

## SECTION 1

# Preparing for War

### BEFORE YOU READ

#### MAIN IDEA

The attack on Fort Sumter led both the North and the South to prepare for war in earnest.

#### READING FOCUS

1. How did the fall of Fort Sumter lead to war?
2. Why did many northerners and southerners eagerly rush to war?
3. Why was the loyalty of the border states important, and how did Lincoln obtain it?
4. What were Union and Confederate goals and strategies for the war?

#### KEY TERMS AND PEOPLE

Robert Anderson  
artillery  
border states  
martial law  
Anaconda Plan  
cotton diplomacy  
embargo

#### TAKING NOTES

As you read, take notes identifying and describing the goals and strategies of the North in fighting the war. Record your notes in a graphic organizer like the one shown here.

Northern Goals	Northern Strategies

## The Reluctant Warrior

### THE INSIDE STORY

**Which side would a soldier choose?** Robert E. Lee's family was one of the oldest and most distinguished families in Virginia. His father, "Light-Horse Harry" Lee, was an outstanding cavalry officer in the Revolutionary War, a delegate to the Continental Congress, and a friend of George Washington. Richard Henry Lee, a great uncle, had signed the Declaration of Independence. Robert E. Lee, born in 1807, lived up to the family's proud traditions. In 1829 he graduated second in his class from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. In the Mexican-American War, General Winfield Scott called Lee "the very best soldier I ever saw in the field." He was handsome, good-humored, and a natural leader.

As war between the North and the South came nearer, Lee's loyalties were torn between his country and his state. From an army post in Texas, he wrote to his son: "I can anticipate no greater calamity for the country than a dissolution of the Union . . . I am willing to sacrifice every thing but honour for its preservation." His native state of Virginia had not yet seceded, but it did so after President Lincoln called for volunteers for the army in April 1861.

President Lincoln asked Lee to command the forces the federal government was gathering to put down the rebellion. Although Lee opposed secession, he refused Lincoln's offer. Saying that he could not take part in invading the South, Lee regretfully resigned from the U.S. Army and became commander of Virginia's state forces. In 1862 Lee assumed overall command of one of the Confederacy's main armies, the Army of Northern Virginia. ■

◀ Gentleman and soldier Robert E. Lee

THE MUSEUM OF THE CONFEDERACY,  
RICHMOND, VIRGINIA



## The Fall of Fort Sumter

On April 12, 1861, Confederate guns fired on Fort Sumter in the harbor of Charleston, South Carolina, and the Civil War began. This bloody, four-year conflict tore the nation apart and changed the course of American history.

**Crisis at Fort Sumter** The crisis at Fort Sumter actually began about a month earlier, on March 5. On that day, President Abraham Lincoln's first full day in office, he received a desperate message from the commander of Fort Sumter, **Robert Anderson**. Confederate leaders had demanded that he surrender the fort or face an attack. The fort's supplies were running low, and Anderson needed help.

Confederate troops had seized many forts, arsenals, and other federal government property throughout the states that had seceded. Fort Sumter was one of the few such places still in Union hands. It had become a target of the Confederate revolt. If President Lincoln turned over the fort, his surrender might reassure southerners that the North did not want war. On the other hand, it would also anger many people in the North who did not want to treat the Confederacy as if it were a separate, legitimate nation.

Lincoln made a clever decision. He would not surrender Fort Sumter. Instead, he told the Confederates that he would send only food and other nonmilitary supplies to the fort to feed the soldiers trapped there.

Now Confederate president Jefferson Davis faced a difficult decision. If he allowed the fort to be resupplied, it could hold out indefinitely and would continue to be a symbol of federal authority in the South. If he attacked the fort, however, war would begin.

**The attack on Fort Sumter** Davis decided to act before the supplies arrived. "You will at once demand [the fort's] evacuation," he ordered the Confederate commander in Charleston. "If this is refused, proceed, in such manner as you may determine, to reduce [destroy] it."

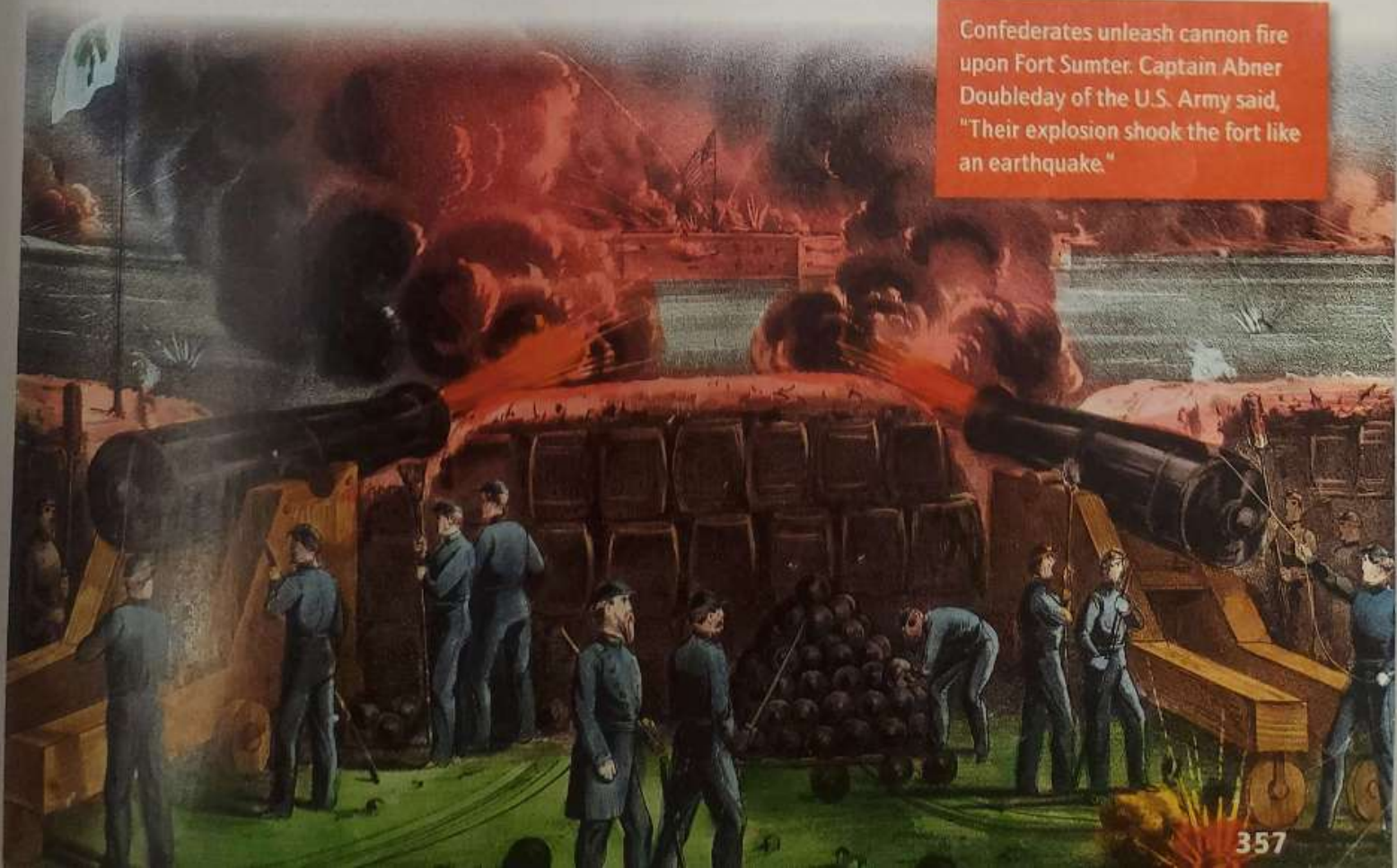
In the early morning of April 12, Confederate **artillery**, or large mounted guns, opened fire on the fort. The fort's defenses were no match for these massive guns, and it surrendered the next day. On April 14 the U.S. flag flying over the fort was replaced with a southern flag.

### READING CHECK

#### Identifying the Main

**Idea** Why was the dispute that arose over Fort Sumter significant?

Confederates unleash cannon fire upon Fort Sumter. Captain Abner Doubleday of the U.S. Army said, "Their explosion shook the fort like an earthquake."





## ACADEMIC VOCABULARY

**rebellion** violent resistance to established government or authority

## The Rush to War

In response to the fall of Fort Sumter, President Lincoln called for 75,000 volunteers to serve for 90 days in order to put down the rebellion. Lincoln's old political enemy Stephen Douglas supported this action. "There are only two sides to the question," Douglas told a huge crowd in Chicago. "There can be no neutrals in this war, only patriots—or traitors."

Northerners rushed to enlist in the military. A woman in Boston reported people's eagerness to fight.

### HISTORY'S VOICES

"Hastily formed companies marched to camps of rendezvous, the sunlight flashing from gun-barrel and bayonet ... Merchants and clerks rushed out from stores ... saluting them as they passed ... I had never dreamed that New England could be fired with so warlike a spirit."

—Mary Ashton Livermore in *Voices of the Civil War*

Reaction in the South was very different. Lincoln's call for volunteers forced the eight slave states that remained in the Union to choose a side. "We must either identify ourselves with the North or the South," a Virginia newspaper wrote. "The South must go with the South," a North Carolina paper argued. "Blood is thicker than water."

All the slave states that remained in the Union refused to provide troops to fight against fellow southerners. "Not one man will the State of Missouri furnish to carry on any such unholy

crusade," its governor informed the president. The governors of Arkansas, Kentucky, North Carolina, Tennessee, and Virginia sent similar replies. Delaware and Maryland ignored Lincoln's request.

In the Confederate states, anger ran high. "Lincoln may bring his 75,000 troops against us," Confederate vice president Alexander Stephens said defiantly. "We can call out a million of peoples if need be, and when they are cut down we can call another."

On April 17 Virginia seceded. In May, the states of Arkansas, Tennessee, and North Carolina followed Virginia into the Confederacy. Meanwhile, leaders on both sides wondered what Delaware, Kentucky, Maryland, and Missouri would do.

### READING CHECK

#### Making Generalizations

How did southerners react to Lincoln's call for troops to put down the rebellion?

## The Border States

Delaware, Kentucky, Maryland, and Missouri were known as **border states**—slaveholding states that remained in the Union and formed its border with the Confederacy. Delaware had few slaves and slaveholders, and most people believed it would remain in the Union. In the other border states, however, secessionist sympathies were strong. Each of these states had great geographic and military importance.

**Martial law in Maryland** Maryland was perhaps the most critical border state. If it seceded, Washington, D.C., would be completely surrounded by Confederate territory. When some pro-secession Marylanders began burning bridges and cutting telegraph lines to harm the Union war effort, Lincoln acted quickly to ensure they did not do more damage.

For much of 1861 federal troops guarded sites in Maryland that had military value. Maryland churches were forced to fly the American flag. Newspapers that supported secession were shut down, and their editors were jailed or banished to the South.

Lincoln also placed parts of Maryland under **martial law**. This is a type of rule in which military commanders are in control and citizens' rights and freedoms are suspended. In November 1861 the military supervised new elections

### FACES OF HISTORY

**Abraham LINCOLN**  
1809–1865



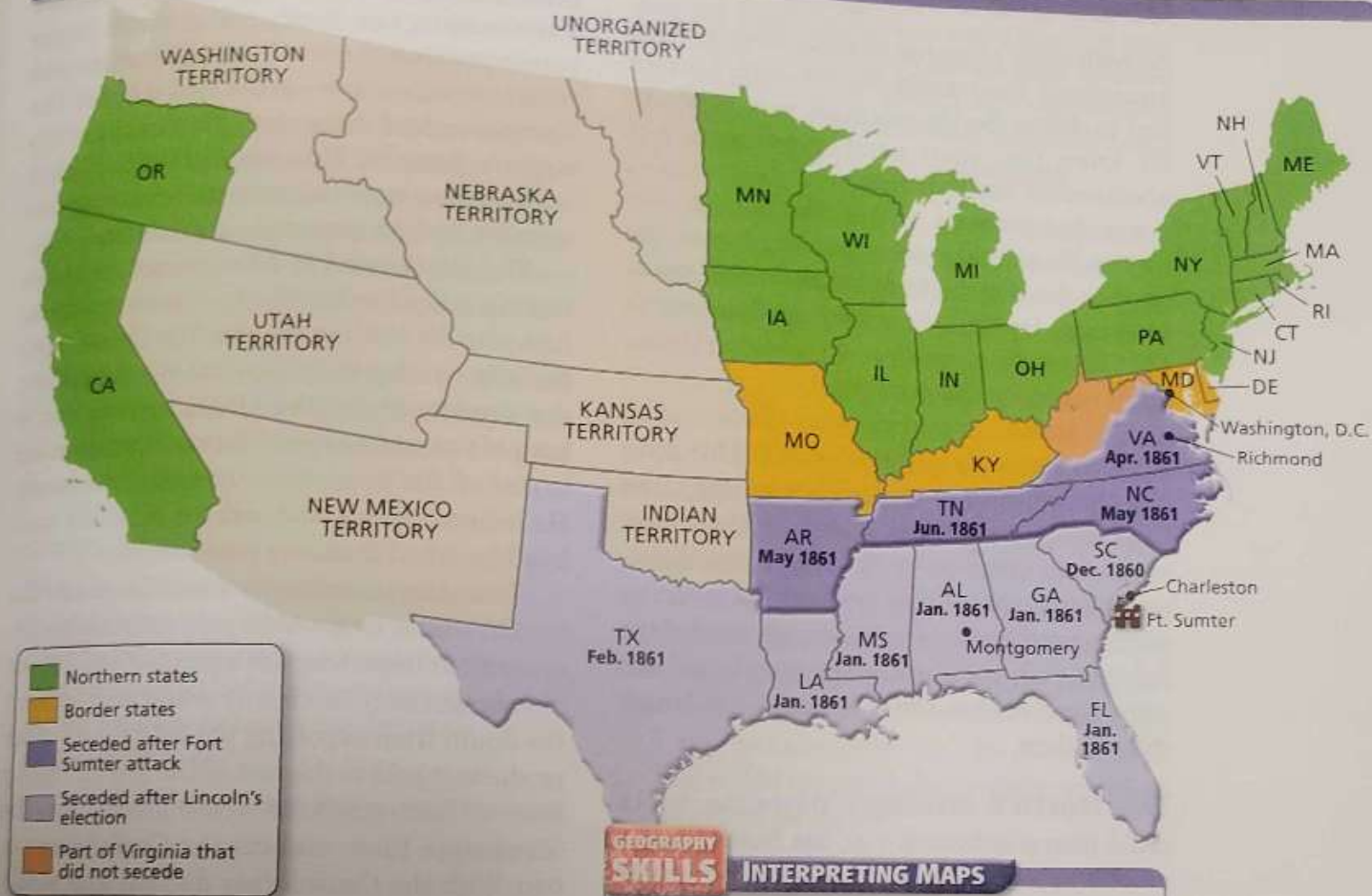
Throughout his time in office, Abraham Lincoln struggled with personal tragedies while striving to hold his family and the nation together

during the Civil War. In 1862 Abraham and Mary Todd Lincoln's 11-year-old son William died of typhoid fever in the White House.

Struck with grief over the loss of their son, the Lincolns sank into depression. The first lady took William's death especially hard. The president struggled in the midst of a war that was going badly to care for his wife and to grieve the loss of his son. Lincoln often resorted to humor and storytelling to overcome his grief. He explained to a friend "if it were not for these stories [and] jokes ... I should die."

**Summarize** Why was Lincoln's presidency especially difficult?





## GEOGRAPHY SKILLS

## INTERPRETING MAPS

The United States split along regional lines.

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

See **Skills Handbook**, p. H20

in which a pro-Union state legislature was elected. The new government cooperated with federal officials for the rest of the war.

**Divisions in Missouri** Missouri was important because it could control the lower Mississippi River. Missourians' loyalties were divided. Many government officials and the state's slaveholders supported secession, but most Missourians did not. Pro-Union citizens formed a militia and organized a rival government. Lincoln sent troops to aid the pro-Union forces against the secessionists. The Confederates aided the other side. The secessionists, however, never gained enough control over the state to withdraw it from the Union.

**Divided loyalties in Kentucky** Control of Kentucky meant control of some 700 miles of the Ohio River that formed its northern border. If Kentucky were in Confederate hands, a large part of the Union would be open to the threat of invasion. "I hope to have God on my side, but I must have Kentucky," Lincoln reportedly said.

Most of the state's government officials opposed secession, but many citizens favored joining the Confederacy. As a result, Kentucky's governor declared that the state would not choose a side in the war. Eventually, Kentucky sided with the Union after the state was invaded by Confederate troops in September 1861.

No matter which side the border states took, they all had some citizens fight for the North and others fight for the South. Nowhere was this more true than in Kentucky. One of Kentucky senator John Crittenden's sons was a Union general and the other was a general in the Confederate army. First Lady Mary Todd Lincoln, a Kentucky native, had four brothers in Confederate armies.

## READING CHECK

## Summarizing

Why was it important to the Union that the border states remain loyal?



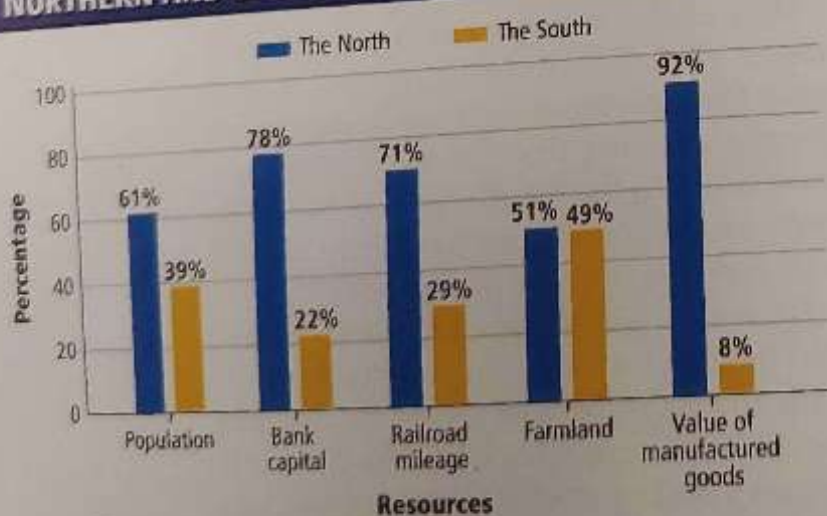
## Goals and Strategies

As both sides prepared to fight, their leaders announced their goals for the war. Lincoln had to define the Union's goals very carefully. He knew that most northerners were not abolitionists and that they would not support a war that centered around the dispute over slavery. He also feared that making slavery the issue in the war might push the border states to secede. Instead, he asked northerners to fight for patriotic reasons—to save the Union, not to settle the slavery issue.

The South's war goals were simple: to be left alone with slavery unchanged. This position shaped the South's military strategy. The Confederates prepared to defend the South against an invasion by the North. Southerners believed that if they held off the invading armies, northerners would soon get tired of the fighting and withdraw. Many people on both sides doubted that the war would last longer than 90 days.

**The North's strategy** While the South could plan a defensive war, the North faced a much more difficult task. Unless southerners returned their states to the Union voluntarily, northern armies would need to invade the South in order to crush the rebellion.

## NORTHERN AND SOUTHERN RESOURCES



Source: United States Bureau of the Census

**Skills Focus**

### INTERPRETING GRAPHS

1. Which side had control of the country's resources in each of the categories shown, and by how much?
2. What advantage do you think this provided?

See **Skills Handbook**, p. H16

In many ways, however, the North was better equipped than the South for such a war. For example, the North had a much larger population than the South, so more northerners were available to serve in the armed forces. The North also had more than 85 percent of the nation's factories. This meant that the North would have a much easier time producing war supplies such as guns and ammunition.

The North tried to take advantage of the South's lack of industries and resources in its first plan for fighting the war. The Union strategy was developed by General Winfield Scott, the commander of the Union armies and a hero of the war against Mexico. Scott planned to seal off the South from the rest of the world. He believed this would end the rebellion with less bloodshed than any other means.

First, the Union navy would blockade the South's ports. This would prevent the Confederacy from importing the manufactured goods it so desperately needed. It would also prevent the South from exporting the cotton and other products it sold to the rest of the world. Then a fleet of Union gunboats would move down the Mississippi River and cut the Confederacy in two. With the Confederacy divided and weakened, Scott believed that southerners who did not support secession would rise up and overthrow the Confederate leaders.

Scott's plan had major flaws, however. For one thing, it was based on the false belief that most southerners did not support secession and were under the control of radical leaders. It would also take a great deal of time to form an effective blockade and capture and control the Mississippi River. Scott's plan failed to recognize that most northerners believed in and wanted a short war.

Northern journalists thought Scott's strategy absurd. They called it the **Anaconda Plan**, after the snake that slowly squeezes its victims to death. Instead, they urged Scott to send an army to capture the new capital of the Confederacy—Richmond, Virginia—which was close to Union territory. "On to Richmond!" northern newspapers cried, and a quick end to the war.

**The South's strategy** While the Confederates had far fewer resources than northerners, they essentially made up for this with their support for the cause. White southerners believed themselves to be fighting for their freedom and



their homeland, as the Patriots had done in the Revolutionary War. They fought to defend their new nation even though three-fourths of them did not hold slaves.

"Thank God! We have a country at last," a Mississippian declared, "to live for, pray for, fight for, and, if necessary, to die for." Many southerners viewed Union troops as vandals who were being sent to plunder the South. "Our men must prevail in combat, or lose their property, country, freedom, everything," one Confederate wrote.

Southerners also placed great value on their bravery and fighting ability. They were convinced of their military superiority over the armies of the North.

#### HISTORY'S VOICES

"The army of the South will be composed of the best material that ever 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 they can when danger threatens."

—Raleigh Banner, Raleigh, North Carolina

In fact, the South's military leaders did give the Confederacy a strong advantage over the North. Many of the nation's most talented and promising army officers were southerners. Like Robert E. Lee, most sided with their home states and fought for the Confederacy.

**Cotton diplomacy** Many southerners believed that their greatest strength and advantage over the North was their cotton. The South had long exported enormous amounts of cotton to the textile mills of Great Britain and France. Southerners were convinced that if war disrupted this supply, both nations would come to the Confederacy's aid to restore the cotton trade. They expected that the powerful British navy would break through any Union blockade of southern ports.

"If those miserable Yankees try to blockade us, and keep you from our cotton," one southern merchant told a British journalist, "you'll just send their ships to the bottom and acknowledge us." By "acknowledge us" he meant that Britain would recognize the Confederacy as an independent nation.

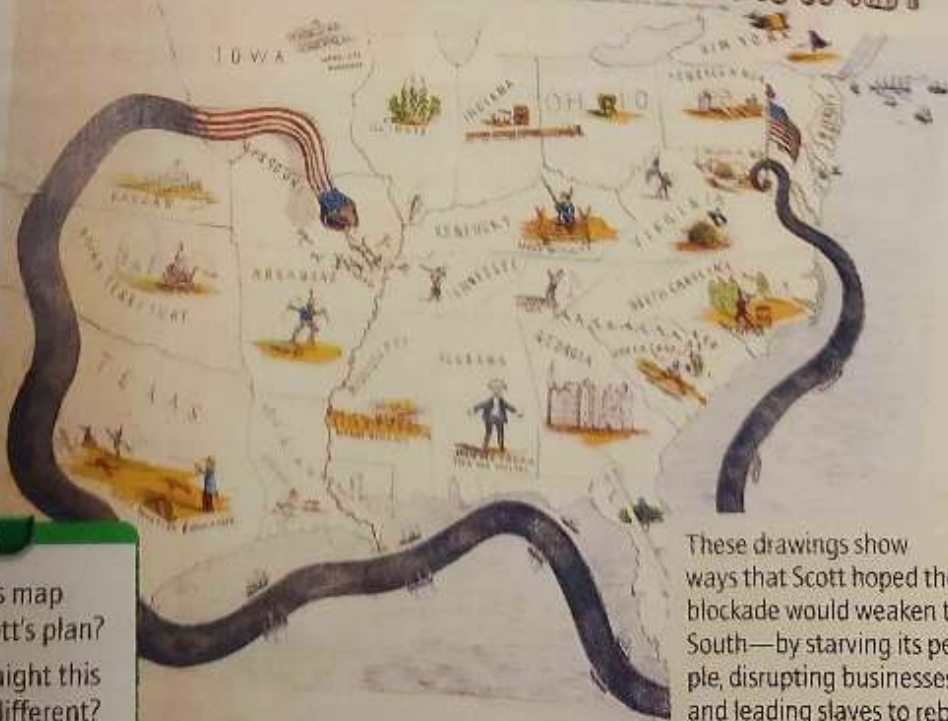
#### PRIMARY SOURCES

### Propaganda Map

At the start of the war, General Winfield Scott developed a plan to surround the South and cut off its supplies. This 1861 map cartoon expressed confidence in Scott's plan.

Scott's strategy was called the Anaconda Plan, after the South American snake that wraps around and suffocates its prey.

### SCOTT'S GREAT SNAKE.



These drawings show ways that Scott hoped the blockade would weaken the South—by starving its people, disrupting businesses, and leading slaves to rebel.

#### Skills Focus

#### READING LIKE A HISTORIAN

- 1. Interpreting Visuals** How does this map reflect the method and purpose of Scott's plan?
- 2. Identifying Points of View** How might this map, if drawn by a Confederate, look different?

See **Skills Handbook**, pp. H28–H29, H30



Receiving foreign aid and the recognition of southern independence became important goals in the South's war strategy. Southerners believed that their cotton was the key to making this happen. "Our cotton is . . . the tremendous lever by which we can work our destiny," Confederate vice president Alexander Stephens declared in July 1861. This use of cotton as a tool of Confederate foreign policy was known as **cotton diplomacy**.

When Britain and France failed to recognize the Confederacy as an independent nation early in the war, Confederates deliberately stopped shipping cotton to those countries. The *Memphis Argus* instructed planters to **embargo**, or totally restrict, their export of cotton to markets overseas.

#### HISTORY'S VOICES

"Keep every bale of cotton on the plantation. Don't send a thread to New Orleans or Memphis until England and France have recognized the Confederacy—not one thread."

—*Memphis Argus*, Memphis, Tennessee

"The cards are in our hands," the *Charleston Mercury* boasted, "and we intend to play them out to the bankruptcy of every cotton factory in Great Britain and France for the recognition of our independence."

Cotton diplomacy failed, however, in part because the British deeply resented the Confederacy's attempt to blackmail them. "[If southerners] thought they could extort our cooperation by the agency of king cotton, they had better think again," warned the *London Times*. "No English Parliament could do so base [dishonorable] a thing," Britain's foreign minister declared.

More importantly, a huge cotton crop in 1860 had allowed overseas mill owners to stockpile southern cotton. In addition, the end of southern exports raised cotton prices worldwide. These higher prices encouraged farmers in Egypt and India to grow more cotton to sell to European countries. When mill owners in Britain and France exhausted their reserves of southern cotton, they turned to Egypt and India for a new supply.

By the time southerners realized that cotton diplomacy had failed, the North's blockade had tightened, making the export of cotton nearly impossible. Further efforts to gain or block foreign involvement in the conflict, however, remained important to the actions and strategies of both sides during the Civil War.

#### READING CHECK

**Summarizing** For what reasons did cotton diplomacy fail?

## SECTION 1 ASSESSMENT

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Online Quiz

Keyword: SD7 HP11

### Reviewing Ideas, Terms, and People

- Identify** Where did the first battle of the Civil War take place?
  - Analyze** Why was this place important to both the North and the South?
- Identify** Which states joined the Confederacy after Lincoln's call for troops?
  - Make Inferences** Why did Lincoln's call for troops force the slave states that remained in the Union to choose a side?
  - Elaborate** Why were many men eager to enlist at the beginning of the war?
- Describe** What made the border states important?
  - Analyze** Why was Maryland the most critical border state?
- Describe** What was cotton diplomacy?
  - Compare** How were many southerners' views during the Civil War similar to those of Patriots during the Revolutionary War?
  - Predict** Which side do you think was better prepared for war, the North or the South? Explain why you think so.

### Critical Thinking

- Comparing and Contrasting** Review your notes on Civil War goals and strategies. Then copy the graphic organizer below and use it to compare and contrast the North's and the South's goals and strategies.

Northern Goals and Strategies	Southern Goals and Strategies

### FOCUS ON SPEAKING

- Persuasive** Suppose that you lived in a border state in 1861. Give a speech that makes an argument and provides reasons for or against your state seceding and joining the Confederacy.



# SECTION 2

# Fighting Erupts

## BEFORE YOU READ

### MAIN IDEA

Widespread fighting occurred during the first two years of the Civil War.

### READING FOCUS

1. What factors made the major battles in the war so bloody?
2. How did the Union carry out its strategy in the Mississippi Valley?
3. What led to the Confederate successes in the war in the East?
4. Why did Confederate forces invade the Union, and with what result?

### KEY TERMS AND PEOPLE

Stonewall Jackson  
infantry  
First Battle of Bull Run  
casualties  
George McClellan  
cavalry  
ironclads  
Ulysses S. Grant  
Battle of Shiloh  
Battle of Antietam

### TAKING NOTES

As you read, take notes on major battles fought during the first two years of the Civil War. Record your notes in a graphic organizer like the one shown here.

Battle	Date	Outcome
First Battle of Bull Run		
Battle of Shiloh		
Second Battle of Bull Run		
Battle of Antietam		
Battle of Fredericksburg		

### THE INSIDE STORY

**Why was an audience watching a battle?** In the summer of 1861, northerners and southerners both expected victory

by the fall. In July, Lincoln sent an army southward from Washington toward Richmond, Virginia. On July 21 the Union army attacked Confederate forces about 30 miles south of Washington, near a creek called Bull Run.

Enthusiasm for the war was high in Washington. Many men and women, including members of Congress, packed picnic baskets and rode out to watch the battle. The Union army made gains at first, but fresh Confederate troops arrived, forcing the Union army to retreat.

Then a Confederate artillery shell blew up a wagon on a bridge, creating a bottleneck along the march route. The orderly retreat turned into chaos as panicked Union soldiers

began to run. Terrified civilians joined the stampede away from the battlefield.

Edmund Clarence Stedman, a reporter for the *New York World*, described the scene: "Hosts of federal troops ... were fleeing along the road ... Army wagons, sutlers' teams [merchants' wagons], and private carriages choked the passage, tumbling against each other amid clouds of dust ... Hacks [hired carriages], containing unlucky spectators ... were smashed like glass ... Those on foot who could catch [horses] rode them bareback, as much to save themselves from being run over as to make quicker time." ■

## Picnic on the BATTLEFIELD

▼ The First Battle of Bull Run plunges into chaos, a signal to both sides that a long and bloody war is to come.







## HISTORY CLOSE-UP

# The New Weapons of War

Civil War soldiers used several weapons that were new to America. Although some had been developed in Europe, the American Civil War was their first major test in battlefield conditions.



Large bullets called minié balls were used by both sides and did great damage on impact.



Union balloons rose 3,500 feet and allowed observers to see up to 6 miles.



Several types of ironclad ships covered with iron plates of armor, were used by both sides in the war.

## The Major Battles Begin

General Irvin McDowell warned President Lincoln that the Union army was not ready to fight. The 90-day enlistments of the North's volunteers were nearly over, however. There would soon be no army. "You are green [inexperienced] it is true," Lincoln noted, "but they [the Confederate troops] are green, also; you are all green alike." He decided that the army must attack.

On July 16, 1861, General McDowell began to march his 35,000-man army into Virginia. Blocking his path to Richmond were 22,000 Confederate troops located near the small town of Manassas Junction. The Confederates positioned themselves on the south side of a stream called Bull Run and waited.

McDowell's troops took two and a half days to march the 25 miles between Washington and Manassas. "They were not used to journeys on foot," he later explained. Their slow pace allowed the Confederate commander, P. G. T. Beauregard, to bring in 11,000 more troops by train. By the time the Union army arrived, the two forces were about equal in size.

**First Battle of Bull Run** Beauregard and McDowell had each planned carefully, but their inexperienced armies could not carry out the plans. The battle became a chaotic free-for-all. At first, the Union troops pushed the Confederates back. Then some Virginia soldiers

led by General Thomas Jackson rushed onto the field and stopped the Union advance. "There stands Jackson like a stone wall!" Confederate general Barnard Bee shouted to his troops. "Rally behind the Virginians!" Bee was killed soon after, but **Stonewall Jackson** had earned his famous nickname.

By late afternoon the Union troops began to fall back. When Beauregard ordered his entire line of **infantry**, or foot soldiers, to charge, the Union retreat turned into a stampede. Soldiers tossed away guns, packs, and anything else that might slow them down as they ran from the battlefield.

If the Confederates had pursued the fleeing troops, they might have been able to destroy the Union army. Instead, as one Confederate general put it, "our army was more disorganized by victory than that of the United States by defeat." The exhausted victors stayed on the battlefield after the **First Battle of Bull Run**. The Confederate army had suffered nearly 2,000 **casualties**, the military term for those killed, wounded, or missing in action. Union casualties numbered about 2,900.

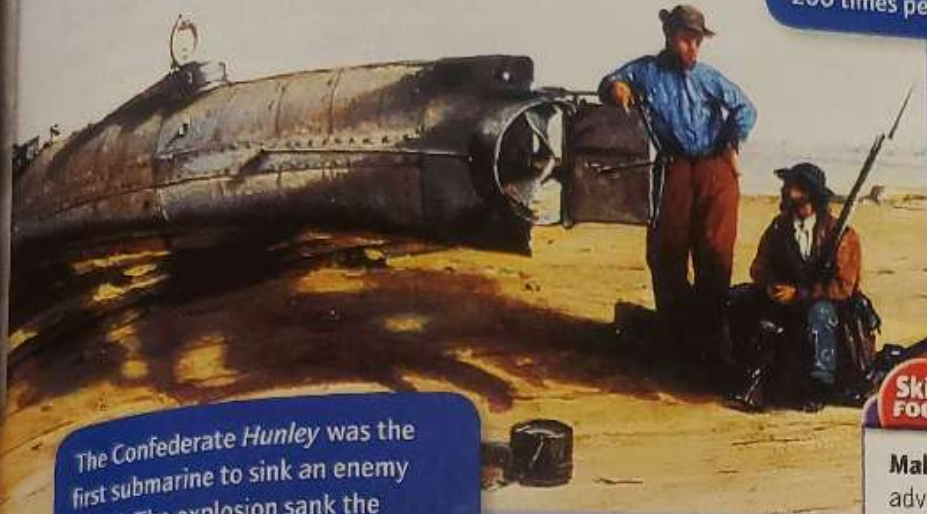
The Battle of Bull Run ended most northerners' hopes for a short war. Lincoln called for a million more volunteers willing to serve for three years. The president also replaced McDowell with a brilliant 34-year-old general, **George McClellan**. McClellan immediately set about turning some 100,000 of these three-year volunteers into a real army.

### THE IMPACT TODAY

#### Culture

The battlefield at Bull Run is today a national park. It is one of 384 Civil War battlefields that have been designated as historic sites by the U.S. or state governments.





The Union's Gatling gun, an early machine gun, could fire 200 times per minute.

**Skills  
FOCUS**

### INTERPRETING VISUALS

**Making Inferences** How were ironclads an advantage over wooden ships?

See **Skills Handbook**, p. H30

The Confederate *Hunley* was the first submarine to sink an enemy vessel. The explosion sank the *Hunley*, too.

THE MUSEUM OF THE CONFEDERACY,  
RICHMOND, VIRGINIA

**Tactics and technology** Most of the top generals on each side in the war had been trained at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. The predominant instruction was based on the wars conducted by Napoleon in his conquest of Europe a half-century before. Such tactics often involved sending a force of infantry or **cavalry**, soldiers on horseback, to charge an enemy position. These methods had worked well in the Mexican-American War. Many Civil War generals had served in that war as young officers.

The weapons on Civil War battlefields, however, were far more deadly than those used in the 1840s. In the Mexican War, the average musket had a range of 250 yards and was accurate only to a distance of about 80 yards. In addition, it took about 25 seconds to reload the weapon. A charging enemy often could overwhelm defenders before they could fire again.

By the 1850s, however, weapon makers found that bullet-shaped ammunition traveled through the air in a much straighter line than a round ball. They also discovered that cutting a spiral groove inside a gun barrel, called rifling, made the bullet rotate after it was fired. Both changes increased range and accuracy. Rifles, as the new guns were called, were accurate to 500 yards. New systems for reloading allowed a soldier to fire about 10 times a minute.

The killing power of artillery also increased. The solid iron cannonballs of earlier years were

replaced by shrapnel—shells that exploded in the air over a target, or when they struck a target. Fragments of these exploding shells ripped into any troops nearby. If enemy troops were close to defenders, cannon could fire canister—shells filled with small bits of metal. Canister turned artillery into giant shotguns that mowed down advancing troops.

Attacks against military forces with these modern weapons produced huge numbers of casualties. This clash of tactics and technology is why some historians call the Civil War the last old-time war and first modern one.

**New devices of war** The Civil War was the first time observation balloons were used to direct artillery fire. This gave rise to the first use of camouflage to disguise tents and guns from airborne observers. Other devices that saw limited use for the first time include machine guns, wire entanglements, flamethrowers, and gas shells called stink bombs.

Existing devices were put to new uses as well. The telegraph, invented by Samuel F. B. Morse in the 1840s, allowed generals in the field to communicate quickly with government leaders. The Civil War also marked the first time in history that railroads were used to move large numbers of troops.

### READING CHECK

**Summarizing** How did tactics, technology, and inexperience shape the fighting in the Civil War?

### ACADEMIC VOCABULARY

**predominant**  
most noticeable or  
important



## The Fight for the Mississippi Valley

Among the most successful new weapons of the Civil War were the Union's **ironclads**. These armored gunboats were critical to the North's campaign in the Mississippi River valley. Covered with heavy iron plates up to three inches thick, the boats were nearly invincible to Confederate cannon fire.

As McClellan trained the new Army of the Potomac in Washington, D.C., other Union soldiers began to carry out General Scott's plan to take control of the Mississippi River. Southern leaders expected the Union's attack to come down the Mississippi River. To resist this tactic, they invaded western Kentucky and fortified the bluffs above the river. However, the Union attacked from the Tennessee River instead.

**Grant moves south** In February 1862 seven Union gunboats and 15,000 troops led by General **Ulysses S. Grant** moved up the Tennessee River. The gunboats pounded Fort Henry, a Confederate fort near the Kentucky-Tennessee line, into a quick surrender.

Grant then marched his troops cross-country to capture Fort Donelson on the Cumberland River. After holding out for three days, the fort's commander tried to negotiate. Grant refused. "No terms except unconditional and immediate surrender can be accepted," he said. The fort's 12,000 defenders gave up, and the North had a much-needed victory. When newspapers reported Grant's tough remark, northerners also had a hero.

Grant's capture of Forts Henry and Donelson caused a sensation in both North and South. Two major rivers into the western Confederacy were wide open. In addition, Confederate defenses along the Mississippi River were now vulnerable to attack.

Another Union army under General Don Carlos Buell quickly advanced up the Cumberland River to capture Nashville, the capital of Tennessee. Meanwhile, Grant and about 38,000 soldiers continued south along the Tennessee River toward Corinth, Mississippi, an important railroad center.

**The Battle of Shiloh** By late March 1862 more than 40,000 Confederate troops from across the region had gathered at Corinth

to block the Union advance. Grant, however, stopped at Pittsburg Landing, Tennessee, a small river town some 20 miles away. He was waiting for 25,000 more troops that Buell had sent from Nashville. The Confederates decided to attack before Grant's army got larger.

On April 6, 1862, the southerners surprised the Union soldiers, who were camped at Shiloh Church outside Pittsburg Landing. *Shiloh* means "place of peace" in Hebrew, but it was far from peaceful that day. After hours of fighting, the Confederates pushed the Union forces back against the Tennessee River. By nightfall the Confederates were confident they would finish off Grant's army in the morning. When Union officers suggested that their army retreat, Grant replied, "Retreat? No. I propose to attack at daylight and whip them."

Buell's troops finally arrived that night and, true to his word, Grant attacked the next morning. Now facing an army much larger than their own, the Confederates were driven back. By 2:30 p.m. the **Battle of Shiloh** was over, and the Confederate army was in retreat.

This two-day battle produced some of the bloodiest fighting yet seen in the war. About one of every four soldiers was killed or wounded. The Union army suffered some 13,000 losses, while Confederate casualties totaled more than 10,000.

The Battle of Shiloh also ended northern hopes that the rebellion would collapse on its own. Grant wrote later that after this battle, "I gave up all idea of saving the Union except by complete conquest."

**The Mississippi River campaign** The Battle of Shiloh opened the way for Union forces to split the Confederacy and gain complete control of the Mississippi River. Union generals began massing more than 100,000 troops at Pittsburg Landing, preparing to move south along the river. Meanwhile, a Union fleet of 24 wooden ships entered the river from the Gulf of Mexico and pushed north to capture New Orleans, Louisiana, the South's largest city. Admiral David Farragut commanded the fleet. Aboard some of his ships were 15,000 army troops led by General Ben Butler.

Two forts guarded New Orleans on opposite sides of the Mississippi River just south of the city. "Nothing afloat could pass the forts," claimed one New Orleans citizen. Indeed,



# Interactive Map

## THE WAR IN THE WEST, 1861-1863

- Union state
  - Confederate state
  - Union controlled, 1863
  - Union forces
  - Confederate forces
  - Union victory
  - Confederate victory
  - Union naval blockade
- 100 200 Miles  
100 200 Kilometers  
After equidistant projection.



Below, Farragut leads a daring dash to New Orleans. The capture of New Orleans completed the Union's naval blockade.



### GEOGRAPHY SKILLS

### INTERPRETING MAPS

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

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

See **Skills Handbook**, p. H19

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Interactive Map  
Keyword: SD7.CH11

after six days of heavy fire from the Union ships the forts remained standing. Finally, Farragut decided on a bold plan—to slip past the forts under the cover of darkness. At two o'clock on the morning of April 24, the Union vessels began to move. Then the moon rose and disaster struck. The Confederate soldiers in the forts saw the ships and opened fire with artillery. The lead vessel was heavily battered, but most of the ships managed to make their way past the forts.

After sinking several Confederate warships further upriver, Farragut's fleet arrived at New Orleans on April 25. The nearly undefended city quickly surrendered.

Many southerners were concerned about what the fall of New Orleans might mean for the Confederacy's future. Mary Chesnut, who was married to a Confederate general, wrote about her fears in her diary.

### HISTORY'S VOICES

“New Orleans gone—and with it the Confederacy. Are we not cut in two? The Mississippi ruins us if lost...Death, not life, seems to be our fate now.”

—Mary Chesnut, April 27, 1862

Farragut soon pushed north to capture the cities of Baton Rouge, Louisiana, and Natchez, Mississippi. In June, another Union fleet came downriver from Missouri and seized Memphis, Tennessee. The town of Vicksburg, Mississippi, high on a bluff, was the major river stronghold, and it remained in Confederate hands. “Ships... cannot crawl up hills 300 feet high,” Farragut noted. An army would be needed. That assignment would fall to General Grant.

### READING CHECK

**Sequencing** By what process did Union forces gain control of nearly all of the Mississippi River in 1862?



## Interactive Map THE WAR IN THE EAST, 1861–1863



This portrayal of the Battle of Antietam was painted by James Hope, a Union soldier from Vermont.



### GEOGRAPHY SKILLS

#### INTERPRETING MAPS

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- 1. Movement** Which army shows the most movement?
  - 2. Location** Where did the Confederates invade the Union?
- See **Skills Handbook**, p. H19

## The War in the East

As Grant moved south through Tennessee, McClellan's army in the East was finally ready for action. General McClellan had a clever plan. Rather than march directly toward Richmond, he planned to move his army by boat down the Potomac River and across Chesapeake Bay. He would then attack the Confederate capital from the east, where its defenses were weaker. It was a good plan, but McClellan never seemed ready to fight. As the months passed and still he did not move, Lincoln lost patience. "How long would it require to actually get in motion?" the president asked McClellan in December 1861.

**The peninsula campaign** In March 1862 McClellan finally began to move his 100,000-man army. In early April the advancing Union soldiers came upon 15,000 Confederates at Yorktown, about 60 miles from Richmond. The Confederates' defenses were weak, but McClellan delayed an attack in order to ask Lincoln for more troops. The president refused. A Confederate force of 20,000 men led by Stonewall Jackson was causing trouble for Union troops elsewhere in Virginia. Lincoln was afraid that if he sent additional troops to help McClellan, those soldiers might later be needed to defend Washington. Instead, the president sent his general a clear warning.



## HISTORY'S VOICES

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

—Abraham Lincoln, April 9, 1862

McClellan ignored the president's advice. After spending another month waiting outside Yorktown, he finally attacked. The Confederates offered no resistance. Instead, they retreated toward Richmond. McClellan's delay, however, had given the Confederate commander, General Joseph Johnston, time to gather more troops.

Suddenly, on May 31, the Confederates turned and attacked the much larger Union army at a moment when the Union forces were divided by a river. Neither side won the Battle of Seven Pines, but both sides suffered heavy casualties. Johnston was among the Confederates who were wounded. General Robert E. Lee took command of Johnston's army and renamed it the Army of Northern Virginia.

As McClellan again waited for Lincoln to send more troops, the Confederates again took advantage of their opponent's caution. Although Lee's army was still greatly outnumbered by the Union forces, he sent some of his troops to help Stonewall Jackson fight in the Shenandoah Valley. Lee was gambling that McClellan would not attack while these soldiers were gone. With his now larger force, Jackson pretended that he was going to attack Washington. Lincoln ordered McClellan's reinforcements to stay and protect the capital.

This was exactly what Lee had hoped for. Jackson quickly moved his army from the Shenandoah Valley to join Lee. In late June their combined armies attacked McClellan in a series of bloody clashes called the Seven Days' Battles. Although McClellan won four of the five battles, he retreated.

**The Second Battle of Bull Run** While McClellan's army sat motionless to the southeast of Richmond, Lincoln turned to General John Pope, who was forming a new Union army near Washington. In mid-July, Pope moved into northern Virginia with about 50,000 troops. Lincoln ordered McClellan to

renew his attack in order to trap Lee's forces between the two Union armies. Once again McClellan did nothing. Lincoln then ordered him to withdraw his army from the Virginia peninsula and join Pope's troops.

Lee decided to act before the two Union armies could unite and create an overwhelming force. On August 29 he lured Pope into battle near Manassas, on almost the same ground where the Confederates had beaten McDowell's army a year before. At the Second Battle of Bull Run, Pope met the same fate. After Pope's defeat, Lincoln put McClellan back in command. When members of his cabinet protested, Lincoln explained, “We must use what tools we have.”

## READING CHECK

### Identifying Cause and Effect

Why were Confederate forces able to defeat the larger Union armies that invaded Virginia?

## The Union Is Invaded

The series of defeats in Virginia brought morale in the North to a new low. “The nation is rapidly sinking just now,” a New Yorker wrote in his diary. “Disgust with our present government is certainly universal.” In the Confederacy, General Lee sensed this situation, and an opportunity. He wrote to Confederate president Jefferson Davis, “The present seems to be the most propitious [favorable] time... for the Confederate army to enter Maryland.”

Davis agreed. A victory on Union soil might prompt the North to ask for peace. If not, Confederate leaders hoped such a victory would at least convince Britain and France to recognize southern independence. In addition, moving the war out of Virginia would give farmers there the chance to harvest what remained of their crops, which were much needed by the troops and civilian population.

In early September 1862 Lee's army crossed the Potomac River into western Maryland, with McClellan's army in pursuit. Then a Union soldier found a copy of Lee's marching orders that had been lost by a careless Confederate officer. Now that he knew Lee's plans, McClellan exclaimed, “If I cannot whip Bobbie Lee, I will be willing to go home.” When he telegraphed his good news to Lincoln, the delighted president replied, “God bless you and all with you. Destroy the rebel army, if possible.”



**The Battle of Antietam** McClellan caught up with Lee near the town of Sharpsburg, Maryland, and prepared for battle. His 70,000 Union troops dwarfed Lee's army of 40,000. Yet again, the ever-cautious McClellan delayed for 16 hours before beginning his attack. This gave the Confederates time to organize their defenses. Finally, on September 17, 1862, the **Battle of Antietam** took place. Named after a creek that crossed the battlefield, Antietam was the bloodiest single-day battle of the Civil War—and of U.S. history.

Time and time again the Union troops charged the Confederate defenses. The savage fighting ended in late afternoon, when both sides became too exhausted to continue. Union and Confederate casualties combined exceeded 23,000. Lee lost almost a third of his army. McClellan had as many as 25,000 troops waiting in reserve, but he did not use them.

Had McClellan attacked Lee again the next day he would have followed Lincoln's command to "destroy the rebel army." But he did not. Instead, that night the Confederate troops began a slow retreat back to Virginia. Lincoln ordered McClellan to "cross the Potomac and give battle." Again, McClellan would not move. In early November 1862, President Lincoln relieved the general of command for the second and final time.

**The Battle of Fredericksburg** Lincoln replaced McClellan with General Ambrose Burnside. Soon, Burnside was marching a massive army of 110,000 men toward Richmond. He found his path blocked, however, by Lee and 75,000 Confederate soldiers on the south side of the Rappahannock River at Fredericksburg. Lee expected the Union army to cross the river above or below the town. Burnside decided instead to surprise Lee by crossing directly in front of the Confederate army.

The only thing that surprised Lee was Burnside's terrible judgment. Burnside ordered five pontoon bridges built across the river and sent his army over them to attack. He believed his superior numbers could force Lee to retreat.

On December 13, 1862, at the Battle of Fredericksburg, Burnside ordered his troops to charge Lee's army 14 times. Only the approach of darkness and the pleas of Burnside's commanders halted the horrible slaughter. The Union army lost nearly 13,000 men, more than twice the number of Confederate losses.

The disaster at Fredericksburg plunged the North into gloom. When Lincoln heard the terrible news, he said, "If there is a worse place than Hell, I am in it."

#### READING CHECK

#### Drawing Conclusions

Why was the Battle of Antietam an especially significant battle in the Civil War?

## SECTION

## 2

## ASSESSMENT

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Online Quiz

Keyword: SD7 HP11

### Reviewing Ideas, Terms, and People

- a. Describe** What was the outcome of the First Battle of Bull Run?

**b. Predict** Although they had many new weapons, Civil War generals relied on old battlefield strategies. How might such weapons and tactics affect the outcomes of battles?
- a. Identify** What were ironclads? How did the North use them?

**b. Analyze** Why were Ulysses S. Grant's early victories in the Mississippi River valley important?
- a. Describe** What happened at the Second Battle of Bull Run?

**b. Contrast** How was the war in the East different from the war in the West?

**c. Elaborate** How would you describe George McClellan as a battlefield commander? Give reasons for your answer.

- a. Recall** Why did Lee cross into Maryland in 1862?

- b. Evaluate** Do you think Lincoln was right to relieve McClellan of his command after the Battle of Antietam?

### Critical Thinking

- 5. Categorizing** Review your notes on major Civil War battles. Then copy the graphic organizer below and use it to list Union and Confederate victories.

Union Victories	Confederate Victories

### FOCUS ON WRITING

- 6. Expository** Suppose you are President Lincoln. Write a letter to a friend describing your personal thoughts and feelings about the progress of the war.



# The War behind the Lines

## BEFORE YOU READ

### MAIN IDEA

The Civil War created hardships, challenges, and opportunities for people in the North and the South.

### READING FOCUS

1. How did the Emancipation Proclamation affect the Civil War?
2. How did African Americans contribute to the war effort?
3. What was life like in the military?
4. What similarities and differences existed on the home front in the North and South?

### KEY TERMS AND PEOPLE

Emancipation Proclamation  
emancipation  
freedmen  
conscription  
Copperheads  
habeas corpus  
Clara Barton

### TAKING NOTES

As you read, take notes identifying reasons people supported the Emancipation Proclamation. Record your notes in a graphic organizer like the one shown here.

Reasons for Supporting the Emancipation Proclamation

▼ President Lincoln reads to the members of his cabinet the Emancipation Proclamation he has written.

## The Decision That CHANGED a Nation

### THE INSIDE STORY

**What great change did Lincoln make in the nation?** The retreat

of the Confederate army from Maryland in September 1862 allowed Abraham Lincoln to call the Battle of Antietam a victory for the North. Lincoln needed a victory because he planned a drastic action he hoped would help end the war. He had been waiting for the right time to announce this measure to the nation and the world.

The president called his cabinet together on September 22, the Monday after the battle. "I wish that we were in a better condition," he observed. "The action of the army against the rebels has not been quite what I should have best liked. But they have been driven out of Maryland."

President Lincoln then pulled from a pocket a paper he had written. He told the cabinet members in advance that he did not seek their advice about "the main matter" because he had already made up his mind, but he was willing to listen to any suggestions they might have about the wording he had used.

Then Lincoln began to read aloud from the paper he held. Finally, he reached the historic words that changed a nation—that on January 1, 1863, "all persons held as slaves within any state, or part of a state, the people whereof shall then be in rebellion against the United States shall be then, thenceforward, and forever free."



## The Emancipation Proclamation

As the fighting dragged on and casualties increased, northern attitudes about the war began to change. Some northerners came to believe that just saving the Union was not enough. They did not want the nation restored to what it had been before the war. These northerners argued that the South, which they blamed for causing the bloodshed and horrors of the war, should be punished by freeing its enslaved people.

Lincoln did not think that the Constitution gave him the power to take such action. Gradually, however, others convinced him that he could. They did so by noting that slavery provided the labor the South needed to continue the war. "This rebellion has its source and life in slavery," one influential Republican in Congress declared. This reasoning allowed Lincoln to use his constitutional power as commander in chief of the armed forces to end slavery in the rebelling states.

On January 1, 1863, Lincoln issued the **Emancipation Proclamation**. This document freed the slaves in all areas that were in rebellion against the United States.

Reaction to **emancipation**—the act of freeing someone from slavery—was mixed in the North. Many abolitionists were upset that the Emancipation Proclamation allowed slavery to continue in states that were not in rebellion. It did not even apply to areas of the Confederacy that had already been conquered by Union armies.

Some northerners opposed emancipation because they feared increased competition for jobs in the North. When the government had used former slaves to help harvest crops in Illinois in 1862, for example, riots broke out in protest. Calm was not restored until the government returned the former slaves to the south of the Ohio River. Riots against black workers also took place in Cincinnati, Ohio; Brooklyn, New York; and several other northern cities.

Many northerners supported the Emancipation Proclamation, however, because they thought it would help shorten the war. A Cincinnati newspaper expressed pleasure that Lincoln was trying to destroy "the compulsory labor system *which feeds the enemy*." Reactions in Union armies generally reflected those in northern society. Few soldiers were abolitionists, an Indiana colonel noted, but they were eager "to destroy everything that . . . gives the rebels strength."

Reaction overseas was also mixed. In Great Britain, where the abolition movement was strong, many felt that Lincoln had not gone far enough. "Where he has no power, Mr. Lincoln will set the negroes free," the London *Times* critically wrote. "Where he retains power he will consider them as slaves." Nevertheless, Lincoln's action ended whatever hope remained in the South for British intervention in the war. The British government was not willing to take the side of a slave power in a war that was now about ending slavery.

**READING CHECK** **Identifying Cause and Effect** In what ways did the Emancipation Proclamation affect the Civil War?

### African American Union Soldiers

About 10 percent of the Union forces were African American. Their performance in battle proved to doubters their valor.

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**BOSTON.**  
Lieut. J. W. H. APPLING, Recruiting Officer.  
SPECIAL FOR THE REG. OF THE 54th REGIMENT.





## Juneteenth

The Emancipation Proclamation took effect on January 1, 1863—except in Texas. News of freedom did not reach African Americans there until June 19, 1865. Today that date marks a celebration that is known as Juneteenth. It is the oldest celebration of the ending of slavery in the United States.

In 1980 Juneteenth became a state holiday in Texas. It is not an official holiday anywhere else, but it is celebrated by people in Louisiana, Oklahoma, and other states.

Some of the largest Juneteenth events take place in Minneapolis, Minnesota, and Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

Juneteenth festivities take many forms. Early events included prayer services as well as family gatherings. Today Juneteenth is also celebrated with speeches, parades, picnics, and rodeos.

**Drawing Conclusions** Why do you think Juneteenth is celebrated so widely, even though it is an official holiday only in Texas?



Civil War re-enactors celebrate Juneteenth with a parade through Austin, Texas.

## African Americans and the War

Enslaved African Americans made important contributions to the South's war effort. Their work on farms and plantations provided much of the food the South needed and released white males from labor so they could fight in Confederate armies. Many of the armies' non-combat jobs, such as cooking, nursing, driving wagons, and building defenses, were performed by slaves.

Even before the Emancipation Proclamation, thousands of slaves escaped to the safety of invading Union troops. Many were then hired by the Union army. They drove wagons, built forts, served as guides for invading forces, and performed a variety of other jobs.

The Proclamation encouraged **freedmen** (the term for emancipated slaves) to join the Union army and navy. Black sailors had been serving in the Union navy since the beginning of the war, but at first the Union army did not accept black volunteers. By the time the Emancipation Proclamation took effect, however, escaped slaves and free African Americans had been formed into Union army regiments in Louisiana, South Carolina, and Kansas. Black abolitionists called on all African American men to join in the fight.

### HISTORY'S VOICES

“Let the 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, *Douglass' Monthly*, August 1863

African American soldiers served in segregated units that were usually commanded by white officers. At first, black regiments were used mainly for labor and guard duty, thereby freeing white soldiers to fight. In May and July of 1863, however, African American troops fought heroically in attacks at Port Hudson on the Mississippi River and at Fort Wagner in South Carolina. In both battles the African American regiments suffered terrible losses. The 54th Massachusetts Infantry, which led the charge on Fort Wagner, became one of the most famous units of the Civil War.

Nearly 180,000 African Americans served in the Union armies. More than half had been in slavery when the war began. At the end of the war, more than a tenth of Union soldiers were African American. Black troops took part in some 200 battles. More than 38,000 died serving the Union.

### READING CHECK

**Summarizing** What contributions did northern and southern African Americans make in the Civil War?



## Life in the Military

Most of the troops who died during the Civil War did not die on the battlefield or from wounds suffered there. Disease was by far the greatest killer of soldiers. For every death that resulted from battle, about two more soldiers died from disease.

**Wartime medicine** In a time before vaccinations and antibiotics, epidemics of mumps, measles, and smallpox swept through army camps. Soldiers who escaped infectious diseases were often sickened by conditions such as dysentery, cholera, and typhoid fever, which resulted from poor sanitation and polluted water supplies. At times, as many as one-third of an army's soldiers might be too sick to fight.

In Europe, scientists were learning that tiny organisms, today called bacteria, could spread disease, infect food and water, and enter the bloodstream through open wounds. Civil War doctors, however, knew none of these

things. Doctors often went days without washing their instruments, or even their hands, passing germs from one patient to another. Soldiers sometimes tried to conceal wounds to avoid seeing the doctor.

Battlefield wounds, however, were often difficult to conceal. The minnie bullet, or "minnie ball," was the most common ammunition on both sides. This heavy lead bullet inflicted great damage. Shots to an arm or leg usually shattered any bones the bullet struck. The bullets also carried dirt and germs into the wound, which often caused infection.

President Lincoln approved the creation of the United States Sanitary Commission in 1861. Within two years it had 7,000 branches across the North, staffed mainly by women volunteers. The Sanitary Commission provided nurses and ambulance drivers to the army. Its workers also collected and distributed food, clothing, and medical supplies. They inspected hospitals and army camps and offered advice on sewage disposal, hygiene, disease prevention, and nutrition.

### PRIMARY SOURCES

## Photograph

Civil War soldiers spent much more time in camp than on the battlefield. Camp life was boring but also dangerous due to frequent epidemics of disease.

Many soldiers had strong opinions about the war. Newspapers kept them informed about the war's progress and the political issues involved.

Writing letters home was probably the major leisure time activity in camp. Although mail delivery was often slow, letters helped morale.



**Skills  
FOCUS**

### READING LIKE A HISTORIAN

**Analyzing Visuals** What evidence in the photograph indicates that soldiers had to do their own housekeeping while in camp?

See **Skills Handbook**, p. H30



**Camp life** On average, soldiers spent about 75 percent of their time in camp. Conditions were often horrible. In wet weather, camps were a sea of mud. In dry weather, they were filled with clouds of dust. Soldiers crammed into tents that were designed for far fewer people. As canvas for tents became scarce in the South, Confederate soldiers were often forced to sleep on the open ground.

Days in camp were long and boring. They typically began at 5 a.m. in summer and 6 a.m. in winter. After breakfast, the men took part in up to five daily drills. During these two-hour sessions they learned and practiced battlefield maneuvers. Between drills, the troops cleaned the camp, gathered firewood, wrote letters home, and played games. Boxing matches, baseball, and card games were popular.

Troops on both sides ate well at first. In camp, soldiers' daily rations consisted of bread, fresh or salted pork or beef, coffee, and beans. When on the march, however, hard bread biscuits called hardtack and coffee or water were the main sources of nourishment. Soldiers often added to their diets whatever they could find in the area. A large army could strip the countryside of crops and livestock.

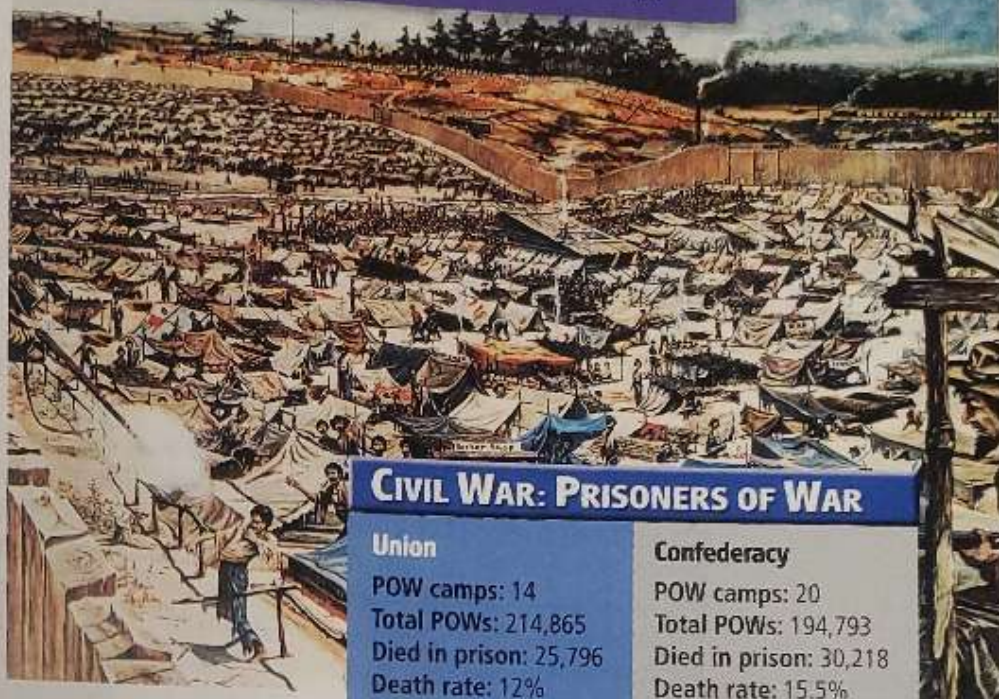
**Prison camps** As hard as army life was, conditions for prisoners of war were much worse. At first, neither North nor South kept large numbers of captured soldiers. Many prisoners were released if they promised to go home instead of back to their army. Others were exchanged for prisoners held by the other side.

When African Americans began joining the Union army in 1863, however, this changed. Confederate leaders declared that captured black soldiers would be enslaved or executed. This threat caused Union leaders to end prisoner exchanges. As a result, the number of prisoners held by each side increased.

Good treatment of prisoners was never a high priority for either side. The end of prisoner exchanges led to overcrowding in prison camps in both the North and the South. This caused

## Andersonville

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



### CIVIL WAR: PRISONERS OF WAR

#### Union

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

#### Confederacy

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

Source: *The Civil War Day by Day*

conditions to worsen. A large number of major battles in 1863 and 1864 also overwhelmed camps that were already inadequate.

**Andersonville and Elmira** To handle the growing number of prisoners, in 1864 Confederate leaders erected a stockade in an open field near the town of Andersonville, Georgia. Built to hold 10,000 Union soldiers, by July 1864 it held more than 30,000 men within its 20-foot log walls. A single stream ran through the enclosure, serving as a sewer as well as providing water for bathing and drinking. Under these terrible conditions, about 100 prisoners died each day in the hot sun.

When word of conditions at Andersonville reached the North, Union leaders responded by limiting Confederate prisoners' food to only bread and water. As a result, the death rate at the Union's most notorious prison camp at Elmira, New York, approached that of Andersonville. Prisoners at Elmira ate rats in order to get some meat in their diets.

#### READING CHECK

#### Making

**Generalizations** What was a soldier's life like?

#### THE IMPACT TODAY

##### Government

Humane treatment of prisoners of war is now required by the fourth Geneva Convention, an international agreement reached in 1949.



## Life on the Home front

Families on both sides made sacrifices and endured hardships as a result of the war. Still, life on the home front was quite different in the North and the South.

**The southern home front** Shortages made life difficult for southerners. With few factories, the South had little ability to manufacture needed goods. Food production dropped as invading Union armies made farming difficult. As a result, the costs of everyday items soared. A pair of shoes that sold for \$18 in 1862 cost up to \$800 by 1865. Bread sold for \$25 a loaf in some places.

Scarcity was only one reason for high prices, however. Another was inflation, an increase in prices resulting from an increased supply of money. To pay for the war, the Confederate government printed huge sums of paper money. Since the South had little gold to back this money, by 1863 a Confederate paper dollar was worth only about 20 cents. The Confederate government also borrowed money by selling bonds and thus fought the war on credit.

High prices and shortages brought hardship. In 1863 about 1,000 women looted shops in Richmond for food, shoes, cloth, and other items. Food riots took place in several other

southern cities. Such conditions led thousands of soldiers to desert. "Men cannot be expected to fight for the government that permits their wives and children to starve," one Confederate leader noted. "Poor men have been compelled to leave the army to come home to provide for their families," a Mississippi soldier explained. "We are poor men and willing to defend our country but our families [come] first."

**The Confederate draft** As the one-year enlistments of the original volunteers expired, southern leaders grew concerned about maintaining the armies. Many soldiers shared the views of one Virginian, who in January 1862 wrote, "If I live this twelve months out, I intend to try mighty hard to keep out [of the army]."

Reacting to such sentiments, the Confederate Congress enacted the first military draft in American history in April 1862. The law extended the volunteers' enlistments for two more years and required three years' service from other white males aged 18 to 35. (By 1864 the ages had been changed to 17 and 50.) Men in jobs critical to the war effort at home were excused as were slave overseers on large plantations and holders of 20 or more slaves.

This **conscription**, or forced service in the military, was extremely unpopular. It seemed to violate the very principles of states' rights.

## Women on the Home Front

Women took over family farms and businesses while the men were away at war. These northern women (right) are part of a local militia, prepared to defend themselves against southern invaders. *The Return to Fredericksburg after the Battle* (far right) shows southern life during the war. **What does the painting show about the effects of the war on the home front?**





and limited national power for which southerners were fighting. A Texas senator defended the draft against such complaints.

#### HISTORY'S VOICES

“The enemy are in 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.”

—Louis T. Wigfall, 1862

Many southerners found little comfort in this reasoning. A North Carolina soldier observed that “when we hear men comparing the despotism [unlimited power] of the *Confederacy* with that of the Lincoln government—*something must be wrong.*”

The governors of Georgia and North Carolina did not support the draft and attempted to block it in their states. The draft's exemption of slaveholders also provided reasons for soldiers to desert. Many agreed with a poor farmer who deserted because he would not be forced “to fight for the rich men while they were at home having a good time.”

Groups of draft evaders and deserters blocked Confederate government authority in some regions of the South. Government officials placed some areas under martial law to restore order.



#### Copperheads and the Union draft

Although northerners did not suffer the supply shortages that southerners did, they experienced some of the other problems that plagued the South. When the Union needed more soldiers in March 1863, it also turned to the draft to find them.

Like the Confederate draft law, the Union law allowed men who could afford to do so to hire substitutes to fight in their place. In addition, those drafted could be excused by paying a \$300 fee. This amount was more than seven months' wages for the average worker. As in the South, northern critics accused the draft of turning the war into a poor man's fight.

Antidraft riots erupted across the North. The worst took place in New York City in July 1863. For four days, mobs attacked draft offices and African Americans. Shouting, “There goes a \$300 man,” rioters even attacked well-dressed white men. The violence left more than 100 people dead.

The draft fueled an antiwar movement that had already emerged in the North. Opposition to the war was led by some members of the Democratic Party in Congress and in several state legislatures. Their supporters referred to them as Peace Democrats. Critics called them **Copperheads**, comparing them to the poisonous snake of the same name.

Copperhead newspapers called on Union troops to desert. “It is to emancipate slaves . . . that you are used as soldiers,” an Iowa newspaper wrote. “Are you, as soldiers, bound by patriotism, duty, or loyalty to fight in such a cause?” These tactics seriously threatened the war effort. As a result, the federal government arrested and jailed without trials some of the most vocal critics who opposed the war, the draft, or emancipation.

These government actions were possible because in September 1862 and again a year later Lincoln suspended **habeas corpus** across the entire country. Habeas corpus is the constitutional right of an arrested person to appear in court charged with a crime. Lincoln also suspended habeas corpus in specific places at other times during the war. He justified his actions by saying that he was willing to violate the Constitution in order to save the nation. During the war, tens of thousands of people were arrested for opposing government policy.



## FACES OF HISTORY

### Mary Walker 1832–1919



Born into an abolitionist family, Mary Edwards Walker was encouraged by her father to pursue an education. In 1855 she graduated from

Syracuse Medical College, the only woman doctor in her class.

When the Civil War began, Walker tried to join the Union army but was denied a position as a medical officer. She managed to serve as an unpaid assistant surgeon, becoming the first woman surgeon in the U.S. Army. Walker worked as a field surgeon near the Union front lines for almost two years. She earned the Congressional Medal of Honor for her wartime service—the only woman to be so honored.

**Make Inferences** How did Walker show her support for the Union?

**Women in the Civil War** Women in the North and South contributed to the war in many ways. Several hundred disguised themselves as men and enlisted in the army. A few served as spies. Most women, however, filled less dramatic but more important roles. Women on both sides took over farms, plantations, stores, and other businesses while their fathers, husbands, and sons served in armies. They worked as bankers and steamboat captains. Northern women produced huge amounts of food with the help of new farm equipment such as the McCormick reaper.

The need for clothes, shoes, and other supplies created about 100,000 jobs for women in northern factories. Women also worked in the South's few factories, and women on both sides performed dangerous work making ammunition for the troops.

Women formed thousands of societies to gather and send supplies to their armies. They made bandages, shirts, and bedclothes for soldiers. After the war hundreds of female teachers went south to educate former slaves.

Many women found new occupations. Hundreds were hired by the Union government as clerks. They became the first women to hold federal government jobs. Women also staffed government offices in the South. Like clerical work, nursing was a man's job before the war. During the war, however, about 3,000 women served the Union army as paid nurses.

Some women, like Clara Barton, who later founded the American Red Cross, cared for the wounded on the battlefield. Thousands of female volunteers worked on hospital ships or in hospitals behind the lines. In the South women nurses served as volunteers at first. In 1862 the Confederate Congress passed a law permitting women to be hired as army nurses.

### READING CHECK

### Comparing and

**Contrasting** What similarities and differences existed in conscription in the North and South?

## SECTION 3 ASSESSMENT

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Online Quiz

Keyword: SD7 HP11

### Reviewing Ideas, Terms, and People

- a. **Recall** What is emancipation?

b. **Predict** How do you think the Emancipation Proclamation will affect people's attitudes toward the war?
- a. **Describe** Who were freedmen?

b. **Make Inferences** Why do you think the Union army did not accept African American volunteers at first?
- a. **Identify** What did most Civil War soldiers die from?

b. **Draw Conclusions** What do you think Union leaders hoped to accomplish by ending prisoner exchanges?

c. **Predict** How could camp conditions have been improved for soldiers?
- a. **Describe** What is habeas corpus, and what role did it play in the Civil War?

b. **Analyze** Why was the war often called a poor man's fight?

c. **Elaborate** How did the war change some women's lives?

### Critical Thinking

- Identifying Points of View** Review your notes on the Emancipation Proclamation. Then copy the graphic organizer below and use it to identify reasons people supported or opposed the Emancipation Proclamation.

Reasons to Oppose the Emancipation Proclamation	Reasons to Support the Emancipation Proclamation

### FOCUS ON WRITING

- Narrative** Suppose that you live in either the North or the South during the Civil War. Write a diary entry that describes your life and experiences on the home front and your feelings about the war.





Louisa May Alcott (1832–1888)

# American Literature

**About the Reading** Louisa May Alcott is most commonly known for writing *Little Women* (1868–69). When the Civil War began, Alcott volunteered as a nurse until she contracted typhoid and was sent home. *Hospital Sketches* (1863) is a published collection of letters from her time as a nurse and was one of her first significantly recognized works.

**AS YOU READ** Consider how difficult it must have been for hospital staff to care for injured soldiers under such poor conditions.

Excerpt from

## Hospital Sketches

by Louisa May Alcott

In they came, some on stretchers, some in men's arms, some feebly staggering along propped on rude crutches, and one lay stark and still with covered face, as a comrade gave his name to be recorded before they carried him away to the dead house. All was hurry and confusion; the hall was full of these wrecks of humanity, for the most exhausted could not reach a bed till duly ticketed and registered; the walls were lined with rows of such as could sit, the floor covered with the more disabled, the steps and doorways filled with helpers and lookers on; the sound of many feet and voices made that usually quiet hour as noisy as noon; and, in the midst of it all, the matron's motherly face brought more comfort to many a poor soul, than the cordial draughts she administered, or the cheery words that welcomed all, making of the hospital a home.

The sight of several stretchers, each with its legless, armless, or desperately wounded occupant, entering my ward, admonished me that I was there to work, not to wonder or weep; so I corked up my feelings, and returned to the path of duty, which was rather a "hard road to travel" just then. The house had been a hotel before hospitals were needed, and many of the doors still bore their old names; some not so inappropriate as might be imagined, for that ward was



Nurse Ann Bell tends to wounded soldiers in a federal hospital in Nashville, Tennessee.

in truth a ballroom, if gun-shot wounds could christen it. Forty beds were prepared, many already tenanted by tired men who fell down anywhere, and drowsed till the smell of food roused them. Round the great stove was gathered the dreariest group I ever saw—ragged, gaunt and pale, mud to the knees, with bloody bandages untouched since put on days before; many bundled up in blankets, coats being lost or useless; and all wearing the disheartened look which proclaimed defeat...

**Skills Focus**

### READING LIKE A HISTORIAN

- 1. Making Inferences** What critical role did women play during the Civil War?
- 2. Literature as Historical Evidence** What inferences can be made from the excerpt about the Union army and the conditions under which soldiers fought?

See **Skills Handbook**, p. H32



# The War Continues

## BEFORE YOU READ

### MAIN IDEA

Important fighting occurred in all sections of the country as well as at sea.

### READING FOCUS

1. In what ways was the war at sea an important part of the Civil War?
2. What were each side's goals in the West, and how were events there influenced by the rest of the war?
3. What three major battles took place in 1863, and why was each important?
4. Why was the fighting around Chattanooga, Tennessee, important to the outcome of the war?

### THE INSIDE STORY

#### Why did a war hero become a scapegoat?

It was no secret that Confederate leaders planned to send two of their number to Europe to seek British and French recognition of southern independence. So when a boat carrying James Mason and John Slidell slipped past the Union blockade of Charleston, South Carolina, in October 1861, the U.S. Navy was embarrassed. Reaching Cuba, the two men then boarded the *Trent*, a British ship bound for England. Captain Charles Wilkes, commander of the U.S. warship *San Jacinto*, decided to redeem the navy's honor. On November 8, even though he had no specific order to do so, Wilkes stopped the unarmed *Trent* at sea and seized Mason and Slidell.

### KEY TERMS AND PEOPLE

*Trent* affair  
Battle of Glorieta Pass  
Battle of Pea Ridge  
Stand Watie  
Battle of  
Chancellorsville  
George Meade  
Battle of Gettysburg  
James Longstreet  
Pickett's Charge  
Battle of Chickamauga

### TAKING NOTES

As you read, take notes on three crucial battles fought in 1863. Record your notes in a graphic organizer like the one shown here.

Battle	Key Strategy	Outcome
Battle of Chancellorsville		
Battle of Gettysburg		
Siege of Vicksburg		

Wilkes's action made him a hero in the North. Congress voted him a commendation. However, Britain demanded that Mason and Slidell be released. When Lincoln hesitated, the British government sent troops to Canada. Facing the prospect of war with Britain, Lincoln allowed the two Confederates to resume their journey. "One war at a time," the president explained. His advisers, however, did not want the United States to be humiliated by appearing to give in to a British threat. A way was found to save the nation's honor. Captain Wilkes, the recent national hero, was court-martialed for what now was labeled his great misdeed.

## One War at a Time

◀ A Union warship chases a Confederate blockade runner.







## The Civil War at Sea

As the **Trent affair** illustrates, the Civil War was a world event. The war's most obvious international impact was its effect on trade. In particular, the Union's naval blockade disrupted the South's trade with the rest of the world.

**Blockade runners** At the beginning of the war, slipping through, or "running," the Union blockade was fairly easy. Once the Union navy obtained more ships, however, the blockade became tighter and tighter. By the summer of 1862, Union warships guarded most southern ports.

To get supplies from overseas, the South depended on ships known as blockade runners. Blockade runners were built for speed. They were low, sleek vessels painted gray to make them less visible. To make the vessels even harder to see, attempts to run the blockade often took place at night, without lights. Many blockade runners burned anthracite coal for fuel, which produces no smoke.

When leaving the South, these ships were packed full of cotton. They brought this valuable material to Bermuda, the Bahamas, or Cuba, where it was unloaded and shipped to Europe. On the return trip, the blockade runners carried silk, soap, pepper, and other goods that brought high prices in the South. Later in the war, when supplies in the South were desperately low, the Confederate government required that blockade runners be at least half full of medicine, food, and military supplies.

### Clash of the Ironclads

The battle between the *Monitor* (right) and the *Virginia* (left), also known by its former name, the *Merrimack*, tested the capabilities of ironclad ships.

The scarcity of many goods in the South meant that prices were high, and successful blockade runners could make enormous profits. A ship that ran the blockade could pay for itself in just one round trip. A captain could earn \$5,000 in gold and a crew member \$250 for the voyage. Crew members were often British citizens because, if captured, they were quickly released. Confederates who were captured trying to run the blockade faced long prison terms.

**The *Monitor* and the *Merrimack*** The Confederates could run the Union blockade, but they hoped to destroy it. To do so, they created a powerful ironclad ship by repairing the damaged USS *Merrimack*, which they had captured. Then they covered it with thick iron plates for armor and renamed it the *Virginia*.

When word reached the North that the Confederates were building the *Virginia*, Union officials hurried to complete their own seagoing ironclad, which they had been building in New York. On March 9, 1862, the Union's ironclad *Monitor* arrived off the Virginia coast to confront the *Virginia*.

The two ships fought for hours in the world's first battle between ironclads. Neither was able to seriously damage the other, but engine problems forced the *Virginia* to return to port. Although the battle had no winner, it changed naval warfare forever. In May the Confederates destroyed the *Virginia* to prevent its capture by McClellan's invading Union army.



**Confederate raiders** Unable to match the Union navy's strength, the South turned to unconventional tactics to battle the North at sea. Confederate leaders paid for the construction of 29 commerce raider ships in Europe. These vessels then roamed the world's oceans attacking Union merchant ships and disrupting the North's foreign trade.

The most famous of the Confederate commerce raiders was the *CSS Alabama*. Launched from Britain in May 1862, the *Alabama* terrorized Union shipping across the Atlantic and Pacific oceans. It was finally caught and sunk by the USS *Kearsarge* off the coast of France in June 1864. By that time, however, the *Alabama* had done enormous damage to Union trade. It captured 68 northern merchant ships during its 22 months at sea. Another of the raiders, the *Shenandoah*, captured 36 vessels.

**READING CHECK** Summarizing How did the South try to overcome the North's advantages at sea?

## The War in the West

While the most important battles of the Civil War took place east of the Mississippi River, Union and Confederate forces clashed to the west of the Mississippi as well. About 90 engagements were fought in the West.

**California and the territories** Congress admitted Kansas to the Union as a free state in 1861 and quickly added the Dakota, Colorado, and Nevada territories as well. Between 1862 and 1864 Congress created the Idaho, Arizona, and Montana territories. Lincoln appointed pro-Union officials to head each of the new territorial governments. These actions were intended to secure the West for the Union.

To help further ensure western loyalty, Lincoln did not enforce the draft in the West or pressure the region for volunteers. Nevertheless, some 17,000 Californians joined the Union army. The state's main contribution, however, was its gold. Mines in California and in the new territories provided vast amounts of gold and silver, which helped the Union pay the costs of fighting the war.

Because the need for soldiers in the East was so great, few Union troops were available to defend the West. In early 1862 about 4,000 Confederate troops in Texas marched north.

The Confederates' goal was to conquer the lightly defended Union territories and capture their valuable mines.

Union troops and volunteers from California, Colorado, and Kansas stopped the Confederate invasion in the **Battle of Glorieta Pass** in northern New Mexico on March 28, 1862. The Confederates actually won the day-long battle. Some Colorado soldiers, however, slipped around the Confederate army during the fighting and destroyed the Confederate supply wagons. The loss of their supplies forced the invaders back to Texas. Their retreat secured the West for the Union.

**Native Americans and the war** More than 10,000 Native Americans took part in the Civil War. Many Cherokees fought for the Confederacy, but the war bitterly divided the Cherokees—and other nations as well—over issues of loyalty and slavery.

Some nations saw the transfer of soldiers from western forts to eastern battlefields as a chance to take back land they had lost. In 1862, for example, Sioux in Minnesota and Dakota Territory began a revolt.

When the Union moved its soldiers from Indian Territory to the East, Confederate agents soon arrived. They negotiated treaties with the Cherokees, Creeks, Choctaws, Chickasaws, and several smaller tribes. These four tribes, with aid from the Seminoles, raised about 5,000 Indian troops for the Confederate army.

Despite the treaties, most Cherokees, Creeks, and Seminoles supported the Union. Some of them tried to escape to Kansas but were attacked by Confederate Indian troops and Texas cavalry. In Kansas, Union officers organized the survivors and other Native Americans into two regiments.

About 1,000 Native Americans were among the 14,000 Confederates who took part in the war's biggest battle west of the Mississippi. This was the **Battle of Pea Ridge**, which occurred in Arkansas in March 1862. Although the Union army won the battle, Indian troops commanded by Cherokee leader **Stand Watie** fought bravely. Watie was later promoted to general, the only Native American on either side to hold this rank in the war.

Victory at the Battle of Pea Ridge helped the Union's plan to conquer the Mississippi River valley. It also exposed Indian Territory to



attack. In June 1862 and again in 1863, Union Indians and other troops invaded Indian Territory and defeated the Confederate Indians. Many Indians then abandoned their treaty with the South and pledged loyalty to the Union. Watie, however, continued to resist. He waged a guerrilla campaign for the rest of the war. In fact, Watie was the last Confederate general to surrender when the war ended.

**READING CHECK** **Identifying Problems and Solutions** Why would some Indians have viewed the war as an opportunity and have sided with the South?

## Three Major Battles

After being crushed at the Battle of Fredericksburg in December 1862, the Union Army of the Potomac was ready to fight again by spring. General Joseph Hooker was now in command.

**The Battle of Chancellorsville** Leaving 40,000 men at Fredericksburg to keep Confederate General Robert E. Lee's attention, Hooker moved more than 70,000 troops west and then south across the Rappahannock River, hoping to surprise the Confederates from behind.

Lee expected this and marched 40,000 soldiers west. He ordered the 10,000 troops he left in Fredericksburg to light many campfires at night so Union forces would think a much larger army was still there. Then Lee divided his army again and sent Stonewall Jackson and about 30,000 troops on a daylong march around Hooker's army to attack its right side. At 6 p.m. on May 2, 1863, Jackson's troops charged out of the woods at Hooker's troops as they cooked dinner in their camps, near a crossroads named Chancellorsville. The attack was a complete surprise. If darkness had not halted the fighting, the Union army might have been destroyed.

## Battle of Chancellorsville

3 Jackson's troops turn back north and surprise the unprepared Union forces by attacking from the west.

1 Facing a larger force, Lee takes a risk and divides his army, sending troops under Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson on a long march around the Union army.

2 Union troops see Jackson's column march southwest into the woods and believe the Confederates are retreating.

**Skills Focus**

### INTERPRETING INFOGRAPHICS

**Human/Environment Interaction** Why were Jackson's troops able to surprise the Union army?

See **Skills Handbook**, p. H18



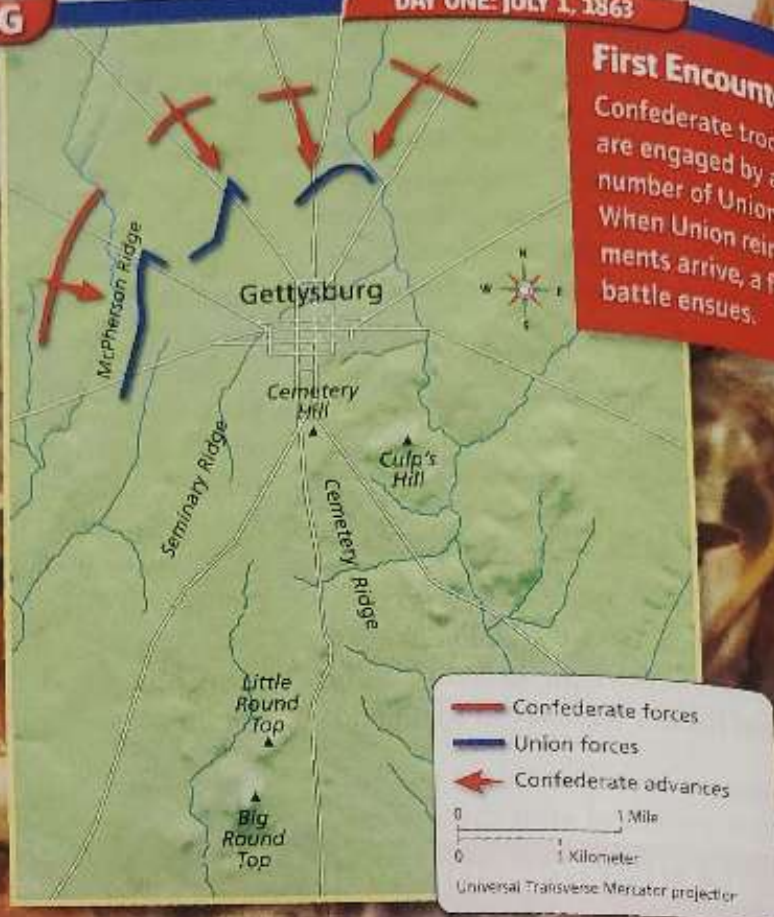
## THREE DAYS AT GETTYSBURG

DAY ONE: JULY 1, 1863

In June 1863, Robert E. Lee invaded the North a second time. In southern Pennsylvania, Confederate soldiers looking for shoes found Union troops instead. The fight that resulted grew into the largest battle of the Civil War.

## First Encounter

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



The **Battle of Chancellorsville** lasted two more days. Then on May 5 Hooker retreated, having suffered more than 17,000 casualties. Lee lost nearly 13,000 men. Among them was Stonewall Jackson, the man Lee called his "strong right arm." Jackson was mistakenly shot by his own troops as he returned from scouting enemy lines on the first night of the battle. On May 10 he died from his wounds.

Chancellorsville was Lee's greatest and most brilliant victory. Defeating a force about twice its size lifted the spirits of his army. In the North, morale sank even lower. The anti-war Copperheads pointed to Chancellorsville as proof that the war could not be won.

For these reasons and others, Lee decided the time was right to invade the North again. The Union blockade and the South's shortages were beginning to seriously weaken his army. He hoped a major victory on Union soil would cause the North to finally quit the war.

**The Battle of Gettysburg** In June 1863 Lee marched his army north. Hooker's army moved too, keeping itself between the enemy

force and Washington, D.C. However, Hooker did not try to block the Confederates from entering Union territory on June 24. Convinced that Hooker was as indecisive as McClellan, Lincoln replaced him with General **George Meade**.

Meanwhile, a Confederate general learned about a supply of shoes rumored to be in the nearby town of Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. His troops desperately needed shoes. On July 1 he ordered some soldiers into the town to locate and seize the shoes. There they came upon Union cavalry units who were looking for Lee's army. The skirmish that took place developed into the largest battle ever fought in North America, the three-day **Battle of Gettysburg**.

When the fighting began, both sides rushed reinforcements to Gettysburg. By early afternoon about 24,000 Confederate and 19,000 Union troops were involved. When the day ended, the southerners had pushed the Union army back onto some hills south of the town.

That night Lee and Meade arrived. General **James Longstreet** had become Lee's most trusted commander after Jackson's death. Longstreet warned Lee that the Union positions were too



DAY TWO: JULY 2, 1863, 10 A.M.

### Union on High Ground

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



DAY THREE: JULY 3, 1863, 3 P.M.

### Pickett's Charge

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



GEOGRAPHY  
SKILLS

INTERPRETING MAPS

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Interactive Map  
Keyword: S07 CH11

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

See **Skills Handbook**, p. H18

strong to attack. He urged Lee to retreat, make the Union army chase him, and fight the battle on ground of his own choosing.

After Chancellorsville, however, Lee had great confidence in his army. "The enemy is there and I intend to attack him there," he said, pointing to the Union lines. "If he is there, it will be because he is anxious that we should attack him," Longstreet replied, "a good reason, in my judgment, for not doing so." Ignoring this warning, Lee ordered an attack the next day.

July 2 saw some of the bloodiest fighting of the entire war. Confederate troops broke through Union defenses and tried to seize Little Round Top, an undefended hill just south of the Union's lines. The 20th Maine regiment rushed to the hill in time for a heroic defense. The day's fighting cost the Confederates some 9,000 casualties, but Lee was determined not to leave Pennsylvania without a victory. He ordered 15,000 fresh troops to attack the center of the Union lines on Cemetery Ridge the next day.

Longstreet objected. Again Lee would not be persuaded. The next day a great artillery duel took place as the Confederates tried to soften

up the Union defenses for the assault. The thunder of the guns was heard in Pittsburgh, some 200 miles away.

Then in mid-afternoon, the guns fell silent. Longstreet was with one of his officers, General George Pickett, when the order came to attack. Pickett later recalled their exchange.

#### HISTORY'S VOICES

"He looked at me for a moment, then held out his hand. Presently clasping his other hand over mine without speaking, he bowed his head...I saw tears glistening on his cheeks and beard. The stern old war-horse, God bless him, was weeping for his men."

—General George Pickett in a letter to his fiancée

Then Pickett's troops, a line of soldiers a mile wide and three rows deep, began marching toward the Union positions a mile away. As



the Confederates moved across the open field that separated the two armies, a storm of bullets and artillery shells tore huge holes in their ranks. About 300 Confederate soldiers briefly reached the Union defenses, but they were driven back or killed.

Of the 15,000 soldiers who carried out **Pickett's Charge**, less than half returned to the Confederate lines. Lee told Pickett to ready his division in case the Union army launched a counterattack. "General Lee, I have no division," Pickett replied. Finally understanding the extent of the slaughter, Lee apologized as he rode among his troops. "It's all my fault," he said. "It is I who lost this fight."

The next day, July 4, the Confederates began their retreat. Lee had suffered 28,000 casualties among his 75,000 troops. The Union had about 23,000 casualties out of some 85,000 soldiers. As Lee's battered army made its way back to Virginia, word reached Richmond that Vicksburg, the Confederate stronghold on the Mississippi River, had fallen to the Union.

**The Siege of Vicksburg** After several attempts to capture Vicksburg, Grant began one of his most brilliant campaigns. In April 1863 he marched his army down the west bank of the Mississippi River past Vicksburg. South of the city, Grant crossed the river and moved inland, where he fought and won five battles in 17 days. Then in May, having driven the other Confederate forces from the region, he began a siege to starve Vicksburg and its 32,000 defenders into surrender. (You can read more about Vicksburg in the History and Geography feature that follows this section.)

For weeks, Grant's artillery and Union gunboats on the river kept up a constant shelling of the city. Vicksburg's citizens dug caves into the sides of hills and moved into them to escape the rain of death and destruction. As they exhausted their food supplies, they ate horses, mules, dogs, and rats to stay alive.

On July 4, the forty-eighth day of the siege, and the day Lee began his retreat from Gettysburg, the Confederate commander at Vicksburg

## PRIMARY SOURCES

### The Gettysburg Address

Lincoln made this speech to dedicate a cemetery for the soldiers killed in the Battle of Gettysburg. He used the occasion to remind a war-weary nation why it was fighting.

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.

Now we are engaged in a great civil war, testing whether that nation or any nation so conceived and so dedicated can long endure. We are met on a great battlefield of that war. We have come to dedicate a portion of it as a final resting place for those who died here that the nation might live. It is altogether fitting and proper that we should do this.

But, in a larger sense, we can not dedicate—we can not consecrate—we can not hallow—this ground. The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here, have consecrated it, far above our poor power to add or detract. The world will little

note nor long remember what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here.

It is for us the living, rather, to be dedicated here to the unfinished work which they who fought here have thus far so nobly advanced. It is rather for us to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us—that from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they here gave the last full measure of devotion—that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain, that this nation shall have a new birth of freedom, and that government of the people, by the people, for the people shall not perish from the earth.

#### Skills FOCUS

#### READING LIKE A HISTORIAN

- Analyzing Primary Sources** For what reason does Lincoln say the Union is fighting the war?
- Identifying Points of View** How does he connect the soldiers' deaths to the need to continue the war?

See **Skills Handbook**, pp. H28–H29



burg surrendered the city and his army of 31,000 troops to Grant. Four days later, Port Hudson, Louisiana, the last Confederate fort on the Mississippi River, also surrendered to Union forces.

**READING CHECK** Identifying Cause and Effect What set of events led to the huge, three-day Battle of Gettysburg?

## The Chattanooga Campaign

The losses at Gettysburg, Vicksburg, and Port Hudson plunged southerners into gloom. Their spirits improved only slightly when a Confederate army led by General Braxton Bragg won a major victory at the **Battle of Chickamauga** in northwest Georgia in September 1863. The battle resulted from a Union campaign to capture Chattanooga, an important railroad center on the Georgia-Tennessee border.

General William Rosecrans, the Union commander, had lured the Confederate army out of Chattanooga, planning to destroy it on open ground. Instead, it was the Union army that was nearly destroyed. As the Union soldiers retreated, they found the Confederates had left the road to Chattanooga unprotected. This allowed the Union army to flee to the very city it hoped to capture. By the time Bragg pursued

them, Union troops were ready to defend the city. Bragg's forces dug in on the hills around Chattanooga and tried to starve them out.

In late October, Grant arrived and opened a supply line to feed the Union troops trapped in Chattanooga. By late November 1863, he had gathered enough troops to end the Confederate siege. In the Battle of Lookout Mountain and the Battle of Missionary Ridge, his forces drove the Confederates from their positions overlooking the city. A northern journalist described the Union attack on Missionary Ridge.

### HISTORY'S VOICES

“They creep up [the mountain], hand over hand, loading and firing, and wavering and halting... Plunging shot tear away comrades on left and right...but our brave mountaineers are clambering steadily on.”

—B.F. Taylor, November 25, 1863

These victories gave the Union forces control of Chattanooga, an important first step in Grant's plan to invade Georgia, the heart of the Lower South. Southerners were also aware of what the battles meant. “Unless something is done,” one Confederate official wrote, “we are irretrievably [hopelessly] gone.”

**READING CHECK** Identifying Main Idea and Details What did the Union hope to accomplish in the Battle of Chickamauga, and with what result?

### THE IMPACT TODAY

**Culture** Chickamauga was the first Civil War battlefield to become a national park, earning that designation in 1890. Gettysburg became a national park in 1895.

## SECTION 4 ASSESSMENT

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Keyword: SD7 HP11

### Reviewing Ideas, Terms, and People

- a. Identify** What was the *Trent* affair?

**b. Draw Conclusions** How did the battle between the *Monitor* and the *Virginia* change naval warfare?
- a. Describe** How did Lincoln encourage loyalty to the Union in the West?

**b. Elaborate** What factors might have influenced Native Americans to choose a side in the war?
- a. Recall** Why did Lee decide to invade the North in 1863?

**b. Draw Conclusions** Why were Vicksburg and Port Hudson important locations?

**c. Evaluate** Do you agree that Lee was responsible for the loss of the **Battle of Gettysburg**? Why or why not?
- a. Identify** Who was Braxton Bragg?

**b. Make Inferences** Why was control of Chattanooga important to the North?

**c. Elaborate** By the end of 1863, what was the general feeling about the war in the South? Why?

### Critical Thinking

- Comparing and Contrasting** Review your notes on major Civil War battles. Then copy the graphic organizer below and use it to identify similarities and differences between them.



### FOCUS ON WRITING

- Descriptive** Suppose you are a newspaper reporter who has witnessed one of the major battles discussed in this section. Write a news story that provides an account of the battle for readers in either the North or the South.