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American Civil War: Battles

Have you ever visited a battlefield from the Civil war or any other war? How do you feel when you walk where history was made? Can you imagine what it would have been like to be a soldier during these battles? Let's learn about some of the battles of the war that took more American lives than any other war in history.

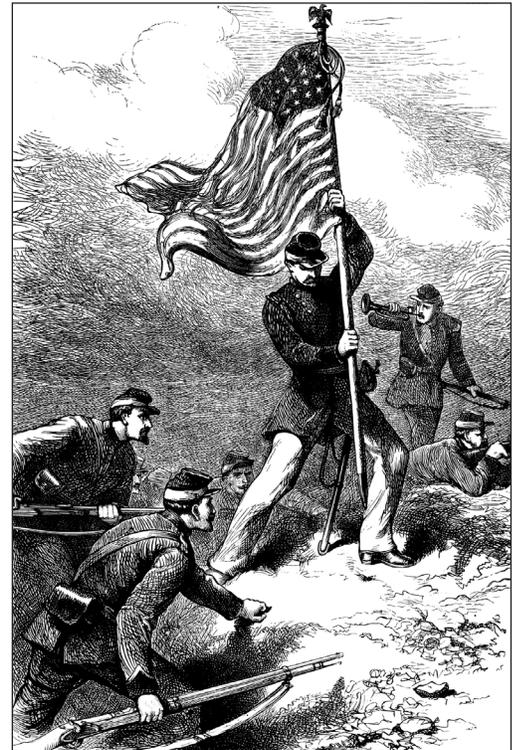
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Find It!

Find the answers to the questions below by using the "Search" tool to search key words. Since this activity is about American Civil War battles, you can start by searching the key words "American Civil War."

Write the answers on the lines provided or below the question.



1. The Civil War began when Confederate forces attacked _____ on April 12, 1861.
2. What battle, fought on September 17, 1862, was the bloodiest single-day battle of the war?
3. Stonewall Jackson died not long after being shot at which battle?
4. Who was nicknamed "The Rock of Chickamauga"?
5. Where and when did the Civil War's last battle take place?

6. Confederate General John B. Hood ordered six reckless charges, costing the Confederates about 6,300 casualties, including 6 generals, at the Battle of _____.
7. Match the battle with the state in which it was fought.
- | | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------|
| _____ 1. Antietam (Sharpsburg) | A. Arkansas |
| _____ 2. Chickamauga | B. Alabama |
| _____ 3. Fort Sumter | C. Georgia |
| _____ 4. Fredericksburg | D. Maryland |
| _____ 5. Gettysburg | E. Pennsylvania |
| _____ 6. Mobile Bay | F. South Carolina |
| _____ 7. Pea Ridge (Elkhorn Tavern) | G. Tennessee |
| _____ 8. Shiloh (Pittsburg Landing) | H. Virginia |
8. Why do many Civil War battles have two names?
9. What were the names of the two ships that fought history's first battle between ironclad warships?

True or False

Write "True" if the statement about the Civil War battle is correct. If the statement is not correct, write "False" and correct the statement in the space below.

- _____ 10. Union troops captured Vicksburg, Mississippi, the day after the Battle of Gettysburg.
- _____ 11. Abraham Lincoln issued the preliminary Emancipation Proclamation after the Battle of Gettysburg.
- _____ 12. Black troops were not allowed to fight in any Civil War battles.
- _____ 13. The Battle of Stones River (Murfreesboro) had the highest casualty rate of the war.
- _____ 14. Confederate General Robert E. Lee defeated Union General Ambrose Burnside at the Battle of Chancellorsville.

Union or Confederate Victory?

Using either the text of the “American Civil War” article and/or the “Major battles of the American Civil War” table, for each of the following battles, write “Union” if Union forces won the battle, or “Confederate” if Confederate forces won the battle.

_____ 15. Chattanooga

_____ 16. Chickamauga

_____ 17. Fort Donelson

_____ 18. Fredericksburg

_____ 19. Nashville

_____ 20. Second Bull Run (Second Manassas)

_____ 21. Vicksburg

22. After the battles of the Wilderness, Spotsylvania Court House, and Cold Harbor, Ulysses S. Grant was called “butcher Grant.” Why was he given that nickname?

23. Why did Abraham Lincoln replace General George McClellan with General Ambrose Burnside after McClellan’s victory at the Battle of Antietam?

24. Look at the “Battle of Spotsylvania Court House” article. Why would General John Sedgwick’s words probably not be reassuring to his troops?

25. Look at the “Battle of Fredericksburg” article. What led Robert E. Lee to say, “It is well that war is so terrible. We should grow too fond of it.”?

26. Look at the “Siege of Petersburg” article. How did Union General William Smith miss an opportunity to capture Petersburg months before it was actually captured?

Map It!

Within the “American Civil War” article, you will find the map “American Civil War: Battle of Chancellorsville.” Study the map and answer the following questions.

27. General Joseph Hooker’s forces travelled to Chancellorsville using which road?
28. What did Stonewall Jackson’s troops do on May 2, 1863?
29. Which river did the Union army cross when it retreated?

Within the “American Civil War” article, you will find the map “American Civil War: Battle of Gettysburg.” Study the map and answer the following questions.

30. One of the reasons that Confederate and Union forces met at Gettysburg was because of the many roads leading into the town. Using the map, name 7 roads (or pikes) that lead into Gettysburg.
31. What is the name of the road that the Confederate soldiers crossed to get from Seminary Ridge to Cemetery Ridge during Pickett’s charge?

Teacher Page

Answers:

1. The Civil War began when Confederate forces attacked Fort Sumter on April 12, 1861.
2. The Battle of Antietam (Sharpsburg) was the bloodiest single-day battle in the war.
3. Stonewall Jackson died not long after being shot at the Battle of Chancellorsville.
4. George H. Thomas was nicknamed “The Rock of Chickamauga.”
5. The Civil War’s last battle took place at Palmito Ranch, near the southern tip of Texas, on May 13, 1865.
6. Confederate General John B. Hood ordered six reckless charges, costing the Confederates about 6,300 casualties, including 6 generals, at the Battle of Franklin.
7. Antietam (Sharpsburg) – D
Chickamauga – C
Fort Sumter – F
Fredericksburg – H
Gettysburg – E
Mobile Bay – B
Pea Ridge (Elkhorn Tavern) – A
Shiloh (Pittsburg Landing) – G
8. Many Civil War battles have two names because the Confederates named them after the nearest settlement, and Northerners named them after the nearest body of water.
9. History’s first battle of ironclad warships was between the *Monitor* and the *Merrimack* (renamed the *Virginia*).
10. True
11. False. Abraham Lincoln issued the preliminary Emancipation Proclamation after the Battle of Antietam (Sharpsburg).
12. False. Blacks fought in nearly 500 Civil War engagements, including 39 major battles. About 35,000 black servicemen lost their lives.
13. True
14. False. Confederate General Robert E. Lee defeated Union General Joseph Hooker at the Battle of Chancellorsville.
15. Chattanooga – Union
16. Chickamauga – Confederate
17. Fort Donelson – Union
18. Fredericksburg – Confederate
19. Nashville – Union

20. Second Bull Run (Second Manassas) – Confederate
21. Vicksburg – Union
22. Grant was called “butcher Grant” because in a month of fighting he lost almost 40,000 men in those 3 battles.
23. Abraham Lincoln replaced George McClellan because after the victory at Antietam, McClellan (who Lincoln had long felt was not aggressive enough) had permitted the Confederate army to retreat with almost no interference.
24. General John Sedgwick was killed by a sharpshooter moments after saying that the Confederates “couldn’t hit an elephant at that distance.”
25. Robert E. Lee made the comment after watching repeated Union attacks against Marye’s Heights get slaughtered. At the Battle of Fredericksburg, the Union army suffered approximately 13,000 casualties, mostly in front of Marye’s Heights.
26. In the middle of June, despite having a much larger force, Smith was reluctant to order a direct assault against the Confederates. After he quickly defeated the Confederates when he finally did attack, he waited for reinforcements before trying to capture the city. While the Union army waited, the Confederate army was able to send reinforcements, forcing Ulysses S. Grant to have to take Petersburg by siege.
27. General Joseph Hooker travelled to Chancellorsville using Ely’s Ford Road.
28. On May 2, 1863, Stonewall Jackson’s troops marched behind Union positions.
29. The Union army retreated across the Rappahannock River.
30. The 7 roads are Chambersburg Pike, York Pike, Hanover Road, Baltimore Pike, Taneytown Road, Emmitsburg Road, and Hagerstown Road.
31. The Confederates crossed the Emmitsburg Road during Pickett’s charge.

Timeline

The correct order of the battles is:

First Battle of Bull Run (First Manassas)

Battles of the Seven Days

Second Battle of Bull Run (Second Manassas)

Battle of Antietam

Battle of Fredericksburg

Battle of Chancellorsville

Battle of Gettysburg

Battle of the Wilderness

Battle of Spotsylvania Court House

Battle of Cold Harbor

Siege of Petersburg