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## American Civil War

The Civil War took more American lives than any other war in history. The war's terrible bloodshed left a heritage of grief and bitterness. From the slaves who were freed, to the soldiers who fought and died, to the civilians who dealt with the death of their friends and relatives, to the farmers who saw their property destroyed, the Civil War had an impact on all those who lived through it. Let's learn about the causes, events, and effects of the Civil War.

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

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

1. Historians have long debated the causes of the Civil War. Many of them maintain that \_\_\_\_\_ was the root cause.
2. In 1861, the United States consisted of \_\_\_\_\_ free states, in which slavery was prohibited, and \_\_\_\_\_ slave states, in which it was allowed.
3. Who was John Brown and what did he do in 1859?
4. The Civil War began when Confederate forces attacked \_\_\_\_\_ on April 12, 1861.

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

5. What is “cotton diplomacy”?
  
6. In February 1861, who was elected president and vice president of the Confederate States of America?
  - a. President: \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. Vice president: \_\_\_\_\_
  
7. Why did many Southerners who did not own slaves support slavery?
  
8. What kind of food supplies did Civil War soldiers have?
  
9. Among Abraham Lincoln’s critics were (1) the Peace Democrats and (2) the Radical Republicans. What did each group want?

### **True or False**

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

- \_\_\_\_\_ 10. The North and South had about the same number of people when the war began.
  
- \_\_\_\_\_ 11. The Emancipation Proclamation declared freedom to all of the slaves in the United States.
  
- \_\_\_\_\_ 12. The Civil War was the first war to use ironclad warships and submarines.
  
- \_\_\_\_\_ 13. The Civil War ended when Robert E. Lee surrendered at Appomattox Court House on April 9, 1865.
  
- \_\_\_\_\_ 14. Studies done in the 2010’s estimated that at least 750,000 men died as a result of the Civil War.
  
15. Why is the Civil War often described as the first total war in history?
  
  
16. Why would the battles of Fredericksburg and Chancellorsville been disheartening to the North?

17. What was the significance of the 54th Massachusetts Volunteers?
  
18. 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?
  
19. Why was the Confederate artillery attack just before Pickett’s charge not as effective as they would have wanted? List 2 reasons.  
(Hint: For this question see the “Gettysburg Address” article.)

### **Name the State**

In the line provided, write which state is being referred to.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 20. First state to secede from the Union.
  
- \_\_\_\_\_ 21. State where Abraham Lincoln delivered the Gettysburg Address.
  
- \_\_\_\_\_ 22. State where Franklin, Nashville, and Shiloh battles were fought.
  
- \_\_\_\_\_ 23. State where Robert E. Lee surrendered his army to Ulysses S. Grant.
  
- \_\_\_\_\_ 24. State where Civil War’s last battle was fought
  
25. Why did the Emancipation Proclamation not immediately free a single slave?  
(Hint: For this question see the “Emancipation Proclamation” article.)
  
  
26. Why did Abraham Lincoln issue the preliminary Emancipation Proclamation after the Battle of Antietam? (Hint: For this question see the “Battle of Antietam” article.)

27. What did Edward Everett say about Lincoln's speech? (Hint: For this question see the "Gettysburg Address" article.)
28. What was Harriet Tubman's contribution to the Underground Railroad? (Hint: For this question see the "Underground Railroad" article.)
29. Why is Abraham Lincoln known as the "Great Emancipator"? (Hint: For this question see the "Civil War" article.)
30. How did Confederate General Thomas Jackson earn the nickname "Stonewall"? (Hint: For this question see the "Battles of Bull Run" article.)
31. What was Henry Wirz's role during the Civil War and what happened to him after the war? (Hint: For this question see the "Civil War" article.)

### **Map It!**

Within the "American Civil War" article, you will find the map "American Civil War: Divided Nation." Study the map and answer the following questions.

32. Which four slave states remained with the Union? (Do not include West Virginia, which separated from Virginia in 1863.)
33. How many territories did the U.S. have at the time of the Civil War? Which side did they fight for?
34. What two Southern cities are noted on the map?

## Timeline

Imagine that you are a soldier who fought (and survived!) all of the following battles. Put the battles in order of when you fought in them.

Battle of Antietam

Battle of Chancellorsville

Battle of Cold Harbor

Battle of Fredericksburg

Battle of Gettysburg

Battle of Spotsylvania Court House

Battle of the Wilderness

Battles of the Seven Days

First Battle of Bull Run (First Manassas)

Second Battle of Bull Run (Second Manassas)

Siege of Petersburg


## Extension Activity 1

Imagine that your school asked you to guide a one-week Civil War tour.

Among the places you can visit are:

- Any battlefield (Antietam, Fort Sumter, Gettysburg, Manassas, Petersburg, Shiloh, Vicksburg, etc.)
- Andersonville National Historic Site (site of a notorious Confederate prison)
- Appomattox Court House National Historic Park (site where Lee surrendered to Grant)
- Ford's Theater National Historic Site (site where Lincoln was shot)
- Harpers Ferry National Historic Park (site of John Brown's raid)

Which 7 places would be on your tour? Don't worry about distance; just assume that you and your classmates will be able to travel from one place to the next each day. Why did you choose these 7 places? What do you expect to see at each one?

## Extension Activity 2

Write a 1-2 page paper theorizing how the history of the United States would have been different if the North and South had split into two countries instead of fighting the Civil War.

Ideas to consider, but to which you are are not limited, include:

- How would the two countries have dealt with westward expansion?
- What would happen if states tried to later secede from the Northern or Southern countries?
- How would having two weaker countries (economically and militarily), instead of the one strong country, have affected later historical events like the world wars fought in the 1900's?
- Would the South have abolished slavery?
- Would the two countries have later united?

## Extension Activity 3

Write a 1-2 page letter from the perspective of a Southern soldier who lived through the Civil War, telling a friend (a student of the future!) how the Civil War affected you. Topics to consider include the abolition of slavery, the hundreds of thousands of deaths in the war, the physical and mental toll four years of war took on you, the economic destruction of much of the South, and your experiences during the Reconstruction era.

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*American Civil War*. Chicago: World Book, 2014. Documenting History. *World eBook*. Web. 22 Oct. 2015.  
<<http://www.worldbookonline.com/wb/ebooks/mall/instt/catalog/urn:978-0-7166-2567-4/detail.do>>.

# Teacher Page

## Answers:

1. Historians have long debated the causes of the Civil War. Many of them maintain that slavery was the root cause.
2. In 1861, the United States consisted of 19 free states, in which slavery was prohibited, and 15 slave states, in which it was allowed.
3. 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.
4. The Civil War began when Confederate forces attacked Fort Sumter on April 12, 1861.
5. “Cotton diplomacy” was the South’s belief that European countries—especially France and the United Kingdom—would come to the aid of the Confederacy because their textile industries depended on Southern cotton.
6. a. Jefferson Davis  
b. Alexander H. Stephens
7. They believed that the South’s economy would collapse without slavery and that blacks were inferior to whites.
8. Soldiers mainly had flour, corn meal, beef, beans, and dried fruit. Armies on the march ate salt pork and hard biscuits called hardtack.
9. The Peace Democrats wanted the war stopped. The Radical Republicans wanted the government to move more rapidly to abolish slavery and to make sweeping changes in the Southern way of life.
10. False. About 22 million people lived in the north and about 9 million people lived in the South.
11. False. The Emancipation Proclamation did not free slaves in states loyal to the Union – Delaware, Kentucky, Maryland, and Missouri.
12. True
13. False. The war ended on May 26, 1865, when General Edmund Kirby Smith surrendered the last Confederate army still in the field.
14. True
15. The Civil War is often described as the first total war because of the enormous amount of suffering and destruction it brought upon noncombatants as well as soldiers.
16. At Fredericksburg, the North suffered a large number of casualties in a hopeless attack. At Chancellorsville, a much smaller Confederate force defeated the Union army.
17. The 54th Massachusetts Volunteers were the first black troops from a free state to be organized for combat in the Union Army.
18. Grant was called “butcher Grant” because in a month of fighting he lost almost 40,000 men in those 3 battles.

19. The Confederate artillery attack was not effective because (1) the Confederates generally aimed too high and did little damage to the Union army and (2) the Union officers suspected an attack and slowed down the rate of artillery fire in an attempt to trick the Confederates into thinking the Union artillery had been wrecked—this allowed the Union army to conserve ammunition for the impending attack.
20. South Carolina
21. Pennsylvania
22. Tennessee
23. Virginia
24. Texas
25. The Emancipation Proclamation did not immediately free a single slave, because it affected only areas still under Confederate control.
26. Abraham Lincoln had been waiting for a Union military victory before issuing the proclamation. He did not want it to be viewed as a desperate act.
27. Everett said: “I should be glad if I could flatter myself that I came as near to the central idea of the occasion in two hours as you did in two minutes.”
28. Harriet Tubman returned to the South 19 times and helped about 300 enslaved people escape to freedom.
29. 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.
30. 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.)
31. 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.
32. The slave states of Delaware, Kentucky, Maryland, and Missouri remained with the Union.
33. The United States had 8 territories at the time of the Civil War (Colorado, Dakota, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, Utah, and Washington). They all fought for the Union
34. The 2 Southern cities are Montgomery, Alabama and Richmond, Virginia. (Montgomery was the Confederate capital for the first month of the war, and Richmond was the capital for the remainder.)

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