The Civil War

CHAPTER OBJECTIVE

INTERACT WITH HISTORY

TIME LINE

SECTION 1 The Civil War Begins
SECTION 2 The Politics of War
SECTION 3 Life During Wartime
SECTION 4 The North Takes Charge
SECTION 5 The Legacy of the War

VISUAL SUMMARY
CHAPTER OBJECTIVE

To understand the military strategy, political struggle, outcome, and legacy of the Civil War
The year is 1861. Seven Southern states have seceded from the Union over the issues of slavery and states rights. They have formed their own government, called the Confederacy, and raised an army. In March, the Confederate army attacks and seizes Fort Sumter, a Union stronghold in South Carolina. President Lincoln responds by issuing a call for volunteers to serve in the Union army.

Can the use of force preserve a nation?

Examine the Issues

• Can diplomacy prevent a war between the states?
• What makes a civil war different from a foreign war?
• How might a civil war affect society and the U.S. economy?
The Civil War

The United States

1861 Inauguration of President Lincoln. Fort Sumter is taken by the Confederates.

1862 North and South clash at Shiloh.

1863 President Lincoln issues the Emancipation Proclamation. The Union wins at Gettysburg and Vicksburg.

1864 The Confederate vessel *Hunley* makes the first successful submarine attack in history. Abraham Lincoln is reelected.

1865 Lee surrenders to Grant at Appomattox. Andrew Johnson becomes president after Lincoln’s assassination.

The World

1861 Victor Emmanuel II proclaims an independent Kingdom of Italy. Alexander II emancipates the Russian serfs.

1862 Otto von Bismarck is named prime minister of Prussia.


1864 Leo Tolstoy writes *War and Peace*.

1865 Joseph Lister pioneers antiseptic surgery.
The Civil War Begins

KEY IDEA

The secession of Southern states caused the North and the South to take up arms.
The Civil War Begins

OVERVIEW

The secession of Southern states caused the North and the South to take up arms.

MAIN IDEA

The nation’s identity was forged in part by the Civil War.

WHY IT MATTERS NOW

TERMS & NAMES

- Fort Sumter
- *Merrimack*
- Robert E. Lee
- Anaconda plan
- Shiloh
- Bull Run
- *Monitor*
- Antietam
- Stonewall Jackson
- George McClellan
- Ulysses S. Grant
- David G. Farragut
The Civil War Begins

1. For each month listed below, create a newspaper headline summarizing a key Civil War battle that occurred.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Headline</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1861</td>
<td>April</td>
<td>Confederates Shell Fort Sumter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>July</td>
<td>Confederates Triumph at Bull Run</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1862</td>
<td>February</td>
<td>Grant’s Forces Capture Forts Henry and Donelson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>April</td>
<td>Grant Beats Back Attack at Shiloh—Farragut Seizes New Orleans</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>September</td>
<td>McClellan Falters After Victory at Antietam</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

continued . . .
The Civil War Begins

2. What if Virginia had not seceded from the Union in 1861? Speculate on how this might have affected the course of the war. Support your answer with examples. **Think About:**

- Virginia’s influence on other Southern states
- Virginia’s location and its human and material resources
- how the North’s military strategy might have been different

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Arkansas, North Carolina, and Tennessee may have decided not to secede from the Union. West Virginia would not have become a new Union State. The Anaconda plan would have been changed. The Union may have won an early victory because of Virginia’s population, iron work, and naval yard.
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continued . . .
3. What do you think were General McClellan’s major tactical errors?

McClellan’s men were prepared to make an offensive move sooner than the spring of 1862; since his troops outnumbered Lee’s, he should not have backed down at Richmond; he should have planned to attack Lee’s men after their retreat from Antietam.

continued . . .
4. Do you think Lincoln’s decision to fire McClellan was a good one? Why or why not?

POSSIBLE RESPONSE:
The decision was good because McClellan failed to act decisively when he had a chance to win the war.
The Politics of War

KEY IDEA

*By issuing the Emancipation Proclamation, President Lincoln made slavery the focus of the war.*
The Politics of War

OVERVIEW

By issuing the Emancipation Proclamation, President Lincoln made slavery the focus of the war.

Why It Matters Now

The Proclamation was a first step toward improving the status of African Americans.

TERMS & NAMES

- habeas corpus
- conscription
- Copperhead
- Emancipation Proclamation
The Politics of War

1. Note the political measures that Lincoln took to solve each problem listed in the diagram below.

- **Slavery**: Issued the Emancipation Proclamation
- **Dissent**: Suspended the writ of habeas corpus
- **Shortage of Soldiers**: Spurred Union to adopt draft laws

*continued...*
The Politics of War

2. Do you think that Lincoln’s measures to deal with disloyalty and dissent represented an abuse of power? Why or why not? Think About:

- conditions of wartime versus peacetime
- Lincoln’s primary goal
- Supreme Court Justice Roger Taney’s view of Lincoln’s powers

ANSWER:

Lincoln abused his power: He overstepped his constitutional boundaries by suspending the writ of habeas corpus and seizing telegraph offices.

Lincoln did not abuse his power: He was justified in limiting civil liberties to save the Union and needed to take measures to suppress those who would undermine the war effort.

continued . . .
The Politics of War

3. “To fight against slaveholders, without fighting against slavery, is but a half-hearted business, and paralyzes the hands engaged in it.”  
—Frederick Douglass, quoted in Battle Cry of Freedom

How do you think Lincoln would have replied to Douglass?

Lincoln might have replied that while he was personally opposed to slavery, his principal official duty was to save the Union, not to save or destroy slavery. Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation primarily as a war weapon, not as an act of conscience.
Life During Wartime

KEY IDEA

The Civil War brought about dramatic social and economic changes in American society.
Life During Wartime

OVERVIEW

The Civil War brought about dramatic social and economic changes in American society.

MAIN IDEA

WHY IT MATTERS NOW

The expansion of roles for African Americans and women set the stage for later equalities of opportunity.

TERMS & NAMES

- Fort Pillow
- Clara Barton

- income tax
- Andersonville
### Life During Wartime

1. List the economic changes that occurred in the North and South as a result of the Civil War.

#### Economic Changes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>North</th>
<th>South</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Expansion of many industries, increase in labor-saving machines,</td>
<td>Rampant inflation, decline of the plantation system, shortage of</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>decline in standard of living, more employment opportunities for</td>
<td>food and other items, more employment opportunities for</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>women</td>
<td>women</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*continued...*
2. What effects did the Civil War have on women and African Americans? **Think About:**

- new opportunities in both the North and the South
- discriminatory practices that persisted for both groups

The roles of both groups were expanded: the Union army eventually accepted African Americans as soldiers; Northern and Southern women worked in factories and on farms in increasing numbers. New jobs opened to women in nursing and government.

*continued . . .*
3. Imagine you were one of the Northern women and doctors who convinced the government to establish the Sanitary Commission. What reasons would you have offered to justify this commission?

A government-sponsored commission would provide an efficient way to manage the wide range of health problems afflicting soldiers; recruiting and training nurses to treat wounded soldiers would lower death rates; better hygiene would mean fewer soldiers would die of disease.
The North Takes Charge

**KEY IDEA**

*Key victories at Vicksburg and Gettysburg helped the Union wear down the Confederacy.*
The North Takes Charge

OVERVIEW

**MAIN IDEA**
Key victories at Vicksburg and Gettysburg helped the Union wear down the Confederacy.

**WHY IT MATTERS NOW**
These victories clinched the North’s win and led to the preservation of the Union.

**TERMS & NAMES**
- Chancellorsville
- Gettysburg Address
- Vicksburg
- Gettysburg
- William Tecumseh Sherman
- Appomattox Court House
The North Takes Charge

1. Look at the timeline to help organize your thoughts. Note the major battles and political events that happened in the final two years of the Civil War.

South wins at Chancellorsville.
North wins at Gettysburg and Vicksburg.
Lincoln delivers Gettysburg Address.
Lincoln appoints Grant commander of Union armies.
Sherman takes Atlanta.
Lee surrenders at Appomattox.

May 1863
July 1863
November 1863
March 1864
September 1864
April 1865

continued . . .
2. Do you think that a general’s win-loss record on the battlefield is the best gauge of measuring greatness as a military leader? Why or why not? Think About:

- Grant’s campaign in Virginia, Sherman’s march to Atlanta, and Lee’s surrender
- Democrats’ and Northern newspapers’ criticism of Grant
- the criteria you would use to evaluate a military leader

Yes: It objectively measures a general’s success or failure as a military commander.
No: Other criteria such as character and skills as a strategist are equally important measures.

continued . . .
3. Grant and Sherman presented a logical rationale for using the strategy of total war. Do you think the end—defeating the Confederacy—justified the means—causing harm to civilians? Explain.

Yes: Winning the war and abolishing slavery is worth the cost of civilian lives.

No: Killing defenseless civilians in any war is immoral.
4. Why do you think Lincoln urged generous terms for a Confederate surrender?

Lincoln wanted to bring the South back into the Union as quickly as possible. Lincoln did not want to create further resentment of the North among Southerners.
The Legacy of the War

KEY IDEA

The Civil War settled long-standing disputes over states’ rights and slavery.
The Legacy of the War

OVERVIEW

MAIN IDEA

The Civil War settled long-standing disputes over states’ rights and slavery.

WHY IT MATTERS NOW

The federal government established supreme authority, and no state has threatened secession since.

TERMS & NAMES

- National Bank Act
- John Wilkes Booth
- Red Cross
- Thirteenth Amendment
The Legacy of the War

1. Give examples of the consequences of the Civil War in each of these categories: political, economic, technological, and social.

**Consequences of the Civil War**

- **Political**: Enslaved people freed; increased government’s power
- **Economic**: Strengthened banking system; caused the Northern economy to grow and the Southern economy to decline
- **Technological**: Weapons became more deadly; new military strategies developed
- **Social**: Family disrupted; many men disabled

*continued...*
The Legacy of the War

2. Imagine that you are a member of a group of Southern leaders who must rebuild the South after the war. What would you recommend that the government do to help the South? Think About:

- the economic devastation of the South
- the human costs of the war
- the numbers of newly freed slaves

ANSWER

- special funding or a farm act to help the South rebuild its farms and buy new equipment
- programs for freed slaves to learn skills
- a tax on Northern business to help rebuild Southern businesses
- programs to assist disabled veterans

continued . . .
The Legacy of the War

3. What political and social issues from the Civil War era do you think are still issues today?

- race relations
- states’ rights versus federal control
- individual rights versus federal control
- federal deficit
- impact of technology on warfare
The Legacy of the War

4. Write three questions that you have about the lives of African Americans after the Civil War.

POSSIBLE RESPONSES:
• What did former slaves do with their freedom?
• Did African Americans leave the South?
• How did former slaves support themselves?