FOCUS ON WRITING

Writing a Newspaper Article  For most of this nation’s history, newspapers have been an important way for citizens to learn about what is happening in the United States. In this chapter you will read about the main events of the Civil War. Then you will choose one of these events and write a newspaper article about it.

California Standards

History–Social Science
8.10  Students analyze the multiple causes, key events, and complex consequences of the Civil War.

Analysis Skills
HR 4  Students assess the credibility of primary and secondary sources.

English–Language Arts
Writing 8.2.0  Students write narratives, expository, persuasive, and descriptive essays.
In this chapter you will learn how the resources of the North enabled it to defeat the South in the Civil War. Among those who marched off to war were these drummer boys of the Union army.

**What You Will Learn…**

- **1862** The Monitor fights the Virginia on March 9.
- **1863** The Emancipation Proclamation is issued on January 1.
- **1864** With the support of French troops, Archduke Maximilian of Austria becomes emperor of Mexico.
- **1865** General Robert E. Lee surrenders to General Ulysses S. Grant on April 9.
- **1865** General Robert E. Lee surrenders to General Ulysses S. Grant on April 9.
- **1864** The Taiping Rebellion in China ends after the capture of Nanjing in July.

**History’s Impact**

Watch the video to understand the impact of the Civil War.
Focus on Themes  As you read this chapter about the Civil War, you will see that this was a time in our history dominated by two major concerns: politics and society and culture. You will not only read about the political decisions made during this war, but will see how the war affected all of American society. You will read about the causes and the key events during the war and the many consequences of this war. This chapter tells of one of the most important events in our history.

Supporting Facts and Details

Focus on Reading  Main ideas and big ideas are just that, ideas. How do we know what those ideas really mean?

Understanding Ideas and Their Support  A main idea or big idea may be a kind of summary statement, or it may be a statement of the author’s opinion. Either way, a good reader looks to see what support—facts and various kinds of details—the writer provides. If the writer doesn’t provide good support, the ideas may not be trustworthy.

Notice how the passage below uses facts and details to support the main idea.

Civil War armies fought in the ancient battlefield formation that produced massive casualties. Endless rows of troops fired directly at one another, with cannonballs landing amid them. When the order was given, soldiers would attach bayonets to their guns and rush toward their enemy. Men died to gain every inch of ground.

Despite the huge battlefield losses, the biggest killer in the Civil War was not the fighting. It was diseases such as typhoid, pneumonia, and tuberculosis. Nearly twice as many soldiers died of illnesses as died in combat.

From Chapter 15, pp. 495–496
You Try It!

The following passage is from the chapter you are about to read. As you read it, look for the writer’s main idea and support.

In February 1862, Grant let an assault force into Tennessee. With help from navy gunboats, Grant’s Army of Tennessee took two outposts on key rivers in the west. On February 6, he captured Fort Henry on the Tennessee River. Several days later he took Fort Donelson on the Cumberland River.

Fort Donelson’s commander asked for the terms of surrender. Grant replied, “No terms except an unconditional and immediate surrender can be accepted.” The fort surrendered. The North gave a new name to Grant’s initials: “Unconditional Surrender” Grant.

After you read the passage, answer the following questions.

1. Which sentence best states the writer’s main idea?
   A. The fort surrendered.
   B. In February 1862, Grant led an assault force into Tennessee.
   C. Fort Donelson’s commander asked for the terms of surrender.

2. Which method of support is not used to support the main idea?
   A. Facts
   B. Comments from experts or eyewitnesses
   C. Anecdotes

3. Which sentence in this passage provides a comment from an expert or eyewitness?
The War Begins

If YOU were there...

You are a college student in Charleston in early 1861. Seven southern states have left the Union and formed their own government. One of the forts in Charleston's bay, Fort Sumter, is being claimed by both sides, and all-out war seems unavoidable. Your friends have begun to volunteer for either the Union or the Confederate forces. You are torn between loyalty to your home state and to the United States.

Would you join the Union or the Confederate army?

Building Background

The divisions within the United States reached a breaking point with the election of Abraham Lincoln in 1860. Several southern states angrily left the Union to form a new confederation. In border states such as Virginia and Kentucky, people were divided. The question now was whether the United States could survive as a disunified country.

Americans Choose Sides

Abraham Lincoln became president on the eve of a four-year national nightmare. Furious at Lincoln's election and fearing a federal invasion, seven southern states had seceded. The new commander in chief tried desperately to save the Union.

In his inaugural address, Lincoln promised not to end slavery where it existed. The federal government “will not assail [attack] you. You can have no conflict without being yourselves the aggressors,” he said, trying to calm southerners’ fears. However, Lincoln also stated his intention to preserve the Union. He refused to recognize secession, declaring the Union to be “unbroken.”

In fact, after decades of painful compromises, the Union was badly broken. From the lower South, a battle cry was arising, born out of fear, rage—and excitement. Confederate officials began seizing branches of the federal mint, arsenals, and military outposts. In the highly charged atmosphere, it would take only a spark to unleash the heat of war.
In 1861, that spark occurred at Fort Sumter, a federal outpost in Charleston, South Carolina, that was attacked by Confederate troops, beginning the Civil War. Determined to seize the fortress—which controlled the entrance to Charleston harbor—the Confederates ringed the harbor with heavy guns. Instead of surrendering the fort, Lincoln decided to send in ships to provide badly needed supplies to defend the fort. Confederate officials demanded that the federal troops evacuate. The fort’s commander, Major Robert Anderson, refused.

Before sunrise on April 12, 1861, Confederate guns opened fire on Fort Sumter. A witness wrote that the first shots brought “every soldier in the harbor to his feet, and every man, woman, and child in the city of Charleston from their beds.” The Civil War had begun.

The fort, although massive, stood little chance. Its heavy guns faced the Atlantic Ocean, not the shore. After 34 hours of cannon blasts, Fort Sumter surrendered. “The last ray of hope for preserving the Union has expired at the assault upon Fort Sumter . . .” Lincoln wrote.

**Reaction to Lincoln’s Call**

The fall of Fort Sumter stunned the North. Lincoln declared the South to be in a state of rebellion and asked state governors for 75,000 militiamen to put down the rebellion. States now had to choose: Would they secede, or would they stay in the Union? Democratic Senator Stephen Douglas, speaking in support of Lincoln’s call for troops, declared, “There can be no neutrals in this war, only patriots—or traitors.”

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**Fort Sumter**

The first shots of the Civil War were fired at Fort Sumter, South Carolina. Although no one was killed there, what would become the bloodiest war in the country’s history had begun.
Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and the states north of them rallied to the president’s call. The crucial slave states of the Upper South—North Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, and Arkansas—seceded. They provided soldiers and supplies to the South. Mary Boykin Chesnut, whose husband became a Confederate congressman, wrote in her diary during this time:

“I did not know that one could live in such days of excitement…Everybody tells you half of something, and then rushes off…to hear the last news.”

Wedged between the North and the South were the key border states of Delaware, Kentucky, Maryland, and Missouri—slave states that did not join the Confederacy. Kentucky and Missouri controlled parts of important rivers. Maryland separated the Union capital, Washington, D.C., from the North.

People in the border states were deeply divided on the war. The president’s own wife, Mary Todd Lincoln, had four brothers from Kentucky who fought for the Confederacy. Lincoln sent federal troops into the border states to help keep them in the Union. He also sent soldiers into western Virginia, where Union loyalties were strong. West Virginia set up its own state government in 1863.

The North Versus the South

Numbers tell an important story about the Civil War. Consider the North’s advantages. It could draw soldiers and workers from a population of 22 million, compared with the South’s 5.5 million. One of its greatest advantages was its network of roads, canals, and railroads. Some 22,000 miles of railroad track could move soldiers and supplies throughout the North. The South had only about 9,000 miles of track.

Finally, the Union had money. It had a more developed industrial economy, banking system, and currency. The South had to start printing its own Confederate dollars. Some
states printed their own money, too. This led to financial chaos.

The Confederacy had advantages as well. With its strong military tradition, the South put many brilliant officers into battle. Southern farms provided food for its armies. The South’s best advantage, however, was strategic. It needed only to defend itself until the North grew tired of fighting. Southern soldiers fought mostly on their home soil, while the North had to occupy large areas of enemy territory.

Taking advantage of the Union’s strengths, General Winfield Scott developed a two-part strategy: (1) destroy the South’s economy with a naval blockade of southern ports; (2) gain control of the Mississippi River to divide the South. Other leaders urged an attack on Richmond, Virginia, the Confederate capital.

The South hoped to wear down the North and to capture Washington, D.C. Confederate president Jefferson Davis also tried to win foreign allies through cotton diplomacy. This was the idea that Great Britain would support the Confederacy because it needed the South’s raw cotton to supply its booming textile industry. Cotton diplomacy did not work as the South had hoped. Britain had large supplies of cotton, and it got more from India and Egypt.

**READING CHECK** Comparing What advantages did the North and South have leading up to the war?

**Preparing for War**

The North and the South now rushed to war. Neither side was prepared for it.

**Volunteer Armies**

Volunteer militias had sparked the revolution that created the United States. Now they would battle for its future. At the start of the war, the Union army had only 16,000 soldiers. Within months that number had swelled to a half million. Southern men rose
up to defend their land and their ways of life. Virginian Thomas Webber came to fight “against the invading foe [enemy] who now pollute the sacred soil of my beloved native state.” When Union soldiers asked one captured rebel why he was fighting, he replied, “I’m fighting because you’re down here.”

Helping the Troops

Civilians on both sides helped those in uniform. They raised money, provided aid for soldiers and their families, and ran emergency hospitals. In the Union, tens of thousands of volunteers worked with the U.S. Sanitary Commission to send bandages, medicines, and food to Union army camps and hospitals. Some 3,000 women served as nurses in the Union army.

Training the Soldiers

Both the Union and Confederate armies faced shortages of clothing, food, and even rifles. Most troops lacked standard uniforms and simply wore their own clothes. Eventually, each side chose a color for their uniforms. The Union chose blue. The Confederates wore gray.

The problem with volunteers was that many of them had no idea how to fight. Schoolteachers, farmers, and laborers all had to learn the combat basics of marching, shooting, and using bayonets.

In a letter to a friend, a Union soldier described life in the training camp.

“We have been wading through mud knee deep all winter … For the last two weeks we have been drilled almost to death. Squad drill from 6 to 7 A.M. Company drill from 9 to 11 A.M. Battalion Drill from 2 to 4 1/2 P.M. Dress Parade from 5 to 5 1/2 P.M. and non-commissioned officers’ school from 7 to 8 in the evening. If we don’t soon become a well drilled Regiment, we ought to.”

—David R. P. Shoemaker, 1862

With visions of glory and action, many young soldiers were eager to fight. They would not have to wait long.

Reading Check

Summarizing How did soldiers and civilians prepare for war?

Summary and Preview

As citizens chose sides in the Civil War, civilians became involved in the war effort. In the next section you will learn about some early battles in the war.
Abraham Lincoln

What would you do to save the struggling Union?

When did he live? 1809–1865

Where did he live? Abraham Lincoln was born in a log cabin to a poor family in Kentucky. Growing up in Kentucky and Illinois, Lincoln went to school for less than a year. He taught himself law and settled in Springfield, where he practiced law and politics. As president he lived in Washington, D.C. There, at age 56, his life was cut short by an assassin, John Wilkes Booth.

What did he do? The issue of slavery defined Lincoln’s political career. He was not an abolitionist, but he strongly opposed extending slavery into the territories. In a series of famous debates against Senator Stephen Douglas of Illinois, Lincoln championed his views on slavery and made a brilliant defense of democracy and the Union. As president, Lincoln led the nation through the Civil War.

Why is he important? Lincoln is one of the great symbols of American democracy. “A house divided against itself cannot stand,” he declared in a debate with Douglas. In 1863 Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation. His address to commemorate the bloody battlefield at Gettysburg is widely considered to be one of the best political speeches in American history.

Summarizing Why is Lincoln such an important figure in American history?

Abraham Lincoln led the United States during the Civil War.
The War in the East

If YOU were there...

You live in Washington, D.C., in July 1861. You and your friends are on your way to Manassas, near Washington, to watch the battle there. Everyone expects a quick Union victory. Your wagon is loaded with food for a picnic, and people are in a holiday mood. You see some members of Congress riding toward Manassas, too. Maybe this battle will end the war!

Why would you want to watch this battle?

BUILDING BACKGROUND The shots fired at Fort Sumter made the war a reality. Neither the North nor the South was really prepared. Each side had some advantages—more industry and railroads in the North, a military tradition in the South. The war in the East centered in the region around the two capitals: Washington, D.C., and Richmond, Virginia.

War in Virginia

The troops that met in the first major battle of the Civil War found that it was no picnic. In July 1861, Lincoln ordered General Irvin McDowell to lead his 35,000-man army from the Union capital, Washington, to the Confederate capital, Richmond. The soldiers were barely trained. McDowell complained that they “stopped every moment to pick blackberries or get water; they would not keep in the ranks.” The first day’s march covered only five miles.

Bull Run/Manassas

McDowell’s army was headed to Manassas, Virginia, an important railroad junction. If McDowell could seize Manassas, he would control the best route to the Confederate capital. Some 22,000 Confederate troops under the command of General Pierre G. T. Beauregard were waiting for McDowell and his troops along a creek called Bull Run. For two days, Union troops tried to find a way around the Confederates. During that time, Beauregard requested assistance, and
General Joseph E. Johnston headed toward Manassas with another 10,000 Confederate troops. By July 21, 1861, they had all arrived.

That morning, Union troops managed to cross the creek and drive back the left side of the Confederate line. Yet one unit held firmly in place.

“There is Jackson standing like a stone wall!” cried one southern officer. “Rally behind the Virginians!” At that moment, General Thomas “Stonewall” Jackson earned his famous nickname.

A steady stream of Virginia volunteers arrived to counter the attack. The Confederates surged forward, letting out their terrifying “rebel yell.” One eyewitness described the awful scene.

“There is smoke, dust, wild talking, shouting; hissings, howlings, explosions. It is a new, strange, unanticipated experience to the soldiers of both armies, far different from what they thought it would be.”

—Charles Coffin, quoted in Voices of the Civil War by Richard Wheeler

The battle raged through the day, with rebel soldiers still arriving. Finally, the weary Union troops gave out. They tried to make an orderly retreat back across the creek, but the roads were clogged with the fancy carriages of panicked spectators. The Union army scattered in the chaos.

The Confederates lacked the strength to push north and capture Washington, D.C. But clearly, the rebels had won the day. The First Battle of Bull Run was the first major battle of the Civil War, and the Confederates’ victory. The battle is also known as the first Battle of Manassas. It shattered the North’s hopes of winning the war quickly.

More Battles in Virginia

The shock at Bull Run persuaded Lincoln of the need for a better trained army. He put his hopes in General George B. McClellan. The general assembled a highly disciplined force of 100,000 soldiers called the Army of the Potomac. The careful McClellan spent months training. Lincoln grew impatient.

Against his better judgment, Lincoln finally agreed to McClellan’s plan of attack on Richmond. Instead of marching south for a direct assault, McClellan slowly brought his force through the peninsula between the James and York rivers. More time slipped away.

In June 1862, with McClellan’s force poised outside Richmond, the Confederate army in Virginia came under the command of General Robert E. Lee. A graduate of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, Lee had served in the Mexican War and had led federal troops at Harpers Ferry. Lee was willing to take risks and make unpredictable moves to throw Union forces off balance.

During the summer of 1862, Lee strengthened his positions. On June 26, he attacked,
launching a series of clashes known as the **Seven Days’ Battles** that forced the Union army to retreat from near Richmond. Confederate General D. H. Hill described one failed attack. “It was not war—it was murder,” he said. Lee saved Richmond and forced McClellan to retreat.

A frustrated Lincoln ordered General John Pope to march directly on Richmond from Washington. Pope told his soldiers, “Let us look before us and not behind. Success and glory are in the advance.”

Jackson wanted to defeat Pope’s army before it could join up with McClellan’s larger Army of the Potomac. Jackson’s troops met Pope’s Union forces on the battlefield in August in 1862. The three-day battle became known as the **Second Battle of Bull Run**, or the **Second Battle of Manassas**.

The first day’s fighting was savage. Captain George Fairfield of the 7th Wisconsin regiment later recalled, “What a slaughter! No one appeared to know the object of the fight, and there we stood for one hour, the men falling all around.” The fighting ended in a stalemate.

On the second day, Pope found Jackson’s troops along an unfinished railroad grade. Pope hurled his men against the Confederates. But the attacks were pushed back with heavy casualties on both sides.

On the third day, the Confederates crushed the Union army’s assault and forced it to retreat in defeat. The Confederates had won a major victory, and General Robert E. Lee decided it was time to take the war to the North.

**READING CHECK**  
**Sequencing** List in order the events that forced Union troops out of Virginia.

**Battle of Antietam**

Confederate leaders hoped to follow up Lee’s successes in Virginia with a major victory on northern soil. On September 4, 1862, some 40,000 Confederate soldiers began crossing into Maryland. Once General Robert E. Lee
arrived in the town of Frederick, he issued a
Proclamation to the People of Maryland,
urging them to join the Confederates. How-
ever, his words would not be enough
to convince Marylanders to abandon the
Union. Union soldiers, however, found a
copy of Lee’s battle plan, which had been left
at an abandoned Confederate camp. Gen-
eral McClellan learned that Lee had divided
his army in order to attack Harpers Ferry.
McClellan planned a counterattack.

The two armies met along Antietam
Creek in Maryland on September 17, 1862.
The battle lasted for hours. By the end
of the day, the Union had suffered more
than 12,000 casualties. The Confederates endured
more than 13,000 casualties. Union offi-
cer A. H. Nickerson later recalled, “It seemed that
everybody near me was killed.” The Battle of
Antietam, also known as the Battle of Sharps-
burg, was the bloodiest single-day battle of
the Civil War—and of U.S. history. More sol-
diers were killed and wounded at the Battle of
Antietam than the deaths of all Americans in
the American Revolution, War of 1812,
and Mexican-American War combined.
Antietam also was an important
victory for the Union. Lee had lost
many of his troops, and his northward
advance had been stopped.

READING CHECK Analyzing Why
was the Battle of Antietam significant?

Robert E. Lee
(1807–1870)
Robert E. Lee was born into a wealthy
Virginia family in 1807. Lee fought in the
Mexican-American War, helping to cap-
ture Veracruz. When the Civil War began,
President Lincoln asked Lee to lead the
Union army. Lee declined and resigned
from the U.S. Army to become a gen-
eral in the Confederate army.

Drawing Conclusions How did Lee’s
choice reflect the division of the states?

Mathew Brady was a
photographer who worked
to document the Civil War
on film. This photo of dead
Confederate soldiers at
Antietam was taken by
a photographer from
Brady’s studio.

ANALYZING VISUALS
How do you think photographs like this one affected
the civilians who saw them?
CHAPTER 15

Breaking the Union’s Blockade

While the two armies fought for control of the land, the Union navy controlled the sea. The North had most of the U.S. Navy’s small fleet, and many experienced naval officers had remained loyal to the Union. The North also had enough industry to build more ships.

The Union’s Naval Strategy

The Union navy quickly mobilized to set up a blockade of southern ports. The blockade largely prevented the South from selling or receiving goods, and it seriously damaged the southern economy.

The blockade was hard to maintain because the Union navy had to patrol thousands of miles of coastline from Virginia to Texas. The South used small, fast ships to outrun the larger Union warships. Most of these blockade runners traveled to the Bahamas or Nassau to buy supplies for the Confederacy. These ships, however, could not make up for the South’s loss of trade. The Union blockade reduced the number of ships entering southern ports from 6,000 to 800 per year.

Clash of the Ironclads

Hoping to take away the Union’s advantage at sea, the Confederacy turned to a new type of warship—ironclads, or ships heavily armored with iron. The Confederates had captured a Union steamship, the Merrimack, and turned it into an ironclad, renamed the Virginia. One Union sailor described the innovation as “a huge half-submerged crocodile.” In early March 1862, the ironclad sailed into Hampton Roads, Virginia, an important waterway guarded by Union ships. Before nightfall, the Virginia easily sank two of the Union’s wooden warships, while it received minor damage. A Baltimore reporter predicted doom the next day.

“There appeared no reason why the iron monster might not clear [Hampton] Roads of our fleet, [and] destroy all the stores [supplies] and warehouses on the beach.”

—quoted in The Rebellion Record, Vol. 4

POLITICAL CARTOON

Anaconda Plan

This cartoon shows visually the North’s plan to cut off supplies to the South through naval blockades, a strategy called the Anaconda Plan.

Why do you think the plan was called the Anaconda Plan?

ANALYSIS SKILL

ANALYZING PRIMARY SOURCES

Why is the snake’s head red, white, and blue?

How does the cartoonist show what the snake represents?

Academic Vocabulary

innovation a new idea or way of doing something

Primary Source

POLITICAL CARTOON

Anaconda Plan

This cartoon shows visually the North’s plan to cut off supplies to the South through naval blockades, a strategy called the Anaconda Plan.
The Union navy had already built its own ironclad, the *Monitor*, designed by Swedish-born engineer John Ericsson. Ericsson’s ship had unusual new features, such as a revolving gun tower. One Confederate soldier called the *Monitor* “a tin can on a shingle!” Although small, the *Monitor* carried powerful guns and had thick plating.

When the *Virginia* returned to Hampton Roads later that month, the *Monitor* was waiting. After several hours of fighting, neither ship was seriously damaged, but the *Monitor* forced the *Virginia* to withdraw. This success saved the Union fleet and continued the blockade. The clash of the ironclads also signaled a revolution in naval warfare. The days of wooden warships powered by wind and sails were drawing to a close.

**READING CHECK** Evaluating How effective was the Union blockade?

**SUMMARY AND PREVIEW** The early battles of the Civil War were centered in the East. In the next section you will read about battles in the West.

### Section 2 Assessment

**Reviewing Ideas, Terms, and People**

1. a. **Identify** List the early battles in the East and the outcome of each battle.
   b. **Elaborate** Why do you think the Union lost the First Battle of Bull Run?

2. a. **Describe** What costly mistake did the Confederacy make before the Battle of Antietam?
   b. **Analyze** What was the outcome of the Battle of Antietam, and what effect did it have on both the North and the South?
   c. **Elaborate** Why do you think General George B. McClellan did not finish off General Robert E. Lee’s troops when he had the chance?

3. a. **Describe** What was the Union’s strategy in the war at sea?
   b. **Draw Conclusions** Why were ironclads more successful than older, wooden ships?

**Critical Thinking**

4. **Analyzing** Copy the chart below onto your own sheet of paper. Use it to identify the major battles that took place at the beginning of the war and to explain why each was significant.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Battle</th>
<th>Winner</th>
<th>Significance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
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</table>

5. **Taking Notes on the War in the East** As you read this section, take notes on the First Battle of Bull Run, the Seven Days’ Battles, the Second Battle of Bull Run, and the Battle of Antietam. Be sure to answer the following questions: Who? Where? When? Why? and How?
If YOU were there...

You live in the city of Vicksburg, set on high bluffs above the Mississippi River. Vicksburg is vital to the control of the river, and Confederate defenses are strong. But the Union general is determined to take the town. For weeks, you have been surrounded and besieged. Cannon shells burst overhead, day and night. Some have fallen on nearby homes. Supplies of food are running low.

How would you survive this siege?

Union Strategy in the West

While Lincoln fumed over the cautious, hesitant General McClellan, he had no such problems with Ulysses S. Grant. Bold and restless, Grant grew impatient when he was asked to lead defensive maneuvers. He wanted to be on the attack. As a commander of forces in the Union’s western campaign, he would get his wish.

The western campaign focused on taking control of the Mississippi River. This strategy would cut off the eastern part of the Confederacy from sources of food production in Arkansas, Louisiana, and Texas. From bases on the Mississippi, the Union army could attack southern communication and transportation networks.

In February 1862, Grant led an assault force into Tennessee. With help from navy gunboats, Grant’s Army of the Tennessee took two outposts on key rivers in the west. On February 6, he captured Fort Henry on the Tennessee River. Several days later he took Fort Donelson on the Cumberland River.

Fort Donelson’s commander asked for the terms of surrender. Grant replied, “No terms except an unconditional and immediate
surrender can be accepted.” The fort surrendered. The North gave a new name to Grant’s initials: “Unconditional Surrender” Grant.

Advancing south in Tennessee, General Grant paused near Shiloh Church to await the arrival of the Army of the Ohio. Grant knew that the large rebel army of General A. S. Johnston was nearby in Corinth, Mississippi, but he did not expect an attack. Instead of setting up defenses, he worked on drilling his new recruits.

In the early morning of April 6, 1862, the rebels sprang on Grant’s sleepy camp. This began the Battle of Shiloh, in which the Union army gained greater control of the Mississippi River valley.

During the bloody two-day battle, each side gained and lost ground. Johnston was killed on the first day. The arrival of the Ohio force helped Grant regain territory and push the enemy back into Mississippi. The armies finally gave out, each with about 10,000 casualties. Both sides claimed victory, but, in fact, the victor was Grant.

Control of the Mississippi River
As Grant battled his way down the Mississippi, the Union navy prepared to blast its way upriver to meet him. The first obstacle was the port of New Orleans, the largest city in the Confederacy and the gateway to the Mississippi River.
With 18 ships and 700 men, Admiral David Farragut approached the two forts that guarded the entrance to New Orleans from the Gulf of Mexico. Unable to destroy the forts, Farragut decided to race past them.

The risky operation would take place at night. Farragut had his wooden ships wrapped in heavy chains to protect them like ironclads. Sailors slapped Mississippi mud on the ships’ hulls to make them hard to see. Trees were tied to the masts to make the ships look like the forested shore.

Before dawn on April 24, 1862, the warships made their daring dash. The Confederates fired at Farragut’s ships from the shore and from gunboats. They launched burning rafts, one of which scorched Farragut’s own ship. But his fleet slipped by the twin forts and made it to New Orleans. The city fell on April 29.

Farragut sailed up the Mississippi River, taking Baton Rouge, Louisiana, and Natchez, Mississippi. He then approached the city of Vicksburg, Mississippi.

The Siege of Vicksburg

Vicksburg’s geography made invasion all but impossible. Perched on 200-foot-high cliffs above the Mississippi River, the city could rain down firepower on enemy ships or on soldiers trying to scale the cliffs. Deep gorges surrounded the city, turning back land assaults. Nevertheless, Farragut ordered Vicksburg to surrender.

"Mississippians don't know, and refuse to learn, how to surrender ... If Commodore Farragut ... can teach them, let [him] come and try."

—Colonel James L. Autry, military commander of Vicksburg

Farragut’s guns had trouble reaching the city above. It was up to General Grant. His solution was to starve the city into surrender.

General Grant's troops began the Siege of Vicksburg in mid-May, 1863, cutting off the city and shelling it repeatedly. As food ran out, residents and soldiers survived by eating horses, dogs, and rats. “We are utterly cut off from the world, surrounded by a circle of fire,” wrote one woman. “People do noth-
ing but eat what they can get, sleep when they can, and dodge the shells.”

The Confederate soldiers were also sick and hungry. In late June a group of soldiers sent their commander a warning.

“The army is now ripe for mutiny [rebellion], unless it can be fed. If you can’t feed us, you’d better surrender us, horrible as the idea is.”

—Confederate soldiers at Vicksburg to General John C. Pemberton, 1863

On July 4, Pemberton surrendered. Grant immediately sent food to the soldiers and civilians. He later claimed that “the fate of the Confederacy was sealed when Vicksburg fell.”

**Reading Check** Summarizing How did the Union gain control of the Mississippi River?

**Struggle for the Far West**

Early on in the war, the Union halted several attempts by Confederate armies to control lands west of the Mississippi. In August 1861, a Union detachment from Colorado turned back a Confederate force at Glorieta Pass. Union volunteers also defeated rebel forces at Arizona’s Pichaco Pass.

Confederate attempts to take the border state of Missouri also collapsed. Failing to seize the federal arsenal at St. Louis mid-1861, the rebels fell back to Pea Ridge in northwestern Arkansas. There, in March 1862, they attacked again, aided by some 800 Cherokee. The Indians hoped the Confederates would give them greater freedom. In addition, slavery was legal in Indian Territory, and some Native Americans who were slaveholders supported the Confederacy. Despite being outnumbered, Union forces won the Battle of Pea Ridge. The Union defense of Missouri held.

Pro-Confederate forces remained active in the region throughout the war. They attacked Union forts and raided towns in Missouri and Kansas, forcing Union commanders to keep valuable troops stationed in the area.

**Reading Check** Analyzing What was the importance of the fighting in the Far West?

**Summary and Preview** The North and the South continued their struggle with battles in the West. A number of key battles took place in the Western theatre, and several important Union leaders emerged from these battles. One, Ulysses S. Grant, would soon become even more important to the Union army. In the next section you will learn about the lives of civilians, enslaved Africans, and soldiers during the war.

**Section 3 Assessment**

**Reviewing Ideas, Terms, and People**

1. a. Identify What role did Ulysses S. Grant play in the war in the West?
b. Explain Why was the Battle of Shiloh important?
c. Elaborate Do you think President Lincoln would have approved of Grant’s actions in the West? Why or why not?

2. a. Describe How did the Union take New Orleans, and why was it an important victory?
b. Draw Conclusions How were civilians affected by the Siege of Vicksburg?
c. Predict What might be some possible results of the Union victory at Vicksburg?

3. a. Recall Where did fighting take place in the Far West?
b. Analyze Why did Native Americans join Confederate forces in the West?

**Critical Thinking**

4. Identifying Cause and Effect Copy the graphic organizer below onto your own sheet of paper. Use it to identify the causes and effects of the battles listed.

**Focus on Writing**

5. Taking Notes on the War in the West As you read this section, take notes on the fight for the Mississippi River and the Siege of Vicksburg. Be sure to answer the following questions: Who? Where? When? Why? and How?
Grant Crosses into Louisiana

General Grant planned to attack Vicksburg from the North, but the swampy land made attack from that direction difficult. So, Grant crossed the Mississippi River into Louisiana and marched south.

Grant Moves East

Grant's troops met up with their supply boats here and crossed back into Mississippi. In a daring gamble, Grant decided to move without a supply line, allowing his army to move quickly.

The Siege of Vicksburg

Grant now had 30,000 Confederate troops trapped in Vicksburg. After two assaults on the city failed, Grant was forced to lay siege. After six weeks of bombardment, the Confederates surrendered on July 4, 1863. Grant's bold campaign had given the Union control of the Mississippi River.

“Vicksburg is the key!”

President Abraham Lincoln declared. “The war can never be brought to a close until that key is in our pocket.” Vicksburg was so important because of its location on the Mississippi River, a vital trade route and supply line. Union ships couldn’t get past the Confederate guns mounted on the high bluffs of Vicksburg. Capturing Vicksburg would give the Union control the Mississippi, stealing a vital supply line and splitting the Confederacy in two. The task fell to General Ulysses S. Grant.
Ironclads

Union ironclads were vital to the Vicksburg campaign. These gunboats protected Grant’s troops when they crossed the Mississippi. Later, they bombarded Vicksburg during the siege of the city.

The Battle of Jackson

Grant defeated a Confederate army at Jackson and then moved on to Vicksburg. This prevented Confederate forces from reinforcing Vicksburg.

Biography

Ulysses S. Grant

(1822–1885)

Ulysses S. Grant was born in April 1822 in New York. Grant attended West Point and fought in the Mexican-American War. He resigned in 1854 and worked at various jobs in farming, real estate, and retail. When the Civil War started, he joined the Union army and was quickly promoted to general. After the Civil War, Grant rode a wave of popularity to become president of the United States.

Interpreting Maps

1. Location  Why was Vicksburg’s location so important?
2. Place  What natural features made Vicksburg difficult to attack?
You live in Maryland in 1864. Your father and brothers are in the Union army, and you want to do your part in the war. You hear that a woman in Washington, D.C., is supplying medicines and caring for wounded soldiers on the battlefield. She is looking for volunteers. You know the work will be dangerous, for you'll be in the line of fire. You might be shot or even killed.

Would you join the nurses on the battlefield?

BUILDING BACKGROUND The Civil War touched almost all Americans. Some 3 million men fought in the two armies. Thousands of other men and women worked behind the lines, providing food, supplies, medical care, and other necessary services. Civilians could not escape the effects of war, as the fighting destroyed farms, homes, and cities.
Emancipation Proclamation

At the heart of the nation’s bloody struggle were millions of enslaved African Americans. Abolitionists urged President Lincoln to free them.

“You know I dislike slavery,” Lincoln had written to a friend in 1855. In an 1858 speech, he declared, “There is no reason in the world why the negro is not entitled to all the natural rights numerated in the Declaration of Independence—the right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.” Yet as president, Lincoln found emancipation, or the freeing of slaves, to be a difficult issue. He did not believe he had the constitutional power. He also worried about the effects of emancipation.

Lincoln Issues the Proclamation

Northerners had a range of opinions about abolishing slavery.

• The Democratic Party, which included many laborers, opposed emancipation. Laborers feared that freed slaves would come north and take their jobs at lower wages.
• Abolitionists argued that the war was pointless if it did not win freedom for African Americans. They warned that the Union would remain divided until the problem was resolved.
• Some in Lincoln’s government predicted that emancipation would anger voters, causing Republicans to be defeated in the 1862 midterm elections. Lincoln worried about losing support for the war.
• Others, including Secretary of War Edwin Stanton, agreed with Lincoln’s reasoning. The use of slave labor was helping the Confederacy make war. Therefore, as commander in chief, the president could free the slaves in all rebellious states. Freed African Americans could then be recruited into the Union army.

For several weeks in 1862, Lincoln worked intensely, thinking, writing, and rewriting. He finally wrote the Emancipation Proclamation, the order to free the Confederate slaves. The proclamation declared that:

“... all persons held as slaves within any State or designated part of a State the people whereof shall then be in rebellion against the United States shall be then, thenceforward, and forever free.”

—Emancipation Proclamation, 1862
The Emancipation Proclamation was a military order that freed slaves only in areas controlled by the Confederacy. In fact, the proclamation had little immediate effect. It was impossible for the federal government to enforce the proclamation in the areas where it actually applied—the states in rebellion that were not under federal control. The proclamation did not stop slavery in the border states, where the federal government would have had the power to enforce it. The words written in the Emancipation Proclamation were powerful, but the impact of the document was more symbolic than real.

Lincoln wanted to be in a strong position in the war before announcing his plan. The Battle of Antietam gave him the victory he needed. He issued the Emancipation Proclamation on September 22, 1862. The proclamation went into effect on January 1, 1863.

Reaction to the Proclamation

New Year’s Eve, December 31, 1862: In “night watch” meetings at many African American churches, worshippers prayed, sang, and gave thanks. When the clocks struck midnight, millions were free. Abolitionists rejoiced. Frederick Douglass called January 1, 1863, “the great day which is to determine the destiny not only of the American Republic, but that of the American Continent.”

William Lloyd Garrison was quick to note, however, that “slavery, as a system” continued to exist in the loyal slave states. Yet where slavery remained, the proclamation encouraged many enslaved Africans to escape when the Union troops came near. They flocked to the Union camps and followed them for protection. The loss of slaves crippled the South’s ability to wage war.

READING CHECK Finding Main Ideas How did northerners view the Emancipation Proclamation?
Congress began allowing the army to sign up African American volunteers as laborers in July 1862. The War Department also gave contrabands, or escaped slaves, the right to join the Union army in South Carolina. Free African Americans in Louisiana and Kansas also formed their own units in the Union army. By the spring of 1863, African American army units were proving themselves in combat. They took part in a Union attack on Port Hudson, Louisiana, in May.

One unit stood out above the others. The 54th Massachusetts Infantry consisted mostly of free African Americans. In July 1863 this regiment led a heroic charge on South Carolina’s Fort Wagner. The 54th took heavy fire and suffered huge casualties in the failed operation. About half the regiment was killed, wounded, or captured. Edward L. Pierce, a correspondent for the New York Tribune, wrote, “The Fifty-fourth did well and nobly...They moved up as gallantly as any troops could, and with their enthusiasm they deserved a better fate.” The bravery of the 54th regiment made it the most celebrated African American unit of the war.

About 180,000 African Americans served with the Union army. They received $10 a month, while white soldiers got $13. They were usually led by white officers, some from abolitionist families.

African Americans faced special horrors on the battlefield. Confederates often killed their black captives or sold them into slavery. In the 1864 election, Lincoln suggested rewarding African American soldiers by giving them the right to vote.

**READING CHECK**

How did African Americans support the Union?

**African Americans Participate in the War**

As the war casualties climbed, the Union needed even more troops. African Americans were ready to volunteer. Not all white northerners were ready to accept them, but eventually they had to. Frederick Douglass believed that military service would help African Americans gain rights.

“Once let the black man get upon his person the brass letters, U.S.; ... 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
Growing Opposition

The deepening shadows in Lincoln’s face reflected the huge responsibilities he carried. Besides running the war, he had to deal with growing tensions in the North.

Copperheads

As the months rolled on and the number of dead continued to increase, a group of northern Democrats began speaking out against the war. Led by U.S. Representative Clement L. Vallandigham of Ohio, they called themselves Peace Democrats. Their enemies called them Copperheads, comparing them to a poisonous snake. The name stuck.

Many Copperheads were midwesterners that sympathized with the South and opposed abolition. They believed the war was not necessary and called for its end. Vallandigham asked what the war had gained, and then said, “Let the dead at Fredericksburg and Vicksburg answer.”

Lincoln saw the Copperheads as a threat to the war effort. To silence them, he suspended the right of habeas corpus. Habeas corpus is a constitutional protection against unlawful imprisonment. Ignoring this protection, Union officials jailed their enemies, including some Copperheads, without evidence or trial. Lincoln’s action greatly angered Democrats and some Republicans.

Northern Draft

In March 1863, war critics erupted again when Congress approved a draft, or forced military service. For $300, men were allowed to buy their way out of military service. For an unskilled laborer, however, that was nearly a year’s wages. Critics of the draft called the Civil War a “rich man’s war and a poor man’s fight.”

In July 1863, riots broke out when African Americans were brought into New York City to replace striking Irish dock workers. The city happened to be holding a war draft at the same time. The two events enraged rioters, who attacked African Americans and draft offices. More than 100 people died.

In this tense situation, the northern Democrats nominated former General George McClellan for president in 1864. They called

Infantry Family

While wealthy civilians could avoid military service, poorer men were drafted to serve in the Union army. This member of the 31st Pennsylvania Infantry brought his family along with him. His wife probably helped the soldier with many daily chores such as cooking and laundry.

Why would soldiers bring their families to live with them in camp?
Battlefield Communications

The drummer was an essential member of every Civil War unit. Drummers served army commanders by drumming specific beats that directed troop movements during battle. Different beats were used to order troops to prepare to attack, to fire, to cease fire, and to signal a truce. Drummers had to stay near their commanders to hear orders. This meant that the drummers—some as young as nine years old—often saw deadly combat conditions.

The Civil War gave birth to the Signal Corps, the army unit devoted to communications. Today battlefield communications are primarily electronic. Radio, e-mail, facsimile, and telephone messages, often relayed by satellites, enable orders and other information to be transmitted nearly instantaneously all over the globe.

Difficult Lives of Soldiers

Young, fresh recruits in both armies were generally eager to fight. Experienced troops, however, knew better.

On the Battlefield

Civil War armies fought in the ancient battlefield formation that produced massive casualties. Endless rows of troops fired directly at one another, with cannonballs landing amid them. When the order was given, soldiers would attach bayonets to their guns and rush toward their enemy. Men died to gain every inch of ground.

Doctors and nurses in the field saved many lives. Yet they had no medicines to stop infections that developed after soldiers were wounded. Many soldiers endured the horror of having infected legs and arms amputated without painkillers. Infections from minor injuries caused many deaths.

Despite the huge battlefield losses, the biggest killer in the Civil War was not the fighting. It was diseases such as typhoid, pneumonia, and tuberculosis. Nearly twice as many soldiers died of illnesses as died in combat.

Prisoners of War

Military prisoners on both sides lived in unimaginable misery. In prison camps, such as Andersonville, Georgia, and Elmira, New York, soldiers were packed into camps designed to hold only a fraction of their number. Soldiers had little shelter, food, or clothing. Starvation and disease killed thousands of prisoners.

LINKING TO TODAY

Modern battlefield communications

Union Signal Corps

ANALYZING INFORMATION

Why is communication so important on the battlefield?
Section 4 Assessment

Reviewing Ideas, Terms, and People

1. a. **Recall** Why did some Americans want to end slavery?
   b. **Contrast** How did reactions to the Emancipation Proclamation differ?
   c. **Elaborate** Do you think that the emancipation of slaves should have extended to the border states? Explain your answer.

2. a. **Recall** Why did some northerners want to recruit African Americans into the Union army?
   b. **Contrast** In what ways did African American soldiers face more difficulties than white soldiers did?

3. a. **Identify** Who were Copperheads, and why did they oppose the war?
   b. **Evaluate** Should President Lincoln have suspended the right to habeas corpus? Why?

4. a. **Describe** What were conditions like in military camps?
   b. **Draw Conclusions** How did the war change life on the home front?

Critical Thinking

5. **Categorizing** Copy the chart below onto your own sheet of paper. Use it to identify the ways in which people in the North and the South contributed to the war effort.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>People</th>
<th>Contributions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Women and Children</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>African Americans</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Soldiers</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

6. **Taking Notes on Life During the War** As you read this section, take notes on Lincoln's emancipation of the slaves, African American soldiers, and women who provided medical care for soldiers. Be sure to answer the following questions: Who? Where? When? Why? and How?
The Tide of War Turns

If YOU were there...

You live in southern Pennsylvania in 1863, near a battlefield where thousands died. Now people have come from miles around to dedicate a cemetery here. You are near the front of the crowd. The first speaker impresses everyone with two hours of dramatic words and gestures. Then President Lincoln speaks—just a few minutes of simple words. Many people are disappointed.

Why do you think the president’s speech was so short?

BUILDING BACKGROUND Many people, especially in the North, had expected a quick victory, but the war dragged on for years. The balance of victories seemed to seesaw between North and South, and both sides suffered terrible casualties. The last Confederate push into the North ended at Gettysburg in one of the bloodiest battles of the war.

Three Days at Gettysburg

Gettysburg was the largest and bloodiest battle of the Civil War. In three days, more than 51,000 soldiers were killed, wounded, captured, or went missing. It was an important victory for the Union, and it stopped Lee’s plan of invading the North.

Artillery played a key role in the Battle of Gettysburg on July 1, 1863.

Day One: July 1, 1863

HSS 8.10.6 Describe critical developments and events in the war, including the major battles, geographical advantages and obstacles, technological advances, and General Lee’s surrender at Appomattox.

8.10.7 Explain how the war affected combatants, civilians, the physical environment, and future warfare.
Battle of Gettysburg

In December 1862 Confederate forces under the command of General Robert E. Lee triumphed at Fredericksburg, Virginia. The Confederates were outnumbered, yet they defeated a Union army led by General Ambrose Burnside.

Confederates on the Move

In the spring of 1863, Lee split his forces and caught the Union army off guard near the town of Chancellorsville. They defeated a larger Union force again, but with heavy casualties. While riding at the front lines, Lee’s trusted general, Stonewall Jackson, was accidentally shot by his own troops. Jackson died a few days later.

General Lee launched more attacks within Union territory. As before, his goal was to break the North’s will to fight. He also hoped that a victory would convince other nations to recognize the Confederacy.

First Day

In early June 1863, Lee cut across northern Maryland into southern Pennsylvania. His forces gathered west of a small town called Gettysburg. Lee was unaware that Union soldiers were encamped closer to town. He had been suffering from lack of enemy information for three days because his cavalry chief “Jeb” Stuart was not performing his duties. Stuart and his cavalry had gone off on their own raiding party, disobeying Lee’s orders.

Another Confederate raiding party went to Gettysburg for boots and other supplies. There, Lee’s troops ran right into Union general George G. Meade’s cavalry, triggering the Battle of Gettysburg, a key battle that finally turned the tide against the Confederates. The battle began on July 1, 1863, when the Confederate raiding party and the Union forces began exchanging fire. The larger Confederate forces began to push the Union troops back.

In the heat of battle, Union forces looked for the best defensive position. They dug in on top of two hills south of town—Cemetery Ridge and Culp’s Hill. The Confederate raiding party camped at Seminary Ridge, which ran parallel to the Union forces. The Union troops, however, had the better position. Both camps called for their main forces to reinforce them and prepare for combat the next day.
**Second Day**

On July 2, Lee ordered an attack on the left side of the Union line. Lee knew that he could win the battle if his troops captured Little Round Top from the Union forces. From this hill, Lee’s troops could easily fire down on the line of Union forces. Union forces and Confederate troops fought viciously for control of Little Round Top. The Union, however, held off the Confederates.

**Pickett’s Charge**

On the third day of battle, Lee planned to rush the center of the Union line. This task fell to three divisions of Confederate soldiers. General George Pickett commanded the largest unit. In late afternoon, nearly 15,000 men took part in Pickett’s Charge—a failed Confederate attack up Cemetery Ridge. Fewer than half of the soldiers reached the top.

Lee ordered Pickett to organize his division for a possible counterattack. “General Lee, I have no division now,” Pickett replied.

On the fourth day Lee held his position but began planning to retreat to Virginia. In all, nearly 75,000 Confederate soldiers and 90,000 Union troops had fought during the Battle of Gettysburg.
Aftermath of Gettysburg
Gettysburg was a turning point in the war. Lee’s troops would never again launch an attack in the North. The Union victory at Gettysburg also took place on the same day as Grant’s capture of Vicksburg, Mississippi. These victories made northerners believe that the war could be won.

The Union victory at Gettysburg had come at a high price. Union casualties numbered more than 23,000. The Confederacy suffered more than 28,000 casualties. One Gettysburg resident saw the battlefield after the fighting ended.

“...as we...looked down into the chasms...we beheld the dead lying there just as they had fallen during the struggle...It was an awful spectacle! Dead soldiers, bloated horses, shattered cannon.” —Tillie Pierce, 1863

In addition, the Union win at Gettysburg helped to end the South’s search for foreign influence in the war. After Gettysburg, Great Britain and France refused to provide aid to the Confederacy. The South’s attempt at cotton diplomacy failed.

The Gettysburg Address
On November 19, 1863, at the dedicating ceremony of the Gettysburg battlefield cemetery, President Lincoln gave a speech called the Gettysburg Address, in which he praised the bravery of Union soldiers and renewed his commitment to winning the Civil War. This short but moving speech is one of the most famous in American history. In one of its frequently quoted lines, Lincoln referenced the Declaration of Independence and its ideals of liberty, equality, and democracy. He reminded listeners that the war was being fought for those reasons.

Lincoln rededicated himself to winning the war and preserving the Union. A difficult road still lay ahead.

Union Campaigns Cripple the Confederacy
Lincoln had been impressed with General Grant’s successes in capturing Vicksburg. He transferred Grant to the East and gave him command of the Union army. In early 1864, Grant forced Lee to fight a series of battles in Virginia that stretched Confederate soldiers and supplies to their limits.

Wilderness Campaign in the East
From May through June, the armies fought in northern and central Virginia. Union troops launched the Wilderness Campaign—a series of battles designed to capture the Confederate capital at Richmond, Virginia. The first battle took place in early May, in woods about 50 miles outside of Richmond. Grant then ordered General Meade to Spotsylvania, where the fighting raged for 10 days.

Over the next month, Union soldiers moved the Confederate troops back toward Richmond. However, Grant experienced his worst defeat at the Battle of Cold Harbor in early June, just 10 miles northeast of Richmond. In only a few hours the Union army suffered 7,000 casualties. The battle delayed Grant’s plans to take the Confederate capital.

Union forces had suffered twice as many casualties as the Confederates had, yet Grant continued his strategy. He knew he would be getting additional soldiers, and Lee could not. Grant slowly but surely advanced his troops through Virginia. He told another officer, “I propose to fight it out on this line if it takes all summer.”

After Cold Harbor, General Grant moved south of Richmond. He had hoped to take control of the key railroad junction at Petersburg, Virginia. Lee’s army, however, formed a solid defense, and Grant could not execute his attack. Grant was winning the war, but he still had not captured Richmond. Facing re-election, Lincoln was especially discouraged by this failure.

**Reading Check** Analyzing Why was Gettysburg a turning point?
Sherman Strikes the South

Lincoln needed a victory for the Union army to help him win re-election in 1864. The bold campaign of General William Tecumseh Sherman provided this key victory. Sherman carried out the Union plan to destroy southern railroads and industries.

In the spring of 1864, Sherman marched south from Tennessee with 100,000 troops. His goal was to take Atlanta, Georgia, and knock out an important railroad link. From May through August, Sherman’s army moved steadily through the Appalachian Mountains toward Atlanta. Several times, Sherman avoided defenses set up by Confederate general Joseph Johnston.

In July, Sherman was within sight of Atlanta. Confederate president Jefferson Davis gave General John Hood command of Confederate forces in the region. Hood repeatedly attacked Sherman in a final attempt to save Atlanta, but the Union troops proved stronger. The Confederate troops retreated as Sherman held Atlanta under siege.

Atlanta fell to Sherman’s troops on September 2, 1864. Much of the city was destroyed by artillery and fire. Sherman ordered the residents who still remained to leave. Responding to his critics, Sherman later wrote, “War is war, and not popularity-seeking.” The loss of Atlanta cost the South an important railroad link and its center of industry.

Many people in the North had been upset with the length of the war. However, the capture of Atlanta showed that progress was being made in defeating the South. This success helped to convince Union voters to re-elect Lincoln in a landslide.

Sherman did not wait long to begin his next campaign. His goal was the port city of Savannah, Georgia. In mid-November 1864,
Sherman left Atlanta with a force of about 60,000 men. He said he would “make Georgia howl!”

During his March to the Sea, Sherman practiced total war—destroying civilian and economic resources. Sherman believed that total war would ruin the South’s economy and its ability to fight. He ordered his troops to destroy railways, bridges, crops, livestock, and other resources. They burned plantations and freed slaves.

Sherman’s army reached Savannah on December 10, 1864. They left behind a path of destruction 60 miles wide. Sherman believed that this march would speed the end of the war. He wanted to break the South’s will to fight by marching Union troops through the heart of the Confederacy. In the end, Sherman’s destruction of the South led to anger and resentment toward the people of the North that would last for generations.

**READING CHECK**

**Drawing Conclusions**

How did Sherman hope to help the Union with his total-war strategy?

**The South Surrenders**

In early April, Sherman closed in on the last Confederate defenders in North Carolina. At the same time, Grant finally broke through the Confederate defenses at Petersburg. On April 2, Lee was forced to retreat from Richmond.

**Fighting Ends**

By the second week of April 1865, Grant had surrounded Lee’s army and demanded the soldiers’ surrender. Lee hoped to join other Confederates in fighting in North Carolina, but Grant cut off his escape just west of Richmond. Lee tried some last minute attacks but could not break the Union line. Lee’s forces were running low on supplies. General James Longstreet told about the condition of Confederate troops. “Many weary soldiers were picked up . . . some with, many without, arms [weapons],—all asking for food.”

Trapped by the Union army, Lee recognized that the situation was hopeless. “There is nothing left for me to do but go and see General Grant,” Lee said, “and I would rather die a thousand deaths.”

On April 9, 1865, the Union and Confederate leaders met at a home in the small town of Appomattox Courthouse where Lee surrendered to Grant, thus ending the Civil War.

During the meeting, Grant assured Lee that his troops would be fed and allowed to keep their horses, and they would not be tried for treason. Then Lee signed the surrender documents. The long, bloody war had finally ended. Grant later wrote that he found the scene at Appomattox Courthouse more tragic than joyful.

“I felt . . . sad and depressed at the downfall of a foe [enemy] who had fought so long and valiantly [bravely], and had suffered so much for a cause, though that cause was, I believe, one of the worst for which a people ever fought.”

—Ulysses S. Grant
As General Lee returned to his troops, General Grant stopped Union forces from cheering their victory. “The war is over,” Grant said with relief. “The rebels are our countrymen again.”

**The Effects of the War**

The Civil War had deep and long-lasting effects. Almost 620,000 Americans lost their lives during the four years of fighting.

The defeat of the South ended slavery there. The majority of former slaves, however, had no homes or jobs. The southern economy was in ruins.

A tremendous amount of hostility remained, even after the fighting had ceased. The war was over, but the question remained: How could the United States be united once more?

**READING CHECK** Predicting What problems might the Union face following the Civil War?

**SUMMARY AND PREVIEW** After four long years of battles, the Civil War ended with General Lee’s surrender at Appomattox Courthouse. In the next chapter you will read about the consequences of the war in the South.
Define the Skill

Political cartoons are drawings that express views on important issues. They have been used throughout history to influence public opinion. The ability to interpret political cartoons will help you understand issues and people’s attitudes about them.

Learn the Skill

Political cartoons use both words and images to convey their message. They often contain caricatures or symbolism. A caricature is a drawing that exaggerates the features of a person or object. Symbolism is the use of one thing to represent something else. Cartoonists use these techniques to help make their point clear. They also use titles, labels, and captions to get their message across.

Use these steps to interpret political cartoons.

1. Read any title, labels, and caption to identify the cartoon’s general topic.
2. Identify the people and objects. Determine if they are exaggerated and, if so, why. Identify any symbols and analyze their meaning.
3. Draw conclusions about the message the cartoonist is trying to convey.

The following cartoon was published in the North in 1863. The cartoonist has used symbols to make his point. Lady Liberty, representing the Union, is being threatened by the Copperheads. The cartoonist has expressed his opinion of these people by drawing them as the poisonous snake for which they were named. This cartoon clearly supports the Union’s continuing to fight the war.

Practice the Skill

Apply the guidelines to interpret the cartoon below and answer the questions that follow.

1. What do the tree and the man in it symbolize?
2. What policy or action of President Lincoln is this cartoon supporting?
Reviewing Vocabulary, Terms, and People

Match the numbered definitions with the correct terms from the list below.

a. contrabands  
b. cotton diplomacy  
c. Second Battle of Bull Run  
d. Siege of Vicksburg  
e. Thomas “Stonewall” Jackson

1. Attack by Union general Ulysses S. Grant that gave the North control of the Mississippi River
2. Confederate general who held off Union attacks and helped the South win the First Battle of Bull Run
3. Important Confederate victory in which General Robert E. Lee defeated Union troops and pushed into Union territory for the first time
4. Southern strategy of using cotton exports to gain Britain’s support in the Civil War
5. Term given to escaped slaves from the South

Comprehension and Critical Thinking

SECTION 1 (Pages 472–476)

6. a. Identify When and where did fighting in the U.S. Civil War begin?
   b. Analyze How did civilians help the war effort in both the North and the South?
   c. Elaborate Why do you think the border states chose to remain in the Union despite their support of slavery?

SECTION 2 (Pages 478–483)

7. a. Identify What was the first major battle of the war? What was the outcome of the battle?
   b. Analyze What was the Union army hoping to accomplish when it marched into Virginia at the start of the war?
   c. Evaluate Was the Union’s naval blockade of the South successful? Why or why not?
Reading Skills
Understanding Propositions and Support Use the Reading Skills taught in this chapter to answer the question about the reading selection below.

Lee was unaware that Union soldiers were encamped closer to town. He had been suffering from lack of enemy information for three days because his cavalry chief “Jeb” Stuart was on a “joy ride.” Stuart and his cavalry had gone off on their own raiding party, disobeying Lee’s orders. (p. 498)

12. What is the main proposition of the above reading section?
   a. “Jeb” Stuart was on a “joy ride.”
   b. Stuart and his cavalry had gone off on their own.
   c. Stuart and his cavalry disobeyed Lee’s orders.
   d. Lee was suffering from a lack of enemy information.

Reviewing Themes
13. Society and Culture What effects did the Civil War have on American society?
14. Politics What political difficulties did the Emancipation Proclamation cause for President Lincoln?

Using the Internet
15. Activity: Writing a Poem Soldiers in the Civil War came from all walks of life. Despite the hope for glory and adventure, many encountered dangerous and uncomfortable conditions. Enter the activity keyword to learn more about Civil War soldiers. After viewing photographs and reading letters, write a poem describing the life of a soldier. Your poem should reflect on the soldier’s emotions and experiences.

Social Studies Skills
Interpreting Political Cartoons Use the Social Studies Skills taught in this chapter to answer the questions about the political cartoon below.

11. What do you think the artist is saying about politicians with this cartoon?
UNIT 2

The place where two major battles of the Civil War were fought is indicated on the map by what letter?

A. W
B. X
C. Y
D. Z

The Battle of Gettysburg was an important battle of the Civil War because

A. it was an overwhelming Confederate victory.
B. the Union army’s advance on the Confederate capital was stopped.
C. it ended Lee’s hopes of advancing into northern territory.
D. it enabled the Union to control the Mississippi River.

Overall command of Confederate forces in Virginia during most of the Civil War was held by

A. Jefferson Davis.
B. William Tecumseh Sherman.
C. Thomas “Stonewall” Jackson.
D. Robert E. Lee.

Which of Lincoln’s speeches and writings reflected the statement of the Declaration of Independence that “all men are created equal”?

A. the Emancipation Proclamation
B. the first inaugural address (1861)
C. the second inaugural address (1865)
D. the Gettysburg Address

The tactics that Sherman used against Confederate armies in the South were based on what strategy?

A. cutting off troops from their officers
B. a naval blockade of southern ports
C. destroying the South’s resources and economy
D. hit-and-run attacks on major southern cities

Connecting with Past Learning

In this chapter you learned about how civil war can divide a country and bring about change. Which struggle that you learned about in Grade 7 was similar in this way?

A. 1642 defeat of King Charles of England by Oliver Cromwell
B. the Inquisition
C. the Opium War
D. the Hundred Years’ War

In the War of 1812 the British navy blockaded American seaports in the hope that the U.S. economy would suffer and the United States would surrender. Which Civil War strategy was similar?

A. General Winfield Scott’s plan to destroy the southern economy
B. General William Tecumseh Sherman’s March to the Sea
C. General Ulysses S. Grant’s capture of Vicksburg
D. Admiral David Farragut’s defeat of New Orleans