Chapter 17: The Civil War
American Nation Textbook pages 484-514
President Lincoln called for 75,000 volunteers to serve in the army against the South. The Northerners thought the war would be over in about ninety days. Southerners believed that the war would over quickly. With flags held up high both Northerners and Southerners marched into battle.
The Southerners were convinced their cause was right to leave the Union, **succession**.

The Northerners wanted to preserve the Union and fight to abolish slavery.

Eight new states had to decide which side they would join.

The border states, Kentucky, Missouri, Maryland, and Delaware decided to stay with the Union or northern states.

Virginia, North Carolina, Tennessee and Arkansas decide to stay with the Confederacy.
When the war began each side was convinced that their cause was right. They South wanted to preserve the Southern way of life. This would mean that slavery would continue!

The Southerners did not have as many soldiers as the Northerners, but they knew the countryside. The Southerners had few factories to make weapons and other vital supplies. They had hardly any ships in their Navy.

The South had the advantage of fighting the defensive war. This means they would sit tight in the country and wait for the Northern Army to attack. They would try to wear out the Northern army.
The North

The North had three times as many citizens as compared to the South. Thus they had more soldiers. Northern factories produced more than 90% of the nations manufactured goods, including weapons such as guns, cannons, and bullets. The North had a large Navy with many ships.

Northern Soldiers
Northerners felt they had to fight to restore the Union. At the onset of the war, abolishing slavery was not the goal of the North. In fact, many northerners were guided by their feelings of racism towards African Americans.

President Lincoln declared **martial law**, or ruling by the army instead of elected government.

*Do you think Abraham Lincoln’s goal was to end slavery in the United States?*

*Do you think a Northern victory would end racism in the United States?*
The War’s Leaders

Jefferson Davis led the South or the Confederacy. Davis went to the West Point Military academy. He served our country in the Mexican War.

Abraham Lincoln led the North or the Union. Many people had doubts about Lincoln’s leadership, but he later proved to be a stronger leader than Davis.

Robert E. Lee was asked to join the Union Army as the commander and chief by President Lincoln. Robert E. Lee refused the position and became the Chief General of the Confederate Army. Lee would not turn against his home state of Virginia when his state supported the Confederacy.

Remember that Robert E. Lee was the man who put an end to John Brown’s Raid!
Part 2: No Easy Victory

In April 1861 each state had to choose sides for the war. They had to decide if they would support the Union or the Confederacy.

The Union (or North) and the Confederacy or South quickly rushed to build an Army and Navy. The South had to defend their homeland from the North. It was up to the North to invade and stop the Confederate States.

If the North did not attack the Confederate States and win, our nation would remain two separate countries.

The Union planned to use its navy to blockade southern ports. This would cut off the South's supply of manufactured goods from Europe.

In the East, Union generals aimed to seize Richmond, Virginia, the Confederate capital.

A Union soldier
Click on the picture to learn more about soldiers
The Southerners were good soldiers but their land lacked the factories to produce weapons, railroad tracks, and other vital supplies. They had a small population.

The North had a large population of people to work as soldiers. The North had many factories to make weapons and they had many railroad tracks. The North had a large Navy and a large fleet of ships.
On July 12, 1861 President Lincoln sent troops from Washington, D.C. to Richmond, Virginia. As soon as they left Washington the Union soldiers clashed with the Confederate soldiers near a small stream called Bull Run.

Thomas Jackson, the general for the Confederacy, held his ground like a “stone wall.” Jackson henceforth became as General “Stonewall Jackson”. At the end of the battle the Union retreated. The Confederate soldiers won the first major battle of the Civil War.

This showed both sides they needed more training to win the war. Hence forth, this battle became known as the Battle of Bull Run. It showed both sides that this war would be a long and bloody war!
President Lincoln appointed General **George McClellan** as the Commander of the Union Army. McClellan was too cautious and was not aggressive in his battles against the Confederate Soldiers.

**Jefferson Davis** appointed **General Robert E. Lee** as the Commander of the Confederate Army.
Ironclad Ships

In the battles of the Civil War the navy used ships covered in steel for the first time. These ships were called ironclad ships. The Confederates used a steel ship called the Merrimack to fight the war. They covered the ship with steel and renamed it the Virginia. On its maiden voyage, this Confederate ironclad destroyed two Union ships.

The Union used a steel ship called Monitor. This was the first Union ironclad that held its own in battle but was unable to claim a victory.

In the end of the battle between the two ships neither was seriously damaged but both sides realized that ironclad ships has changed naval warfare forever.
How do you think ironclad ships changed naval warfare forever?
The American Civil War caused many battles. General George McClellan still hesitated to fight the South while the rest of the Union Army battled in the West. President Lincoln was dissatisfied with George McClellan. Many people believed that George McClellan wanted the war to fail so he could run for a political office. Many deadly battles were soon fought.
There was the **Battle of Antietam** in September, 1862, in Antietam, Maryland. At this battle General Lee left a copy of his battle plans at an abandoned campsite. General George McClellan had a clear chance at victory when he saw the plans, but he acted to slow. As a result, 23,000 Union and Confederate soldiers died in battle. **Neither side was a clear winner of this battle.**

General George McClellan did a poor job so he was replaced by **General Burnside**, as the Commander of the Army of the Potomac, after the George McClellan army failed at this opportunity to win the war.
Soon **General Ulysses S. Grant** was appointed as the new General and Commander of the Union Army. General Burnside was replaced because the Union was not winning any battles. Lincoln was looking for a General that would lead the Union to a victory. Lincoln believed Grant could win the war.
Confederates Won Victories in the East

The Confederate army won the Battle of Fredericksburg. At the Battle of Fredericksburg, Lee’s men dug into a crest of a hill and mowed down wave after wave of charging Union forces.

See page 495 to read more about the Battle of Fredericksburg.

The Confederacy won the Battle Chancellorsville in three days, but they lost a great leader, General "Stonewall" Jackson. “Stonewall” died from gunshot wounds from his own men.
Union Won Victories in the West

In need of a victory, Abraham Lincoln appointed Ulysses S. Grant as the Commander and Chief of the Union army. On April 6, 1862 at the Tennessee River, General Grant won one of the bloodiest battles called the Battle of Shiloh.

Grant surprised the Confederate soldiers by battling them the next day, winning the battle of Shiloh. While Grant was leading his troops at the Battle of Shiloh, Union ships captured New Orleans and Memphis.
President Lincoln promised, to end the Civil War. The war began as a war to restore the Union, not end slavery. Lincoln made a public statement in 1863:

“If I could save the Union without freeing any slave, I would do it; and if I could save it by freeing all the slaves, I would do it; and if I could do it by freeing some and leaving others alone, I would also do that.”

Do you believe this was true?

Do you believe Lincoln wanted to end “slavery?”
By mid-1862 President Lincoln felt he must also address the issue of slavery. He felt he could save the Union if he broadened the goals of the war. So Lincoln decided to issue the Emancipation Proclamation to free enslaved African Americans living in the Confederacy. The word, emancipate means, to set free.

On January 1, 1863, Lincoln issued the formal Emancipation Proclamation that stated that declared:

“On the 1st day of January, in the year of the Lord 1863, all persons held as slaves within any state or...part of a state whose people...shall be then, thenceforward, and forever free.”
Since the rebelling states were not under Union Control, no slaves actually gained freedom on January 1st, 1863. Still the **Emancipation Proclamation** changed the character of the war.
The Emancipation Proclamation would not free slaves in the four loyal slave states. Nor would slaves be freed in Confederate lands that had already been captured by the Union, such as the city of New Orleans.

What does this mean to all African American people?

In the South, Lincoln's proclamation was seen as a “fiend's act” that destroyed expensive property. The proclamation won the sympathy of Europeans, especially workers. As a result, it became less likely that Britain or any other European country would come to the aid of the South.
African Americans in the War

At the start of the war African Americans were forbid to fight in the war as soldiers. In 1862 Congress repealed this law and allowed free and escaped Africans to fight in the war. Thousands of African Americans fought for the Union Army.

Nearly 40,000 African Americans lost their lives in the war.
Many black regiments were commanded by white officers. Massachusetts was one of the first states to issue an all black regiment. They were called the 54th Massachusetts Regiment.

In 1863 near Charleston, the 54th Regiment forced their way into combat with the South. The commander the 54th and most of the soldiers were killed. The courage of the 54th Regiment won the respect of other African American Soldiers.

The 54th Regiment was known as “the bravest of the brave.”

Do you think this was true? Explain your answer.
Assault on Fort Wagner

In this painting by Tom Lovell, African American soldiers of the 54th Massachusetts Regiment charge Confederate troops at Fort Wagner. Nearly half the regiment died in the failed attack, including the regiment's commander, Colonel Robert Gould Shaw.

Applying Information
Why did African Americans have their own regiments?
Despite the Emancipation Proclamation, African Americans still worked in the South as slaves on plantations. However, many slaves slowed down their work or refused to work at all. In this way, they hoped to weaken the South's war effort.
The Civil War caused many hardships for American families. Many farmers lost their livestock to moving troops. Many people lost family members from the battles of the war. New advances in deadly weapons were invented during the Civil War.

Cone shaped bullets made rifles twice as accurate; it replaced the musket balls. New cannons could hit targets miles away. As a result 1/4 or more of the soldiers became casualties. A casualty is a soldier that is seriously killed or wounded.
Soldiers that were sick, wounded, or captured faced medical horrors. Medical care was crude. Surgeons routinely cut off injured legs of wounded men. Prison camps had terrible conditions. One Union prisoner out of every three died from starvation or disease.
Opposition to War in the North

Some northerners opposed using force to keep the South in the Union. Supporters of the war called these people Copperheads, after a poisonous snake. Other northerners supported the war but opposed the way Lincoln was conducting it.

Congress passed a Draft Law in 1863. It required all able-bodied males between the ages of 20 and 45 to serve in the military if they were called. Under the law, a man could avoid the draft by paying the government $300 or by hiring someone to serve in his place. This angered many people, who began to see the Civil War as "a rich man's war and a poor man's fight." This led to riots in the streets.
President Lincoln moved to stop the riots and other "disloyal practices." Several times, he suspended habeas corpus, the right to be charged or have a hearing before being jailed. Lincoln argued that the Constitution allowed him to deny people their rights "when in the cases of rebellion or invasion, the public safety may require it."
In the Confederate states Jefferson Davis had trouble creating a strong centralized government. Southerners resisted paying taxes to the Confederate government. The Confederate government did not have much money.
The North needed money to pay for the war so Congress passed the first income tax law which required all workers to pay part of their wages to the federal government. This helped boost the northern economy. The North still needed more money to pay for the war so they printed up more paper money. This flood of money caused inflation or a rise in prices caused by an increase in the money in circulation in the country. **What is inflation?**
As the money supply increased, each dollar was worth less. In response, businesses charged more for their goods. The North was experiencing inflation, a rise in prices and a decrease in the value of money. During the war, prices for goods nearly doubled in the North.

The wartime demand for clothing, shoes, guns, and other goods helped many northern industries. Some manufacturers made fortunes by profiteering. Profiteers charged excessive prices for goods that the government desperately needed for the war.
**Cause and Effect**

**Causes**
- Issue of slavery in the territories divides the North and South
- Abolitionists want slavery to end
- South fears it will lose power in the national government
- Southern states secede after Lincoln’s election
- Confederates bombard Fort Sumter

**THE CIVIL WAR**

**Effects**
- Lincoln issues the Emancipation Proclamation
- Northern economy booms
- South loses its cotton trade with Britain
- Total war destroys the South’s economy
- Hundreds of thousands of Americans killed

**Effects Today**
- Disagreements over states’ rights persist
- African Americans have equal protection under the Constitution
- Millions of Americans visit Civil War battlefields each year

**GRAPHIC ORGANIZER**

**Skills**

The Civil War was a major turning point in the history of the United States.

1. **Comprehension**
   How did the war affect the northern and southern economies?

2. **Critical Thinking**
   Identifying Causes and Effects Describe another cause or effect that could be added to this chart.
Many women took an interest in the war effort. Women on both sides worked as nurses. Dorothea Dix helped reform prisons and mental hospitals.

Clara Barton earned fame as a Civil War nurse and founder of the American Red Cross.
As the war raged on people began to realize that the Union Army commanded by Grant was going to win the war. The Confederates surprised the North by winning battles on December 1862 in Fredericksburg and May 1863 in Chancellorsville. At the Battle of Chancellorsville, General “Stonewall” Jackson died as a result of his injuries. He was shot by his own men.

General Lee said, “I lost my right arm.” What did he mean by this statement?
General Grant would not give up the fight. Grant came up with a plan that would win the war. Grant’s army took control of New Orleans, Memphis and the Mississippi River. Grant tried to take over Vicksburg by attacking the town.
In 1863 in the **Battle of Vicksburg** in Mississippi, Union forces attacked Vicksburg after an attack on Jackson, Mississippi. **General Ulysses S. Grant achieved two major military goals of the war.** First, the Union's naval blockage had cut off the South's trade with Europe. Second, the Union had taken control of the Mississippi River, splitting the Confederacy into two parts. It was a major victory for the Union army.

After six weeks Grant’s army lay **siege** to Vicksburg. The war started to turn for General Grant and his army. A siege is a military encirclement of an enemy position and blocking it and bombard ing it in order to force a surrender.
In June 30, 1863 after the Battle of Gettysburg. General Lee ordered Confederate General Pickett to charge General George C. Meade and the Union Army through an open field at Cemetery Ridge, Pennsylvania.

It was the final Confederate attack after the Battle of Gettysburg. This battle became known as Pickett's Charge. General Lee thought this move would destroy the Union Army instead rows and rows of Confederate soldiers were killed! General Lee would never again invade the North.

The War had finally reached its turning point with the Battle of Gettysburg. Who was winning?
At the end of the Battle of Gettysburg, more than 50,000 soldiers were dead or wounded. On November 19, 1863 President Lincoln gave a speech at a ceremony to dedicate a cemetery for the soldiers that died in battle. This speech became known as the Gettysburg Address. It became one of the most important speeches in American History.
In his **Gettysburg Address**, Lincoln said:

“We here are highly resolve that these dead shall not die in vain—that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom—and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth.”

This speech was short and it became one of the most famous speeches in history. What was President Lincoln trying to say in his Gettysburg Address?

In his speech Lincoln said the Civil War was a test of whether a democratic nation could survive.
Grant’s Plan for Total War Against the South

General Grant decided to destroy the South's ability to fight the war. Grant ordered his generals to wage total war against the South. He wanted the Union army to destroy food, equipment, and anything else they found that might be useful to the enemy (South).

General Grant said:
“Leave nothing to invite the enemy to return. Destroy whatever cannot be consumed. Let the valley be left so that crows flying over it will have to carry their rations along with them”

What does Grant say with these words?
General William Tecumseh Sherman to capture and destroy Atlanta. In 1864 Sherman captured Atlanta and destroyed everything useful to the South.

Grant sent General Philip Sheridan to destroy Virginia.
The Civil War Ends

In 1864, Lincoln becomes reelected for a second term. General Sherman takes Atlanta. General Lee's army was shrinking. Many soldiers ran away and did not fight. Grant fights Lee’s army in Richmond, Virginia. General Grant beats Lee and his Army.

Lee then surrendered to the Grant in a Virginian town called Appomattox Courthouse on April 9, 1865. The war was finished.
The war is over. General Grant said:

"The war is over, the rebels are our countrymen again."

What did Grant say in his statement?

As a result of the war more than 360,000 Union soldiers died and 250,000 Confederate soldiers lost their lives.
When the Civil War began, photography was just beginning. Pioneer photographers shouldered their bulky cameras and followed armies into battle. The result was the first detailed photographic record of a war. These Civil War photographs, like all photographs, are valuable primary source documents. Just as with other primary sources, however, we must learn to evaluate them for accuracy and bias.

In this photograph, a family gathers at a Union Army camp in 1862.

Learn the Skill  To analyze a photograph, use the following steps:
1. Identify the subject. What does the photograph show?
2. Look for details. What evidence does the photograph include about people, daily life, the weather, events, or the environment?
3. Analyze the photographer’s intent. Why did the photographer take this picture? How did the photographer feel about the subject?
4. Draw conclusions. What can you learn from this photograph? How does it add to your understanding of history?

Practice the Skill  Answer the following questions about the photograph above:
1. (a) Who are the people in the photograph? (b) Where are they?
2. (a) What tools, utensils, and furniture do you see? (b) Where are the people living? (c) What other details do you see?
3. (a) Why do you think the photographer took this picture? (b) How do you think the photographer felt about families and war?
4. What did you learn from this photograph?

Apply the Skill  See the Chapter Review and Assessment.