to disease? (a) Twice as many soldiers died from diseases than were killed and mortally wounded. (b) Fewer Union soldiers died from disease than died in prison. (c) Disease killed more Confederate than Union soldiers. (d) More Union soldiers died of disease than were wounded.

2. Which statement best describes the total number of Civil War casualties? (a) Confederate casualties made up the greatest part of the total war casualties. (b) The total number of killed and wounded equaled half the total casualties. (c) Total casualties were split evenly between both sides. (d) Union soldiers made up a greater number of the total casualties.

3. Writing How do you think the deaths from disease affected soldiers’ morale? Explain your opinion.

Connecting to Today

Essay Writing Read the Gettysburg Address on page 1079. Think about how President Lincoln redefined the meaning of the United States in his speech. Then rewrite the Gettysburg Address in your own words, making sure to include a definition of the United States today.