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American Civil War: Biographies

Can you imagine what it would have been like to live during the 19th century in the United States? In what ways would life be different than it is now? What would have been your thoughts about slavery? How would you feel about fighting your fellow Americans in a civil war?

Let's see how some Americans responded to the issues of the day and helped guide the country through the Civil War era.

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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 the American Civil War era, you can start by searching the key words "American Civil War."

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

1. Who wrote the best-selling antislavery novel *Uncle Tom's Cabin*? _____

2. Who was John Brown and what did he do in 1859?

3. Which 3 people did Abraham Lincoln defeat in the 1860 presidential election?

a. Northern Democratic candidate: _____

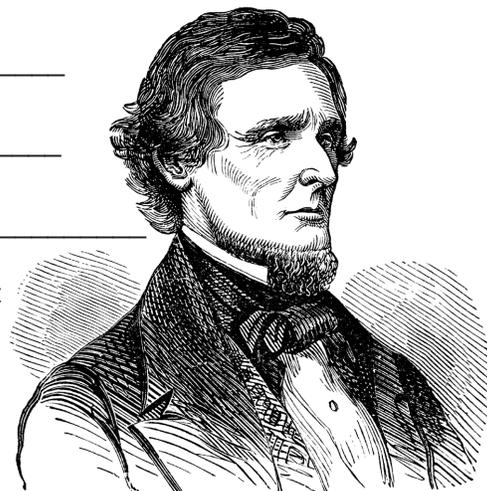
b. Southern Democratic candidate: _____

c. Constitutional Union Party candidate: _____

4. In February 1861, who was elected president and vice-president of the Confederate States of America?

a. President: _____

b. Vice president: _____



*Users of the Advanced database can find extension activities at the end of this webquest.

5. What was Henry Wirz's role during the Civil War and what happened to him after the war?

6. Many women played a key role in the Civil War. Match the name of the woman with what she is best known for.

_____ 1. Clara Barton

A. Writer of "The Battle Hymn of the Republic"

_____ 2. Dorothea Dix

B. Union Army surgeon, only woman to receive the Medal of Honor

_____ 3. Julia Ward Howe

C. Superintendent of U.S. Army nurses

_____ 4. Mary Walker

D. North volunteer nurse, later founded the Red Cross

7. How did General George H. Thomas earn the nickname "The Rock of Chickamauga"?

8. How did Confederate General Thomas Jackson earn the nickname "Stonewall"?

(Hint: For this question see the "Battles of Bull Run" article.)

9. Which Confederate general led a raid against Washington, D.C., in 1864?

10. Which general surrendered the last Confederate army, ending the war?

True or False

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

_____ 11. General Ambrose Burnside led the Union Army to victory at the Battle of Fredericksburg.

_____ 12. General Ulysses S. Grant was nicknamed "Unconditional Surrender" Grant.

_____ 13. General Albert Sydney Johnson was killed at the Battle of Shiloh.

_____ 14. General George Pickett led a successful charge at the Battle of Gettysburg.

_____ 15. General William T. Sherman's army captured Atlanta in 1864.

Famous Quotations

Write the answers in the space below.

16. Who was Robert E. Lee referring to when he said: “He has lost his left arm; but I have lost my right arm.”?
17. Who was Abraham Lincoln referring to when he said: “I can’t spare this man—he fights!”?
18. At which battle did Ulysses S. Grant say: “I regret this assault more than any other one I have ever ordered.”?
19. Who said: “Damn the torpedoes! Full speed ahead!”?
20. Who said: “I beg to present to you as a Christmas gift the city of Savannah with 150 heavy guns and plenty of ammunition and also about 25,000 bales of cotton.”?

Lincoln’s Friend or Foe?

As president of the United States, Abraham Lincoln was the commander in chief of the Union armies. For each of the following generals, write “Friend” if he fought for the Union or “Foe” if he fought for the Confederacy.

- _____ 21. Braxton Bragg
- _____ 22. John B. Hood
- _____ 23. Joseph Hooker
- _____ 24. James Longstreet
- _____ 25. George Meade
- _____ 26. William Rosecrans
- _____ 27. Philip Sheridan
- _____ 28. Jeb Stuartw



29. What was the significance of the 54th Massachusetts Volunteers?
30. Which Confederate general led a cavalry raid as far north as Paducah, Kentucky, in 1864?

31. Read the “Robert E. Lee” article and list 5 facts about Lee’s military background before the Civil War.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

32. Why is Wilmer McLean significant?

33. Why is Abraham Lincoln known as the “Great Emancipator”?

34. Why did many soldiers grumble that the Civil War was “a rich man’s war and a poor man’s fight”?

35. When Ulysses S. Grant was given command of all Northern armies, what 3 main offensives did he plan to use?

Watch It!

In the “American Civil War” article (and in the tab titled “Images, Videos, and Audios”) there are a number of media. Find the video titled “Abraham Lincoln” and answer the following questions.

36. List 5 facts about Abraham Lincoln from this video.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

37. The video stated that Abraham Lincoln “had less than a year of formal schooling”. How was Lincoln educated?

Extension Activity 1

You just learned about some important people who lived during the Civil War. Using the information you learned, list the 3 most influential people (helpful or harmful to their side) of the Civil War. Use facts to justify each of your 3 selections.

Extension Activity 2

Sherman’s March was a controversial military campaign at the end of the Civil War. Union General William T. Sherman marched his troops through the South and destroyed much of the military and economic resources. Some believe that Sherman and his men terrorized civilians, while others believe that Sherman’s March helped bring about the end of the war. What are your thoughts on this statement: “Since civilians help supply a country’s war effort, it is acceptable to target civilians during war.” (Hint: For this question you may wish to refer to the “Sherman’s March” article.)



Extension Activity 3

At the beginning of the Civil War, Abraham Lincoln offered Robert E. Lee command of the U.S. Army in Virginia. How would the Civil War and subsequent American history be different if Lee had fought for the Union?

Read more about the Civil War by visiting World Book's eBook collection:

American Civil War. Chicago: World Book, 2014. Documenting History. *World eBook*. Web. 22 Oct. 2015.

<<http://www.worldbookonline.com/wb/ebooks/mall/instit/catalog/urn:978-0-7166-2567-4/detail.do>>.

Teacher Page

Answers:

1. Harriet Beecher Stowe wrote *Uncle Tom's Cabin*.
2. John Brown was an abolitionist who, along with his followers, attempted to start a slave rebellion by seizing the federal arsenal in Harpers Ferry, Virginia (now West Virginia). Brown was captured 28 hours later. Within a few weeks, he was convicted of treason and hanged.
3. a. Stephen A. Douglas
b. John C. Breckinridge
c. John Bell
4. a. Jefferson Davis
b. Alexander H. Stephens
5. Henry Wirz was the officer in charge of the Andersonville prison camp. He became the only Confederate soldier to be tried and executed for war crimes after the war.
6. Clara Barton – D
Dorothea Dix – C
Julia Ward Howe – A
Mary Walker – B
7. At the Battle of Chickamauga, Union soldiers led by General George H. Thomas held their position while the other soldiers broke completely.
8. During the First Battle of Bull Run, Confederate General Thomas Jackson positioned his newly arrived troops to meet a Union advance. Confederate General Barnard E. Bee, trying to rally his troops, saw Jackson's line and shouted, "There is Jackson standing like a stone wall. Rally behind the Virginians!" From then on, Jackson was known as "Stonewall." (Note, some historians believe Bee was actually criticizing Jackson for just standing in place like a "stone wall." Bee never had a chance to explain his comment—he died in the battle.)
9. Jubal A. Early led a raid against Washington, D.C., in 1864.
10. General Edmund Kirby Smith surrendered the last Confederate army, ending the war.
11. False. General Ambrose Burnside commanded the Union Army when they lost the Battle of Fredericksburg.
12. True
13. True
14. False. General George Pickett led an unsuccessful charge at the Battle of Gettysburg.
15. True
16. Robert E. Lee was referring to Stonewall Jackson.

17. Abraham Lincoln was referring to Ulysses S. Grant.
18. Ulysses S. Grant made the statement at the Battle of Cold Harbor.
19. David Farragut made the statement.
20. William T. Sherman made the statement.
21. Braxton Bragg – Foe
22. John B. Hood – Foe
23. Joseph Hooker – Friend
24. James Longstreet – Foe
25. George Meade – Friend
26. William Rosecrans – Friend
27. Philip Sheridan – Friend
28. Jeb Stuart – Foe
29. The 54th Massachusetts Volunteers were the first black troops from a free state to be organized for combat in the Union Army.
30. Confederate General Nathan Bedford Forrest led a cavalry raid as far north as Paducah, Kentucky, in 1864.
31. Answers will vary. Possible answers include:
 1. Lee graduated from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point with high honors in 1829.
 2. Lee's first commission was as a second lieutenant in the Corps of Engineers.
 3. Lee was promoted to brevet major, brevet lieutenant colonel, and brevet colonel in the Mexican War.
 4. Lee served for 3 years as superintendent of West Point.
 5. Lee became a lieutenant colonel of cavalry in 1855.
 6. Lee arrested John Brown after Brown's raid on Harpers Ferry in 1859.
32. Wilmer Mclean owned the house in Appomattox Court House, Virginia, where Robert E. Lee surrendered his army to Ulysses S. Grant, essentially ending the Civil War.
33. Abraham Lincoln is known as the "Great Emancipator" for his efforts in freeing the slaves. He issued the Emancipation Proclamation, which declared that all slaves in states in rebellion against the Union on Jan. 1, 1863, would be forever free. He also helped push through Congress the 13th Amendment to the Constitution, which abolished slavery throughout the nation.
34. In both the North and the South, a person who was drafted could pay a substitute to serve for him or, in the North, could pay the government \$300 to avoid military service.

35. Ulysses S. Grant's 3 main offensives were: (1) to have the Army of the Potomac, under General George Meade, try to defeat Lee in northern Virginia and occupy Richmond; (2) an army under General William T. Sherman would advance from Chattanooga into Georgia and seize Atlanta; and (3) General Nathaniel P. Banks would move his men from New Orleans to Mobile, Alabama, and later join Sherman.
36. Answers will vary. Possible answers include:
1. Lincoln was president of the United States between 1861 and 1865.
 2. Lincoln kept the Union together during the Southern secession and the Civil War.
 3. Lincoln was born on the American frontier in a log cabin in Kentucky.
 4. Lincoln and his family moved to Indiana when he was 7.
 5. Lincoln's mother died when he was 9.
 6. Lincoln walked long distances to borrow books.
 7. Lincoln had less than a year of formal schooling.
 8. Lincoln became a lawyer and a member of the U.S. House of Representatives.
37. Abraham Lincoln walked long distances to borrow books, at night he read by the light of the fireplace, he made his own arithmetic textbook, and he continued studying throughout his life.

Extension Activities 1, 2, and 3: Answers will vary.