

THE AMERICAN CIVIL WAR

The U.S. Civil War lasted from April 1861 to April 9, 1865. A civil war is a war between two different groups in the same country. In regards to the United States, the war was between the north and the south. The two sides were fighting over whether individual states had the right to own enslaved persons.

The north was referred to as the Union. They believed that states should not have the right to own enslaved persons. There were two main reasons for this: (1) States were able to base the number of representatives they had in Congress on the population. Southern states wanted to count enslaved persons, but they did not want to give enslaved persons rights. (2) Many people – especially abolitionists – felt that slavery was an abomination.

The south was the Confederate States. The Confederate states were states that seceded from the United States. They seceded from the United States because they felt that the country was taking away their rights. The southern economy was very dependent on enslaved persons. They needed enslaved persons to survive. The south had many crops and they could not grow them without forced labor. They knew that their economy would collapse without enslaved persons. The states that seceded from the Union were South Carolina, Mississippi, Florida, Alabama, Georgia, Louisiana, Texas, Virginia, Arkansas, Tennessee, and Louisiana.

The Union was made up of other states that were in the country at the time. These were all northern or western states. Five states (Delaware, Kentucky, Maryland, Missouri and West Virginia) were considered border states. Border states were slave states that did not leave the Union.

The Union Army wanted to keep the country united. They saw the rebellion in the south as treasonous. The north had an advantage in the war. They were wealthier. They had more people, and they had the support of the United States government and, therefore, the President.

The Civil War was the deadliest war in American history. By the time the south surrendered in 1865, 600,000 soldiers had died in the war.

SYMBOLS

Underline the "Words to Know" found in the passage. (see bottom)

? Something you have a question about

! Something that surprised you

✓ My favorite fact

COLOR

[YELLOW]

Why did the southern states secede?

[GREEN]

Why did the southern states secede?

[BLUE]

What was the goal of the Union Army?

WORDS TO KNOW

Abolitionist – person against slavery

Abomination – disgrace, hatred or disgust

Seceded – left or broke away from

ABRAHAM LINCOLN

CHECK THE CORRECT ANSWER

Where was Lincoln born?

Alabama

Kentucky

Georgia

What political party did Lincoln belong to?

Whigs

Democrats

Republicans

When was the Emancipation Proclamation?

1863

1865

TRUE OR FALSE

Lincoln was determined to keep the country divided.

TRUE FALSE

The War ended on April 9, 1865 and Lincoln was killed on April 15th, 1865.

TRUE FALSE

WRITE IN THE BLANK

As soon as Lincoln became president, the south began to _____.

The President of the United States at the end of the Civil War was _____.

WORD SEARCH

Z H J J H S Z P D B L T F E K G N LINCOLN
R E P U B L I C A N R E B E L L I O N Q U E R Y
E K K H G C B J D A K N D D H W Y X K S L A V E R Y
E A D S H R O G W B O L P O M N W A O N I T E
D V X W M S U C U I Y J S L A V E R Y C O U N T R Y
G V Z G R X Y Y N Y Y N E P U N Y T E C H
C O U N T R Y U I C D L I N C O L N U N I O N
G F F Z E J K U A E R F K F N D A K I O N
B A C I W E Q Z P B B Y L P B Q H G T I O N
R H Y B S P E E C H S L H P B S W G E Y R E P U B L I C A N

CIVIL WAR GENERALS

There were several great military leaders during the Civil War on both sides. However, the two most important leaders were Ulysses S. Grant and Robert E. Lee. Ulysses S. Grant was the Commanding General of the Union Army and Robert E. Lee was the Commanding Officer of the Confederate Army.

Ulysses S. Grant had been a great officer in the army after he graduated from West Point. He served in the military before deciding to resign as he felt alone and depressed on the frontier. Grant returned to the military for the Civil War. He led the Army of Tennessee in some victories and had a victory at Fort Henry and also at Fort Donelson. He also led in victories at many battles such as The Battle of Shiloh and the Battle of Vicksburg.

The Commanding General of the Union Army at that time was not very strong. He was always scared. He worried that the army was outnumbered even when it was clearly not. President Abraham Lincoln saw that Ulysses S. Grant was a great military leader. Abraham Lincoln replaced the general with Ulysses S. Grant. Ulysses S. Grant led the U.S. Army in several battles against Robert E. Lee. Robert E. Lee eventually surrendered at The Appomattox Court House.

After the Civil War, Ulysses S. Grant used his leadership skills again. His time he served as the 18th President of the United States.

Robert E. Lee was the Commanding Officer of the Confederate Army. He'd also graduated from West Point. After finishing school, he served in the army on building projects. He proved to be a good military leader and was appointed by Lincoln to command the Union Army. Lee turned down the appointment as he was from Virginia and Virginia was fighting against the Union. Throughout the Civil War he led the Confederate Army of Virginia. He was a great military leader. He was able to win some victories even though he was greatly outnumbered. Three of these victories were The Battle of Bull Run, the Battle of Fredericksburg and the Battle of Chancellorsville. Despite his great leadership, Robert E. Lee lost the war for several reasons (1) He was greatly outnumbered (2) The North had more wealth and (3) The leadership in the north was equally strong.

SYMBOLS

Underline the "Words to Know" found in the passage. (see bottom)

? Something you have a question about

! Something that surprised you

✓ My favorite fact

COLOR

[YELLOW] 

What were some military victories of Grant?

[GREEN] 

Why did Lee lose?

[RED] 

Why did Lee lose?

Why did Lee turn down Lincoln's appointment?

WORDS TO KNOW

Appointed – chosen for a position

Outnumbered – have more than

Resign – step down

JEFFERSON DAVIS

CHECK THE CORRECT ANSWER

What military academy did Davis attend?

West Point

East Point

South Point

In what year did the Confederacy surrender?

1865

1866

1877

Jefferson Davis served from _____ in the Senate to fight in which war?

1861

Revolutionary

Mexican-American

TRUE OR FALSE

Like Abraham Lincoln, Davis was born in a log cabin in Virginia.

TRUE

FALSE

Davis hoped that Abraham Lincoln would let the south leave peacefully.

TRUE

FALSE

WORD SEARCH

Davis became Secretary of War under President _____.

Jefferson Davis eventually went to the Senate where he was known for his strong stance on states' _____.

J I M Q U K E M K V M X S Q X W Z
 V R H R T Y V K N S C F S G Q G W S Q
 K P V F K V W M P U X S E E P M F N C
 X Z T C J J F L X R F A T Q N E I J J
 J E F F E R S O N R P H A T D A D D E
 P R E S I D E N T E I T T D C L T C
 M I L I T A R Y A N B U S A K Q S E Z
 R Y X Y M B I U W D O O C V N X K V D
 S E C R E T A R Y E L S D I J Z F P S
 R Y X R F Q N V B R N L X S Z X L N O Q

SOUTH
 STATES
 RESIDENT
 JEFFERSON
 MILITARY
 AVTS
 STATE
 SECRETARY
 SURRENDER