The Civil War
1861 – 1865

“A House Divided against itself cannot stand. I believe this government cannot endure permanently half slave and half free. I do not expect the union to be dissolved. I do not expect the house to fall, but I do expect it will cease to be divided. It will become all one thing or all the other.”

Abraham Lincoln

Name _____________________________________________

Class # ____
Presidential Election of 1860:

How do the results lead to War?

Define from glossary—secede

So, when we talk about the secession of the Southern states, it means that they

Fort Sumter, South Carolina

This United States fort is important because it guards

On April 1861, the Confederate States of America ask for the fort to be turned over to them. United States commander refuses.

On , Fort Sumter is surrendered to the Confederacy.

people are injured in the attack.
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<th>United States of America (Union/North)</th>
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<td><strong>Union: Abraham Lincoln:</strong></td>
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Abraham Lincoln vs. Jefferson Davis

The North’s greatest advantage was its newly elected president, Abraham Lincoln. Through even the darkest days of the war, Lincoln never wavered from his goal of preserving the Union. Confederate president Jefferson Davis was equally devoted to the secessionist cause. But he was never able to form a strong, single nation out of 11 strongly independent states.

Abraham Lincoln was born in Kentucky on February 12, 1809. His family was poor, and his mother died while he was a young child. All in all, Lincoln figured that his schooling "did not amount to a year. It was enough, however, to excite a craving for knowledge. He read everything he could lay his hands on. "My best friend," he said "is the man who'll get me a book I ain't read."

When Lincoln was 21, his family moved to Illinois. During the next few years, he held whatever jobs he could find – store clerk, rail-splitter, surveyor, postmaster. In the evenings, he read law books and eventually became a lawyer. Later, Lincoln served as captain in the Black Hawk War. This was the only military experience Lincoln had before becoming President.

At six feet four inches tall, Lincoln towered above most other men. His dark, sunken eyes gave him a sad but kind appearance. In this case, looks did not lie. Lincoln was patient, thoughtful, and tolerant of others. He also possessed a good sense of humor saved him from despair. "I laugh," he once said, "because if I didn’t I would weep."

Like Lincoln, Jefferson Davis was born in Kentucky in a log cabin. He grew up on a small plantation in Mississippi. As a young man, he attended the military academy at West Point, NY. He then served as commander of the Mississippi Rifles in the Mexican War. Later that same year, he was selected to fill a term as US senator from Mississippi.

Standing nearly six feet, Davis was a lean, intense person. Given his military experience he had hoped to be chosen to command the armies of the Confederacy. Instead, he was elected president of the Confederate States. While Davis accepted his responsibilities, he really did not enjoy politics. As Davis’s wife said of her husband, "He did not know the arts of a politician and would not practice them if he understood."
"...[black soldiers] have proved themselves among the bravest of the brave, performing deeds of daring and shedding their blood with a heroism unsurpassed by any other race." Secretary of War Edwin M. Stanton

After reading this chapter, how would you evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of each side? What predictions would you make about the length of the war? What generalization (summary) would you make about the North’s eventual victory?

**CONFEDERATE STATES OF AMERICA**

- 11 states: 9 million people, including 3.5 million slaves
- CONFEDERATE ARMY: 600,000 to 1,500,000 total, according to estimates (There are no exact statistics because the Confederate archives in Richmond were destroyed by fire.)
- AFRICAN-AMERICANS: Not until March 13, 1865, did the Confederate government open the army to blacks. It was too late; the Confederacy surrendered on April 9, 1865.

**UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

- 23 states: 22 million people
- UNION ARMY: 2,128,948 total (In 1861 the entire United States Army consisted of only 16,350 men.)
- AFRICAN-AMERICANS: 178,895 total (134,111 from slave states)
  - 21 Congressional Medal of Honor recipients
  - In 1863 the all-black 54th Regiment from Massachusetts performed with great valor at the Battle of Fort Wagner.
  - Lincoln defended the use of blacks in the military:
    - “You say you will not fight to free Negroes. Some of them seem willing to fight for you. [After victory] there will be some black men who can remember that, with silent tongue and clenched teeth, and steady eye and well-poised bayonet, they have helped mankind on to this great consummation; while, I fear, there will be some white ones, unable to forget that with malignant heart and deceitful speech, they strove to hinder it.”

**NAVIES**

- The Confederacy had no real navy, only a few cruisers. It relied on privateers to run the Union blockade of the 3,500-mile southern coast.
- 42 ships in 1861; 671 ships in 1864
- 84,415 white sailors: 29,000 black sailors
THE CIVIL WAR: AN OVERVIEW

CONFEDERATE STATES OF AMERICA

GENERAL ROBERT E. LEE
Commander, Army of Northern Virginia

- General Pierre G.T. Beauregard
- General Braxton Bragg
- General Simon Bolivar Buckner
- General Jubal Early
- General Nathan Bedford Forrest
- General Ambrose P. Hill
- General John Bell Hood
- General Thomas J. (Stonewall) Jackson
- General Albert Sidney Johnston
- General Joseph E. Johnston
- General James Longstreet
- General John C. Pemberton
- General J.E.B. (Jeb) Stuart

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

LIEUTENANT GENERAL ULYSSES S. GRANT
Commander, All Northern Armies

- General Don Carlos Buell
- General Ambrose E. Burnside
- General Benjamin F. Butler
- Admiral David G. Farragut
- General Henry W. Halleck
- General Joseph Hooker
- General Irvin McDowell
- General George B. McClellan
- General George G. Meade
- General John Pope
- General William S. Rosecrans
- General Winfield Scott
- General Philip Sheridan
- General William Tecumseh Sherman

ADVANTAGES

- Outstanding generals, many of whom had fought in the Mexican War
- Strong military tradition
- Strong motivation—fighting to preserve way of life
- Fighting on home ground—knew the territory
- Skilled with guns and horses because of rural experiences
- Cotton could be exchanged on world market for weapons and manufactured goods.

DISADVANTAGES

- Autocratic leadership of Jefferson Davis
- Inflation: printed paper money that lost its value because of no hard money (gold/silver), called specie, backing it
- Inferior numbers in men, money, and machinery
- State sovereignty yielded to national sovereignty in order to conduct the war.

- Weak motivation—not fighting for a cause.
- Unaggressive officers—failed to press advantages.
- Far from home base—resulting in poor communications and a long supply line
- 3,500-mile enemy coastline—hard to blockade
- Vast land—could conquer but not hold territory
- European aid to Confederacy
**The Union and the Confederacy, 1861**

- **Union States & Territories**
- **Border States (North)**
- **Confederate States**
- **Border States (South)**

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**Lieutenant General Ulysses S. Grant of Illinois**
Commander of the Union Army, 1864-65

"Bobby Lee, Bobby Lee, he'll do this, that, and the other." I'm tired of hearing about Bobby Lee. You'd think he was going to do a double somersault and land in our rear. Quit thinking about what he's going to do to you and think about what you're going to do to him.

---

**General Robert E. Lee of Virginia**
Commander of the Confederate Army

I have fought against the people of the North because I believed they were seeking to wrest from the South its dearest rights. But I have never cherished toward them bitter or vindictive feelings, and I have never seen the day when I did not pray for them.

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**Union Strategy**
1. Capture Richmond, the Confederate capital.
2. Split the Confederacy by gaining control of the Mississippi River.
3. Blockade the South.

**Confederate Strategy**
1. Capture Washington, the Union capital.
3. Divide Northwest and Northeast.
For homework tonight, you need to decide for yourself the best advantage and worst disadvantage for each side.

**Confederate States of America**

Their biggest advantage was _______________________________. I think this was probably the most important advantage because ___________________________________________________.

Their worst disadvantage was _______________________________. I think this probably hurt them the most because ___________________________________________________.

**United States of America**

Their biggest advantage was _______________________________. I think this was probably the most important advantage because ___________________________________________________.

Their worst disadvantage was _______________________________. I think this probably hurt them the most because ___________________________________________________.

Look at the Advantages and Disadvantages at the beginning of the Civil War for both the North and the South. Use the space below to categorize the Advantages and Disadvantages into three different groups: Economic, Political and Social.
What new technologies do you think will be most helpful to win the war?

- __________________________ because it __________________________
- __________________________ because it __________________________

Your homework tonight has to do with a very important part of technology—the medical advances of the time. Read the following section about conditions in the hospitals and field medical tents on the battlefields. Then answer the following questions:

1. What was the most common treatment for soldiers who suffered war wounds?

2. Give two reasons why so many Civil War soldiers died of sickness and disease.

3. Describe the scene in the picture of the Union field hospital.

4. Why was measles so common among soldiers during the Civil War?
Medical Conditions  Reading

The science of doctoring was still in its infancy when the Civil War started. Morphine and chloroform were used to ease pain, and when these ran short, whiskey and bourbon had to do. Iron pokers were heated until they were white-hot and then applied directly to wounds to stop the bleeding. And if a wound to an arm or leg seemed too severe or became infected, the usual course of action was to cut off the limb. → amputation

After one battle, Elisha Stockwell came upon this scene: "We moved on to the east side of town where they were fetching the wounded. They were laying them in rows with just room to walk between. They had tents for those that were the worst off, and where they were amputating arms and legs. There was a wash-out back of one tent that had a wagon load of arms and legs. The legs had the shoes and stockings on them."

Even minor wounds might end up with what we might consider very drastic treatment. While imprisoned, John Delhaney happened to meet a Union army surgeon: "He is a very fine looking man and has his hand in a sling, for yesterday when operating upon a gangrened wound, the knife with which he was operating cut his finger slightly; and [fearing infection] he very sensibly had his own finger immediately amputated."

Most soldiers looked upon the doctor's work as useless mutilation heaped on top of injury, and the fact that large numbers of the injured would linger in agonizing pain for days only to die did not enhance the reputation of the medical profession. One boy, obviously very angry, wrote a blunt condemnation of what he was witnessing: "I believe the Doctors kills more than they coul. Doctors haint Got half Sence."

Unless absolutely necessary, most soldiers would stay as far away from the doctors as possible and treat themselves as best as they could. Teas made from the bark of slippery elm, willow, and dogwood trees were favored remedies for anything from a cold to infected wounds. Wounds were treated by daily cleaning and the removal of anything foreign.

"Today," wrote a young soldier with several wounds to his leg and back, "Sheppard who is most kind in his attentions to my wounds extracts therefrom 4 maggots and cleanses the wounds thoroughly. They
are doing very well now; I mean my wounds.” One week later he writes, “Sheppard extracts from my wound several pieces of my pantaloons that had been carried into my leg by the bullet and which worked themselves back to the surface today, taking twenty-two days to go a distance of about 2 inches.” All of this was done without any sort of painkiller or antiseptic. Surprisingly, this boy recovered from his wounds.

While bullets and shells accounted for tens of thousands of injuries, more Civil War soldiers were felled by sickness and disease. The sanitary conditions of the camps and prisons were deplorable; drinking water and food were often contaminated. In addition, this was the first time these men had lived in such large groups, which facilitated the spread of fever. Dysentery and diarrhea were the most common diseases. But malaria, pneumonia, bronchitis, and scurvy were also common.

Oddly, measles, a disease we consider relatively harmless, turned out to be a major problem for boys in the Civil War. Once the disease took hold, it could sweep through a camp in a matter of days. One gathering of ten thousand new recruits was hit by measles, and before the week was out, more than four thousand had contracted the disease. The disease was so common that it became standard procedure to withhold new troops from active duty until they were “put through the measles.”

The treatment for all of these diseases was bed rest and plenty of liquids. Even so, one statistician estimates that more than half of all the deaths in the Civil War were caused by fevers! A boy, J. W. Love, may have summed up the situation perfectly in his letter home: “T. G. Freman is Ded and they is Several mor that is Dangerous with the fever. Theyhev been 11 Died with the fever in Co. A since we left hinston and 2 died that was wounded so you now See that these Big Battles is not as Bad as the fever.”
Cold Harbor, battles of: soldiers' bones

African Americans collecting bones of soldiers, Cold Harbor, Virginia, photograph by John Reekie, April 1865.

"Harvest of Death, A"

The battlefield of Gettysburg, photograph by Timothy O'Sullivan, July 1863.
Spotsylvania Court House, Battle of: injured soldiers

Soldiers injured in battle, Spotsylvania Court House, Virginia, May 1864.

Vicksburg Campaign: James Shirley house

James Shirley house with Union “bomb-proofs” covering the surrounding hillside, Vicksburg, Mississippi.
Confederate dead by a fence on the Hagerstown road, Antietam, Maryland, photo by Alexander Gardner, September 1862. The Battle of Antietam was one of the most costly of the Civil War.

Seven Days Battle: Union field hospital

Union field hospital, Savage's Station, Virginia, photograph by James F. Gibson, June 30, 1862.
Battles of the Civil War

Battle of Bull Run (457-458)

- Location:

- Date:

- Winner:

- Significance(what did it show):

Battle of Antietam (459-460)

- Strategy:

- Significance:

- Winner:
Battle of Vicksburg (461-462)

- Union War Plan:

- Location was important because:

- Grant was successful because:

- Union was able to accomplish two goals:

Battle of Gettysburg (473-474)

- ______________________________ went on the offensive to attach.

- ______________________________ lined up on Cemetery Ridge.

- Explain Picket’s Charge:

- Winner =

- Significance:
Sherman’s March to the Sea (475)

- Sherman’s Instructions:

- Examples of destruction:

- Explain Total War:
WARRIORS' WARDROBES

The soldiers on both sides went off to war in a disorganized diversity of uniforms. Northerners wore either blue or gray, Southerners either gray or blue, and volunteer units wore almost any color they pleased. The styles were varied with the influence of French military dress showing strongest. Many units called themselves Zouaves after the colorfully garbed Algerian units in French service.

But as the war went on, the uniforms became standardized: blue for the North, because it had been traditional since the Revolution; gray for the South, as a mark of opposition. At left is the uniform worn by Union infantrymen like Sam Croft. At right is the Confederate uniform like that worn by John Woods. On the next page.

YANKEE'S BATTLE DRESS

At the time of Gettysburg, a Yankee private's battle dress had been stripped to its essentials. The original bulky knapsack had been discarded for a blanket in which were tucked spare clothing and a poncho. This private wears a forage cap with the white cross of the 2nd Division of the Fifth Corps of the Army of the Potomac. The letter places him in Company "B." Like many old soldiers, he tilts his cap and wears a feather in it. His wool coat, called a fatigue blouse, has brass buttons stamped with a U.S. eagle. Under it is a gray hussar shirt.

His hand reaches into a leather cartridge box which holds 40 rounds of ammunition. The leather pouch on his belt contains percussion caps that ignite the powder. The rifle musket is a .58 caliber U.S. Springfield of 1861 with an accurate range of about 300 yards.

Protruding on the soldier's left hip is a bayonet, used mainly for digging and as a spit for cooking. The haversack holds rations of salt pork, bread, sugar and coffee. Alongside it are canteen and cap. The wool trousers are held up by suspenders. The leather shoes were among the first mass-produced footwear that distinguished between left and right foot.

MEAGHER'S ZOUAVES

Company K of the 69th New York State Militia, in war's early days, wore elaborate shirt, baggy pants.
20TH TENNESSEE
Tennessee farm boys wore a variation of standard Confederate garb, carried sheath knife, 1812 musket.

REBEL'S WORN-OUT GARB
Never as well equipped as his northern foe, the southern rebel by 1863 usually wore a uniform that was wearing out and that his government could not readily replace. Union clothing was superior to Confederate, and the latter had to supplement the former. There was little standardization in what the Confederate troops wore since some of the uniforms were supplied by the states, others by the Confederate government. This private wears a shako, a jacket made of coarse wool or cotton. Some of his buttons are missing, though not the most Rebels who had only wooden or lead buttons. His arc brass. The Confederacy issued some blankets but the men he carries is more likely from his home.

The cartridge box on his right hip is similar to a Yankee's. Cap box next to it is British-made. His musket, made in Richmond, is almost an exact duplicate of the Yankee Springfield model. His ration of salt pork or salt beef and dried corn or sweet potatoes, carried in his haversack, are less than a Yankee's.

His shoes are wool, and he is lucky if he has a second pair. His shoes are cruder than Union shoes, and when the heels and soles wear out he may recover them with wool or anything else he can get.
The Emancipation Proclamation

How did this change the Union's cause?

From the glossary, define Emancipate ____________________________

Read the text of Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation on the next two pages and answer the following questions.

1. Lincoln first read the Emancipation Proclamation to his Cabinet in July of 1862. When was it read in public and when was it to take effect?

2. The Emancipation Proclamation frees enslaved people who live where?

3. When he lists the areas that are in rebellion, why are some areas listed as exceptions?

4. Who is charged with supporting the freedom of enslaved people in those areas?

5. Lincoln asks the enslaved people, then to be considered free, to not do what?

6. Lincoln instructs the freed people to go where, for what purpose?
The Emancipation Proclamation
by Abraham Lincoln, 1863

The War Between the States began as a fight to save the Union. Issued by President Lincoln on January 1, 1863, the Emancipation Proclamation refueled the war spirit of both North and South. The year before, Congress had passed a law that freed Confederate slaves who entered Union territory. Now, the Emancipation Proclamation freed those slaves under Confederate rule as well. After the war the 13th Amendment to the Constitution (December 18, 1865) ended slavery throughout the nation. The Proclamation gave strength to the North, which gained over 500,000 former slaves for the war effort and helped secure the support of England and France. What other changes did this decree announce?

Whereas, on the twenty-second day of September, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty-two, a proclamation was issued by the President of the United States, containing, among other things, the following, to wit:

That on the first day of January, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty-three, all persons held as slaves within any State, or designated part of a State, the people whereof shall then be in rebellion against the United States, shall be then, thenceforward, and forever free; and the Executive Government of the United States, including the military and naval authority thereof, will recognize and maintain the freedom of such persons, and will do no act or set to repress such persons, or any of them, in any efforts they may make for their actual freedom.

That the Executive will, on the first day of January aforesaid, by proclamation, designate the States and parts of States, if any, in which the people thereof respectively shall then be in rebellion against the United States; and the fact that any State, or the people thereof, shall on that day be in good faith represented in the Congress of the United States by members chosen thereto at elections wherein a majority of the qualified voters of such State shall have participated, shall in the absence of strong countervailing testimony be deemed conclusive evidence that such State and the people thereof are not then in rebellion against the United States.

Now, therefore, 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, in time of actual armed rebellion against the authority and government of the United States, and as a fit and necessary war measure for suppressing said rebellion, do on this first day of January, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty-three, and in accordance with my purpose so to do, publicly proclaimed for the full period of 100 days
from the day first above mentioned, order and designate as the States and parts of States wherein the people thereof, respectively, are this day in rebellion against the United States, the following, to wit:

Arkansas, Texas; Louisiana (except the parishes of St. Bernard, Plaquemines, Jefferson, St. John, St. Charles, St. James, Ascension, Assumption, Terre Bonne, Lafourche, St. Mary, St. Martin, and Orleans, including the city of New Orleans), Mississippi, Alabama, Florida, Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina, and Virginia (except the forty-eight counties designated as West Virginia, and also the counties of Berkeley, Accomac, Northampton, Elizabeth City, York, Princess Anne, and Norfolk, including the cities of Norfolk and Portsmouth), and which excepted parts are for the present left precisely as if this proclamation were not issued.

And by virtue of the power and for the purpose aforesaid, I do order and declare that all persons held as slaves within said designated States and parts of States are, and henceforward shall be, free; and that the Executive Government of the United States, including the military and naval authorities thereof, shall recognize and maintain the freedom of said persons.

And I hereby enjoin upon the people so declared to be free to abstain from all violence, unless in necessary self-defense; and I recommend to them that, in all cases where allowed, they labor faithfully for reasonable wages.

And I further declare and make known that such persons of suitable condition will be received into the armed service of the United States to garrison forts, positions, stations, and other places, and to man vessels of all sorts in said service.

And upon this act, sincerely believed to be an act of justice, warranted by the Constitution upon military necessity, I invoke the considerate judgment of mankind and the gracious favor of Almighty God.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the United States to be affixed.

Done at the city of Washington, the first day of January, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty-three, and of the independence of the United States of America the eighty-seventh.

By the President: Abraham Lincoln
William H. Seward, Secretary of State.

By drawing former slaves North, the Emancipation Proclamation directly bolstered the Union armed forces. Thousands of African Americans joined or worked for the Union army or navy, and helped bring about its victory in 1865.

Important Leaders:

What role did these men play in the war?

For the United States of America:

Abraham Lincoln: President of the United States, also served as the Commander-in-Chief of the Union Army. One of his most important duties as the highest ranking military officer in the land was to appoint able generals to command his troops. Lincoln was assassinated at Ford's Theater in Washington, D.C., on April 14, 1865—just five days after the Confederacy had surrendered to end the Civil War.

George B. McClellan was appointed Commanding General of the Union Army in December of 1861 and was given the job of capturing the Confederate capital, Richmond, Virginia. He was relieved of command after the battle of Antietam for indecisive leadership. In 1864 McClellan ran for president on the Democratic ticket. Although he lost the election to Abraham Lincoln, he did later serve as governor of New Jersey.

William Tecumseh Sherman won fame during his “March to the Sea.” In this campaign he moved his army across Georgia, destroying any military supplies that lay in his path. The Union Navy had already cut the Confederacy in half by gaining control of the Mississippi River. Sherman’s March divided the South into three parts. After the Civil War, Sherman was promoted to general-in-chief of the army.

Ulysses S. Grant, commander of the Union Army in the West, won important victories at Shiloh, Tennessee, and Vicksburg, Mississippi. He was given command of all Union forces in 1864 and within a year forced General Lee to surrender at Appomattox Court House, VA. Grant later became the 18th president of the United States.

For the Confederate States of America:

Jefferson Davis was the president of the Confederate States of America and the Commander-in-Chief of the Confederate Army. Davis was well-qualified for both jobs, for he had served as a colonel in the U.S. Army during the Mexican War, was Secretary of War in President Pierce’s cabinet, and had also been a U.S. senator. After the Civil War, Davis served 2 years in prison for treason against the United States.

Robert E. Lee graduated second in his class at West Point Military Academy and rose to the rank of colonel in the U.S. military. At the outbreak of the War Between the States, President Lincoln offered to make Lee the commander of the entire Union Army. Instead, Lee decided to fight for the Confederacy out of loyalty for his home state, Virginia. He became the South’s greatest general. After the war, Lee was appointed president of Washington College in Lexington, VA.

J.E.B. Stuart was one of the South’s best cavalry officers. The cavalry were soldiers on horseback who served as scouts and carried out raids behind the enemy lines. Stuart’s most famous ride took place in June of 1862 when he rode around McClellan’s army and destroyed the federal supply depot at Manassas Junction, VA. Stuart was mortally wounded at the battle of Yellow Tavern, VA, on May 11, 1864, and died the next day in Richmond.

Thomas “Stonewall” Jackson earned his nickname at Bull Run when his troops refused to be pushed back by the Yankees. In 1862 he soundly defeated the Union Army in the Shenandoah Valley and became General Lee’s right-hand man. Jackson’s own troops shot and killed him by mistake during the battle of Chancellorsville, VA.
New York State and the Civil War

Civil War battles took place within the state of New York. The farthest that any Civil War battle took place was Gettysburg, PA.

However, in one way the conflict between North and South came right to the streets of ____________. Local factories produced ____________, ____________, ____________ for the army.

During the Civil War, New York State supplied the largest number of ____________, provided the most ____________, ____________, and ____________, and suffered the greatest ____________ of any state, North or South. But New York's Civil War was not confined to battlefields in Virginia or Mississippi. Families in New York suffered from ____________, ____________, and ____________.
on the three years' standard, is as follows:

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<th>State</th>
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As you listen to each song, answer the questions below.

**Civil War Songs: Changing Attitudes Toward War**

**"The Bonnie Blue Flag"**
What three words best describe the mood of this song?

If you were a Civil War soldier from the South, like the one shown here, how would this song make you feel?

---

**"Tenting Tonight"**
What three words best describe the mood of this song?

What do you think a Civil War soldier from the North, like the one shown here, would say to the person who wrote the "Bonnie Blue Flag"?
The Civil War

22.1 Introduction

The cannon shells bursting over Fort Sumter ended months of confusion. The nation was at war. The time had come to choose sides.

For most whites in the South, the choice was clear. Early in 1861, representatives from six of the seven states that had seceded from the Union met to form a new nation called the Confederate States of America. Southerners believed that just as the states had once voluntarily joined the Union, they could voluntarily leave it now. The men who fought for the Confederacy were proud defenders of “Southern Rights” and “Southern Independence.”

For many northerners, the choice was just as clear. “There can be no neutrals in this war,” declared Stephen Douglas after Fort Sumter, “only patriots—and traitors.” Most northerners viewed the secession of southern states as traitorous acts of rebellion against the United States. They marched off to war eager to defend “Our Union! Our Constitution! and Our Flag!”

Choosing sides was harder for the eight slave states located between the Confederacy and the free states. Four of these “border states”—Virginia, Arkansas, Tennessee, and North Carolina—joined the Confederacy. The western counties of Virginia, however, remained loyal to the Union. Rather than fight for the South, they broke away to form a new state called West Virginia. The other four border states—Delaware, Maryland, Kentucky, and Missouri—remained in the Union, although many of their citizens fought for the South.

As Americans took sides, they began to see why a civil war—a conflict between two peoples in one country—is the most painful kind of war. This conflict divided not only states, but also families and friends. In this chapter, you will learn how this “brothers’ war” turned into the most destructive of all American wars. As you read, put yourself in the shoes of the men and women who were part of this long and tragic struggle.
22.2 Preparing for War

President Lincoln’s response to the attack on Fort Sumter was quick and clear. He called for 75,000 volunteers to come forward to preserve the Union. At the same time, Jefferson Davis, the newly elected president of the Confederacy, called for volunteers to defend the South.

Both sides looked forward to a quick victory. “I cannot imagine that the South has resources for a long war or even a short one,” said a Philadelphia lawyer. Southerners, on the other hand, believed they could easily whip any army Lincoln sent south. A North Carolina journalist boasted:

The army of the South will be composed of the best material that ever yet made up an army; while that of Lincoln will be gathered from the sewers of the cities...who will serve for pay and will run away as soon as danger threatens.

Strengths and Weaknesses of the North

The North began the war with impressive strengths. Its population was about 22 million, compared to 9 million in the South. And the North was both richer and more technologically advanced than the South. About 90 percent of the nation’s manufacturing, and most of its banks, were in the North.

The North had geographic advantages, too. It had more farms than the South to provide food for troops. Its land contained most of the country’s iron, coal, copper, and gold. The North controlled the seas, and its 21,000 miles of railroad track allowed troops and supplies to be transported wherever they were needed.
The North’s greatest weakness was its military leadership. At the start of the war, about one third of the nation’s military officers resigned and returned to their homes in the South. During much of the war, Lincoln searched for effective generals who could lead the Union to victory.

**Strengths and Weaknesses of the South**

When the war began, southerners also had reasons to be confident of victory. To win the war, the North would have to invade and conquer the South. The sheer size of the South made this a daunting task. In addition, the North would need a much larger navy to seal off the long southern coastline and prevent the South from importing weapons and supplies from Europe.

In addition to geographic obstacles, the North faced the challenge of subduing people who believed they were defending their liberty, their homes, and their traditions. The South, in contrast, could win simply by defending its territory until northerners grew tired of fighting. But the South did have an important geographic disadvantage: if the Union could control the Mississippi River, it could split the Confederacy in two.

The South’s great strength was its military leadership. Most of America’s best military officers were southerners who chose to fight for the Confederacy. This was not an easy decision for many of them. Colonel Robert E. Lee, for example, was opposed to slavery and secession. But he decided that he could not fight against his native Virginia. Lee resigned from the U.S. Army to become the commander-in-chief of the Confederate forces.

The South’s main weakness was an economy that could not support a long war. It had few factories to produce guns and other military supplies. Southerners could trade cotton for war material from Europe, but Union ships could sharply reduce this trade with blockades of Southern ports.

The Confederacy also faced serious transportation problems. The South lacked the railroad network needed to haul goods over long distances. Most rail lines were short and went only to seaport towns. Supplies had to be carried by wagon from the railroad to the troops. And as the war dragged on, horses and mules to draw these wagons were in short supply.

Money might have helped solve these problems. But most wealth in the South was invested in land and slaves. The Confederate government printed paper money to finance the war effort. But as these paper dollars flooded the South, their value quickly dropped.

**Abraham Lincoln versus Jefferson Davis**

The North’s greatest advantage was its newly elected president, Abraham Lincoln. Throughout his presidency, Abraham Lincoln related the preservation of the Union to the ideals of the American Revolution. In his first inaugural address, he said that the Union was begun by the Revolution, “matured and continued” by the Declaration of Independence, and affirmed by the Constitution.

Throughout his presidency, Abraham Lincoln related the preservation of the Union to the ideals of the American Revolution. In his first inaugural address, he said that the Union was begun by the Revolution, “matured and continued” by the Declaration of Independence, and affirmed by the Constitution.

Abraham Lincoln versus Jefferson Davis

The North’s greatest advantage was its newly elected president, Abraham Lincoln. Through even the darkest days of the war, Lincoln never wavered from his belief that the Union was “perpetual”—never to be broken. Confederate president Jefferson Davis was equally devoted to the secessionist cause. But he was
never able to form a strong, single nation out of 11 stubbornly independent states.

Abraham Lincoln was born in Kentucky on February 12, 1809. His family was poor, and his mother died while he was a young child. All in all, Lincoln figured that his schooling “did not amount to a year.” It was enough, however, to excite a craving for knowledge. He read everything he could lay his hands on. “My best friend,” he said, “is the man who’ll get me a book I ain’t read.”

When Lincoln was 21, his family moved to Illinois. During the next few years, he held whatever jobs he could find—store clerk, rail-splitter, surveyor, postmaster. In the evenings, he read law books and eventually became a lawyer before entering politics.

At six feet four inches tall, Lincoln towered above most other men. His dark, sunken eyes gave him a sad but kind appearance. In this case, looks did not lie. Lincoln was patient, thoughtful, and tolerant of others. He also possessed a good sense of humor that often saved him from despair in moments of failure and frustration during the war. “I laugh,” he once said, “because if I didn’t I would weep.”

Like Lincoln, Jefferson Davis was born in Kentucky in a log cabin. He grew up on a small plantation in Mississippi. As a young man, he attended the military academy at West Point, New York. Davis fought in the Mexican War and served as Secretary of War under President Franklin Pierce. At the time of the secession crisis, he was a U.S. senator representing Mississippi. A firm believer in states’ rights, he resigned his seat in the Senate when Mississippi left the Union.

Tall, lean, and intense, Davis never really enjoyed politics. He served the Confederacy out of a sense of duty. The South, he believed, was fighting for the same freedom cherished by America’s founders. After being sworn in as president of the Confederate States, he declared, “Our present condition...illustrates the American idea that government rests upon the consent of the governed.”

Like Abraham Lincoln, Jefferson Davis often spoke of the American Revolution. When southerners formed their own government, he said, they “merely asserted a right which the Declaration of Independence of 1776 had defined to be inalienable.”
1. Identify four interesting details on this map.

2. Where did most battles take place: in Union states, in Confederate states, or in border states?

3. In the early part of the war (1861–1862), which side won more battles? Why do you think this side was more successful?

4. In the later part of the war (1863–1865), which side won more battles? Why do you think this side was more successful?
22.3 Bull Run: A Great Awakening

In the spring of 1861, President Lincoln and General Winfield Scott planned the Union’s war strategy. Step one was to surround the South by land and sea to cut off its trade. Step two was to divide the Confederacy into sections so that one rebel region could not help another. Step three was to capture Richmond, Virginia, the capital of the Confederacy, and destroy the rebel government. Journalists called this strategy the “Anaconda Plan” because it resembled the crushing death grip of an anaconda snake.

Rose Greenhow’s Dilemma Most northerners, however, believed that the war could be won with a single Union assault on Richmond. In 1861, thousands of volunteers poured into Washington, D.C., shouting, “On to Richmond!” These eager troops were watched carefully by an attractive young widow and Washington social leader named Rose O’Neal Greenhow.

Greenhow was a strong supporter of the southern cause. She used her friendship with government officials to learn just when and how the Union planned to attack Richmond. Her problem was to find some way to deliver this information to Confederate leaders without being discovered.

The Battle of Bull Run On a hot July morning, long lines of soldiers marched out of Washington heading for Richmond. Their voices could be heard singing and cheering across the countryside. Parties of politicians and society folks followed the army, adding to the excitement. They had come along to see the end of the rebellion.

The troops would not have been so cheerful had they known what was waiting for them at Manassas, a small town on the way to Richmond. Rose Greenhow had managed to warn southern military leaders of Union plans. She had smuggled a coded note to them in the curls of a young girl. Southern troops were waiting for the Union forces as they approached Manassas. The two armies met at a creek known as Bull Run.
At first, Union victory looked certain. But Confederate general Thomas Jackson and his regiment of Virginians refused to give way. “Look,” shouted South Carolina general Bernard Bee to his men, “there is Jackson with his Virginians, standing like a stone wall.” Thus inspired by “Stonewall” Jackson’s example, the rebel lines held firm until reinforcements arrived. Late that afternoon, Jackson urged his men to “yell like furies” as they charged the Union forces. The sound and fury of this charge unnerved the green (inexperienced) Union troops, who fled in panic back to Washington.

The Battle of Bull Run was a smashing victory for the South. For the North, it was a shocking blow. Lincoln and his generals now realized that ending the rebellion would not be easy. It was time to prepare for a long war.

**Women Support the War** Over the next year, both the North and the South worked to build and train large armies. As men went off to war, women took their places on the home front. Wives and mothers supported their families by running farms and businesses. Many women went to work for the first time in factories. Others found jobs as nurses, teachers, or government workers.

Women also served the military forces on both sides as messengers, guides, scouts, smugglers, soldiers, and spies. Rose Greenhow was arrested for spying shortly after the Battle of Bull Run. Although she was kept under guard in her Washington home, she continued to smuggle military secrets to the Confederates. The following year, Greenhow was allowed to move to the South, where President Jefferson Davis welcomed her as a hero.

Women also volunteered to help tend sick and wounded soldiers. Dorothea Dix was already well known for her efforts to improve the treatment of the mentally ill. She was appointed director of the Union army’s nursing service. Dix insisted that all female nurses be over 30 years old, plain in appearance, physically strong, and willing to do unpleasant work. Her rules were so strict that she was known as “Dragon Dix.”

While most nurses worked in military hospitals, Clara Barton followed Union armies into battle, tending troops where they fell. Later generations would remember Barton as the founder of the American Red Cross. To the soldiers she cared for during the war, she was “the angel of the battlefield.”

During the Civil War, many women went to work in factories such as this munitions plant. They replaced men who were in the army.
22.4 Antietam: A Bloody Affair

The Battle of Bull Run ended northerners’ hopes for a quick victory. In the months that followed that sobering defeat, the Union began to put the Anaconda Plan into effect.

The Union Blockade In 1861, the Union navy launched its blockade of southern ports. By the end of the year, most southern ports were closed to foreign ships. As the blockade shut down its ports, the Confederacy asked Britain for help in protecting its ships. The British, however, refused this request. As a result, the South could not export its cotton to Europe, nor could it import needed supplies.

Dividing the Confederacy Early in 1862, Union forces moved to divide the Confederacy by gaining control of the Mississippi River. In April, Union admiral David Farragut led 46 Union ships up the Mississippi River to New Orleans. This was the largest American fleet ever assembled. In the face of such overwhelming force, the city surrendered without firing a shot.

Meanwhile, Union forces headed by General Ulysses S. Grant began moving south toward the Mississippi from Illinois. In 1862, Grant won a series of victories that put Kentucky and much of Tennessee under Union control. A general of remarkable determination, Grant refused to accept any battle outcome other than unconditional (total) surrender. For this reason, U.S. Grant was known to his men as “Unconditional Surrender” Grant.

Attacking Richmond That same year, Union general George McClellan sent 100,000 men by ship to capture Richmond. Again, a Union victory seemed certain. But despite being outnumbered, Confederate forces stopped the Union attack in a series of well-fought battles. Once more, Richmond was saved.

The Battle of Antietam At this point, General Robert E. Lee, the commander of the Confederate forces, did the unexpected. He sent his troops across the Potomac River into Maryland, a slave state that remained in the Union. Lee hoped that this show of strength might persuade Maryland to join the Confederacy. He also hoped that a Confederate victory on Union soil would convince European nations to support the South.

On a crisp September day in 1862, Confederate and Union armies met near the little town of Sharpsburg along Antietam Creek. All day long,
McClellan's troops pounded Lee's badly outnumbered forces. The following day, Lee pulled back to Virginia.

McClellan claimed Antietam as a Union victory. But many who fought there saw the battle as "a defeat for both armies." Of the 75,000 Union troops who fought at Antietam, about 2,100 were killed. Another 10,300 were wounded or missing. Of the 52,000 Confederates who fought at Antietam, about 2,770 lost their lives, while 11,000 were wounded or missing. In that single day of fighting, more Americans were killed than in the War of 1812 and the Mexican War combined. The Battle of Antietam was the bloodiest day of the war.

The New Realities of War  The horrifying death toll at Antietam reflected the new realities of warfare. In past wars, battles had been won in hand-to-hand combat using bayonets. During the Civil War, improved weapons made killing at a distance much easier. Rifles, which replaced muskets, were accurate over long distances. Improved cannons and artillery also made it easier for armies to rain down death on forces some distance away. As a result, armies could meet, fight, bleed, and part without either side winning a clear victory.

Unfortunately, medical care was not as advanced as weaponry. Civil War doctors had no understanding of the causes of infections. Surgeons operated in dirty hospital tents with basic instruments. Few bothered to wash their hands between patients. As a result, infections spread rapidly from patient to patient. The hospital death rate was so awful that soldiers often refused medical care. An injured Ohio soldier wrote that he chose to return to battle rather than see a doctor, "thinking that I had better die by rebel bullets than Union Quackery [unskilled medical care]."

As staggering as the battle death tolls were, far more soldiers died of diseases than wounds. Unsanitary (unclean) conditions in army camps were so bad that about three men died of typhoid, pneumonia, and other diseases for every one who died in battle. As one soldier observed, "these big battles [are] not as bad as the fever."

Medical care was shockingly poor during the Civil War. Surgeries were performed without anesthetics. Thousands of soldiers died from infections or disease. Nevertheless, nurses performed heroically as they cared for the sick and wounded.
Read Sections 22.3 through 22.8 in *History Alive! The United States Through Industrialism*. Answer the questions for each section.

**22.3 Bull Run: A Great Awakening**

Why were many northerners surprised at the outcome of the Battle of Bull Run?

How did women participate in the Civil War?

**22.4 Antietam: A Bloody Affair**

What was important about the Battle of Antietam?

What hardships did Civil War soldiers face in combat?
22.5 Gettysburg: A Turning Point

While neither side won the battle of Antietam, it was enough of a victory for Lincoln to take his first steps toward ending slavery. When the Civil War began, Lincoln had resisted pleas from abolitionists to make emancipation, or the freeing of slaves, a reason for fighting the Confederacy. He himself opposed slavery. But the purpose of the war, he said, “is to save the Union, and is not either to save or destroy slavery.”

The Emancipation Proclamation As the war dragged on, Lincoln changed his mind. Declaring an end to slavery, he realized, would discourage Europeans who opposed slavery from assisting the Confederacy. Freeing slaves could also deprive the Confederacy of a large part of its workforce.

On January 1, 1863, President Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation. The proclamation, or formal order, declared slaves in all Confederate states to be free. This announcement had little immediate effect on slavery. The Confederate states simply ignored the document. Slaves living in states loyal to the Union were not affected by the proclamation.

Still, for many in the North, the Emancipation Proclamation changed the war into a crusade for freedom. The Declaration of Independence had said that “all men are created equal.” Now the fight was about living up to those words.

The Draft Meanwhile, both the North and the South had run out of volunteers to fill their armies. In 1862, the Confederacy passed the nation’s first draft law. This law said that all white men aged 18 to 35 could be called for three years of military service. A year later, the North passed a similar law that drafted men aged 20 to 45.

Under both laws, a drafted man could avoid the army by paying a substitute to take his place. This provision led to charges that the conflict was “a rich man’s war and a poor man’s fight.”

The Battle of Gettysburg The need to pass draft laws was a sign that both sides were getting tired of war. Still, in the summer of 1863, Lee felt confident enough to risk another invasion of the North. He hoped to capture a northern city and help convince the weary North to seek peace.

Union and Confederate troops met on July 1, 1863, west of Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. The Union troops, about 90,000 strong, were led by newly appointed General George C. Meade. After a brief skirmish, they occupied four miles of high ground along an area known as Cemetery Ridge. About a mile to the west, some 75,000 Confederate troops gathered behind Seminary Ridge.

The following day, the Confederates attempted to find weak spots in the Union position. But the Union lines held firm. On the third day, Lee...
ordered an all-out attack on the center of the Union line. Cannons filled the air with smoke and thunder. George Pickett led 15,000 Confederate soldiers in a charge across the low ground separating the two forces.

Pickett’s charge marked the northernmost point reached by southern troops during the war. But as the rebels pressed forward, Union gunners opened great holes in their advancing lines. Those brave men who managed to make their way to Cemetery Ridge were struck down by Union troops in hand-to-hand combat.

The losses at Gettysburg were staggering. More than 17,500 Union soldiers and 23,000 Confederate troops were killed or wounded in three days of battle. Lee, who lost about a third of his army, withdrew to Virginia. From this point on, he would only wage a defensive war on southern soil.

**Opposition on the Union Home Front** Despite the victory at Gettysburg, Lincoln faced a number of problems on the home front. One was opposition to the war itself. A group of northern Democrats were far more interested in restoring peace than in saving the Union or ending slavery. Republicans called these Democrats “Copperheads” after a poisonous snake with that name.

Other northerners opposed the war because they were sympathetic to the Confederate cause. When a pro-slavery mob attacked Union soldiers marching through Maryland, Lincoln sent in troops to keep order. He also used his constitutional power to suspend, or temporarily discontinue, the right of habeas corpus. During the national emergency, citizens no longer had the right to a trial before being jailed. People who were suspected of disloyalty were jailed without trial.

**Draft Riots** The Union draft law was passed just two months after Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation. It also created opposition to the war. Some northerners resented being forced to fight to end slavery. Others protested that the new law “converts the Republic into one grand military dictatorship.”

When the federal government began calling up men in July 1863, a riot broke out in New York City. For four days, crowds of angry white New Yorkers rioted, burning newly erected federal buildings. About 1,000 men were injured, and property damage was estimated at $3 million. The rioters were eventually put down by federal troops.

On July 3, 1863, General George Pickett led 15,000 Confederate troops in a charge against the Union lines. Row after row of Confederate soldiers fell under a rain of bullets until they finally retreated.
During the draft riots, white workers attacked free blacks. The whites feared African Americans would take their jobs and resented being forced to fight a war to end slavery. Almost 100 African Americans died during the four days of riots.

Yokers burned draft offices and battled police. But their special targets were African Americans. Almost 100 black New Yorkers died as mobs attacked black boardinghouses, a black church, and a black orphanage. The rioting finally stopped when troops fresh from Gettysburg restored order.

**Lincoln’s Gettysburg Address**  Four months after the draft riots, President Lincoln traveled to Gettysburg. Thousands of the men who died there had been buried in a new cemetery overlooking the battlefield. Lincoln was among those invited to speak at the dedication of this new burial ground.

After an hour-long talk by another speaker, Lincoln rose and spoke a few words. Many of the 15,000 people gathered on Cemetery Ridge could not hear what he had to say. But the nation would never forget Lincoln’s Gettysburg Address.

The president deliberately spoke of the war in words that echoed the Declaration of Independence. The “great civil war,” he said, was testing whether a nation “conceived in liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal...can long endure.” He spoke of the brave men, “living and dead,” who had fought to defend that ideal. “The world...can never forget what they did here.” Finally, he called on Americans to remain

*dedicated to the great task remaining before us—that from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave the last full measure of devotion—that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain—that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom—and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth.*
22.5 Gettysburg: A Turning Point
Why was the Battle of Gettysburg considered a turning point in the Civil War?

What problems developed on the Union home front during the war?
22.6 Vicksburg: A Besieged City

The Civil War was a war of many technological firsts. It was the first American war to use railroads to move troops and to keep them supplied. It was the first war in which telegraphs were used to communicate with distant armies. It was the first conflict to be recorded in photographs. It was also the first to see combat between armor-plated steamships.

The Merrimac and the Monitor Early in the war, Union forces withdrew from the navy yard in Norfolk, Virginia. They left behind a warship named the Merrimac. The Confederacy began the war with no navy. They covered the wooden Merrimac with iron plates and added a powerful ram to its prow.

In response, the U.S. Navy built its own ironclad ship. Completed in less than 100 days, the Monitor had a flat deck and two heavy guns in a revolving turret. It was said to resemble a “cheese box on a raft.”

In March 1862, the Merrimac, which the Confederates had renamed the Virginia, steamed into Chesapeake Bay. With cannonballs harmlessly bouncing off its sides, the iron monster destroyed three wooden ships and threatened the entire blockade fleet.

The next morning, the Virginia was met by the Monitor. The two ironclads exchanged shots for four hours before withdrawing. Neither could claim victory, and neither was harmed.

The battle of the Merrimac and the Monitor proved that “wooden vessels cannot contend with iron-clad ones.” After that, both sides added ironclads to their navies. But the South was never able to build enough ships to threaten the Union blockade of southern harbors.

Control of the Mississippi Ironclads were also part of the Union’s campaign to divide the South by taking control of the Mississippi River. After seizing New Orleans in 1862, Admiral Farragut moved up the Mississippi to capture Baton Rouge and Natchez. At the same time, other Union ships gained control of Memphis, Tennessee.

The Union now controlled both ends of the Mississippi. The South could no longer move men or material up and down the river. But neither could the North as long as the Confederates continued to control one key location—Vicksburg, Mississippi.

In 1862, the Monitor and the Merrimac, two ironclad ships, fought to a standstill. Nevertheless, the battle between the two signaled the end of wooden warships.
Vicksburg  The town of Vicksburg was located on a bluff above a hairpin turn in the Mississippi River. The city was easy to defend and difficult to capture. Whoever held Vicksburg could, with a few well-placed cannons, control movement on the Mississippi. But even Farragut had to admit that ships “cannot crawl up hills 300 feet high.” An army would be needed to take Vicksburg.

In May 1863, General Grant battled his way to Vicksburg with the needed army. For six weeks, Union gunboats shelled the city from the river while Grant’s army bombarded it from land. Slowly but surely, the Union troops burrowed toward the city in trenches and tunnels.

As shells pounded the city, people in Vicksburg dug caves into the hillsides for protection.

To survive, they ate horses, mules, and bread made of corn and dried peas. “It had the properties of India rubber,” said one Confederate soldier, “and was worse than leather to digest.”

Low on food and supplies, Vicksburg surrendered on July 4, 1863. The Mississippi was a Union waterway, and the Confederacy was divided.

Problems on the Confederate Home Front  As the war raged on, life in the South became grim. Because of the blockade, imported goods disappeared from stores. What few items were available were extremely expensive.

Unable to sell their tobacco and cotton, farmers planted food crops instead. Still, the South was often hungry. Invading Union armies destroyed crops. They also cut rail lines, making it difficult to move food and supplies to southern cities and army camps.

As clothing wore out, southerners made do with patches and rough, homespun cloth. At the beginning of the war, Mary Boykin Chesnut had written in her journal of well-dressed Confederate troops. By 1863, she was writing of soldiers dressed in “rags and tags.”

By 1864, southern troops were receiving letters like this one: “We haven’t got nothing in the house to eat but a little bit o’ meal. I don’t want to you to stop fighting them Yankees...but try and get off and come home and fix us all up some.” Many soldiers found it hard to resist such pleas, even if going home meant deserting their units.
22.7 Fort Wagner: African Americans Join the War

Early in the war, abolitionists had urged Congress to recruit African Americans for the army. But at first, most northerners regarded the conflict as “a white man’s war.” Congress finally opened the door to black recruits in 1862. About 186,000 African Americans, many of them former slaves, enlisted in the Union army. Another 30,000 African Americans joined the Union navy.

The Massachusetts 54th Regiment Massachusetts was one of the first states to organize black regiments. The most famous was the 54th Massachusetts Infantry, commanded by Colonel Robert Gould Shaw. Two of the 54th Infantry’s 1,000 soldiers were sons of Frederick Douglass.

The men of the Massachusetts 54th were paid less than white soldiers. When the black soldiers learned this, they protested the unequal treatment by refusing to accept any pay at all. In a letter to Lincoln, Corporal James Henry Gooding asked, “Are we soldiers or are we laborers?... We have done a soldier’s duty. Why can’t we have a soldier’s pay?” At Lincoln’s urging, Congress finally granted black soldiers equal pay.

After three months of training, the Massachusetts 54th was sent to South Carolina to take part in an attack on Fort Wagner. As they prepared for battle, the men of the 54th faced the usual worries of untested troops. But they also faced the added fear that if captured, they might be sold into slavery.

African Americans at War The assault on Fort Wagner was an impossible mission. To reach the fort, troops had to cross 200 yards of open, sandy beach. Rifle and cannon fire poured down on them. After losing nearly half of their men, the survivors of the 54th regiment pulled back. But their bravery won them widespread respect.

During the war, 166 African American regiments fought nearly 500 battles. Black soldiers often received little training, poor equipment, and less pay than white soldiers. They also risked death or enslavement if captured. Still, African Americans fought with great courage to save the Union and to end slavery forever.
22.6 Vicksburg: A Besieged City
Why was the Union victory at Vicksburg important?

What problems developed on the Confederate home front during the war?

22.7 Fort Wagner: African Americans Join the War
What was important about the actions of the Massachusetts 54th at Fort Wagner?

How did African Americans contribute to the Union war effort?
22.8 Appomattox: Total War Brings an End

During the first years of the war, Lincoln had searched for a commander who was willing to fight the Confederates. The president finally found the leader he needed in General Grant. Grant’s views on war were quite straightforward: “The art of war is simple enough. Find out where your enemy is. Get at him as soon as you can. Strike him as hard and as often as you can, and keep moving on.”

Using this strategy, Grant mapped out a plan for ending the war. He would lead a large force against Lee to capture Richmond. At the same time, General William Tecumseh Sherman would lead a second army into Georgia to take Atlanta.

On to Richmond  In May 1864, Grant invaded Virginia with a force of more than 100,000 men. They met Lee’s army of 60,000 in a dense forest known as “The Wilderness.” In two days of fierce fighting, Grant lost 18,000 men. Despite these heavy losses, Grant would not retreat. “I propose to fight it out along this line,” he said, “if it takes all summer.” He followed Lee’s army to Cold Harbor, where he lost 7,000 men in 15 minutes of fighting.

By the time the two forces reached Petersburg, a railroad center 20 miles south of Richmond, Grant’s losses almost equaled Lee’s entire army. But he was able to reinforce his army with fresh troops. Lee, who had also suffered heavy losses, could not.

Total War  Grant believed in total war—war on the enemy’s will to fight and its ability to support an army. With his army tied down in northern Virginia, Grant ordered General Philip Sheridan to wage total war in Virginia’s grain-rich Shenandoah Valley. “Let that valley be so left that crows flying over it will have to carry their rations long with them,” ordered Grant.

In May 1864, General Sherman left Tennessee for Georgia with orders to inflict “all the damage you can against their war resources.” In September, he reached Atlanta, the South’s most important rail and manufacturing center. His army set the city ablaze.

The Reelection of Lincoln  Any hope of victory for the South lay in the defeat of President Lincoln in the election of 1864. The northern Democrats nominated General George McClellan to run against Lincoln. Knowing that the North was weary of war, McClellan urged an immediate end to the conflict.

Lincoln doubted he would be reelected. Grant seemed stuck in northern Virginia, and there was no end in sight to the appalling bloodletting. Luckily for the president, Sheridan’s destruction of the Shenandoah Valley and Sherman’s capture of Atlanta came just in time to rescue his campaign. These victories changed northern views of Lincoln and his prospects for ending the war. In November, Lincoln was reelected.
**Sherman's March Through Georgia**  After burning Atlanta, Sherman marched his army toward Savannah, promising to “make Georgia howl.” His purpose was to destroy the last untouched supply base for the Confederacy.

As they marched through Georgia, Sherman's troops destroyed everything they found of value. Fields were trampled or burned. Houses were ransacked (robbed). Hay and food supplies were burned. Roads were lined with dead horses, hogs, and cattle that his troops could not eat or carry away. Everything useful in a 60-mile-wide path was destroyed.

In December 1864, Sherman captured Savannah, Georgia. From there, he turned north and destroyed all opposition in the Carolinas. Marching 425 miles in 50 days, he reached Raleigh, North Carolina, by March 1865. There he waited for Grant’s final attack on Richmond.

**The End at Appomattox**  For nine months, Grant's forces battered Lee's army at Petersburg, the gateway to Richmond. On April 1, 1865, the Union forces finally broke through Confederate lines to capture the city. Two days later, Union troops marched into Richmond.

Grant's soldiers moved quickly to surround Lee's army. Lee told his officers, “There is nothing left for me to do but go and see General Grant, and I would rather die a thousand deaths.”

On April 9, 1865, General Lee, in full dress uniform, arrived at Wilmer McLean’s house in the village of Appomattox Courthouse. He was there to surrender his army to General Grant. The Union general met him in a mud-splattered and crumpled uniform.

Grant's terms of surrender were generous. Confederate soldiers could go home if they promised to fight no longer. They could take with them their own horses and mules, which they would need for spring plowing. Officers could keep their swords and weapons. Grant also ordered that food be sent to Lee’s half-starved men. Lee accepted the terms.

As Lee returned to his headquarters, Union troops began to shoot their guns and cheer wildly. Grant told them to stop celebrating. “The war is over,” he said, “the rebels are our countrymen again.”

General Sherman, a believer in total war, cut a path of destruction through Georgia. The photograph below shows the burned ruins of Atlanta.
“Touched by Fire” No one who fought in the Civil War would ever forget the intensity of the experience. “In our youths,” wrote Oliver Wendell Holmes Jr., “our hearts were touched by fire.”

The nation, too, had been touched by fire. Many compared the Civil War to a great furnace that burned away one country and forged a new one in its place. In this new country, neither slavery nor the right to secession had any place. Just as Lincoln had said, the Union was a single whole, not a collection of sovereign states. Before the war, Americans tended to say “the United States are.” After the war, they said “the United States is.”

These momentous changes came at a horrifying cost. Billions of dollars had been spent on the conflict. Almost every family had lost a member or a friend. More than 620,000 Union and Confederate soldiers lay dead. Thousands more came home missing an arm or a leg. It would take generations for the South to recover from the environmental destruction wrought by the war. Croplands lay in ruins. Two fifths of the South’s livestock had been destroyed.

Many historians have called the Civil War the first truly modern war. It was the first war to reflect the technology of the Industrial Revolution: railroads, the telegraph, armored ships, more accurate and destructive weaponry. It also introduced “total war”—war between whole societies, not just uniformed armies.

As devastating as it was, the Civil War left many issues unsettled. The old society of the South had been destroyed, but the memory of it lingered. Thousands of white southerners clung to a romantic picture of the pre-war South. Decaying plantation houses became shrines. In the years to come, many in the South would try to re-create their vanished way of life. Secession and slavery were gone, but conflicts over states’ rights and the status of African Americans would continue long into the future.
22.9 Chapter Summary

In this chapter, you read about the Civil War between the Union and the Confederacy. You used an annotated illustration of a soldier’s haversack to help you understand the events and effects of the Civil War.

Both sides had advantages and disadvantages going into the war. The North had a larger population and more factories and railroads than the South, but it lacked strong military leadership. The South had serious economic problems, but it had capable generals and the advantage of fighting a defensive war.

New weapons and military tactics allowed soldiers to kill from greater distances. They also caused horrifying numbers of deaths and casualties. Unfortunately, medical knowledge was not as advanced as the weapons of war. Many more soldiers died of disease than from wounds.

After the Battle of Antietam, President Lincoln issued his Emancipation Proclamation, freeing all slaves in the Confederacy. The proclamation helped to make the war a crusade for freedom.

The battle of Gettysburg ended the South’s last attempt to invade the North. It proved to be a turning point. Lincoln’s speech dedicating the cemetery at Gettysburg gave the war a larger meaning by relating it to the ideals of the American Revolution.

The Union finally won the war under the leadership of General Grant. Grant began waging total war on the Confederacy. Union soldiers marched through the South, burning fields and houses and terrifying all those in their path. When the Union army surrounded General Lee’s Confederate troops, Lee was forced to surrender. Grant was generous to the southern troops. He fed them and sent them home to rebuild their lives.

The Civil War has been compared to a furnace that forged a new country, one in which secession and slavery had no place. But the costs were enormous, and many issues remained. In the next chapter, you will read about how the nation tried to become whole again.

This painting, *End of the Rebellion in the United States*, 1865, celebrates the conclusion of the Civil War and the preservation of the Union.
22.8 Appomattox: Total War Brings an End
What is meant by "total war"? What did the Union army do during their campaign of total war?

What terms did Grant offer Lee when he surrendered at Appomattox Courthouse?