

Unit 7 Closed Captions

Fort Sumter and the Confederacy

Section 1

00:00:00 TEACHER: Now in today's lesson, you're going to attempt to answer the question, how did the Civil War begin. In the warm-up, you had a chance to learn a little bit about why some of the Southern states seceded from the Union, why the border states were so important to the Union's cause, and started to get an understanding of why it was so important for the Confederacy to really

00:00:19 establish itself as a nation. We're going to start off by trying to examine the difference between the two presidents and how they viewed secession.

Section 2

00:00:01 TEACHER: As the Civil War began to unfold, the country was divided and led by two leaders. In the Union, we had Abraham Lincoln as president. He was sworn into office in March of 1861. And on the other side, the Confederacy, we saw Jefferson Davis as the president, sworn into office in February of 1861. Now, both men wanted to avoid war, but they saw the

00:00:30 country's future very differently. Jefferson Davis, the president of the Confederacy, he supported secession. He wanted the Confederate states to become their own country. Abraham Lincoln, the president of the Union, would not accept secession. So this is where the big difference

00:00:48 between the two lie. Now, both men delivered what we called an inaugural address. An inaugural address is given on the day the president takes the oath of office. And in the photo here, we see President Obama taking the oath of office in January of 2009. Now, the inaugural address allows the president to

00:01:11 address the people for the first time as the nation's leader. And it gives the president an opportunity to let people know what his or her goals are and sets a tone for the presidency. Now, let's go back to the president of the Union at the time the Civil War was starting-- Abraham Lincoln.

00:01:35 Once he was elected president in 1860, he faced a tremendous challenge. His platform was to stop the spread of slavery into the West. And in response to that platform and his election, seven states seceded

following his election. Now, his first inaugural address takes place in March of 1861.

00:02:01 And in that inaugural address, Lincoln reached out to Southern states. He said he would not interfere with slavery where it already existed. He promised to carry out the laws of the Constitution in all states. And he refused to use force unless he was required to do so.

00:02:28 So when Lincoln became president, and he said he refused to accept secession, he said he would not compromise on this issue. He felt it was his duty as president to preserve the Union. He wanted to avoid war. And he was very cautious about the use of force. In his inaugural address, he said, "Plainly the central

00:02:55 idea of secession is the essence of anarchy. A majority held in restraint by constitutional checks and limitations is the only true sovereign of a free people. The role of a minority, as a permanent arrangement, is wholly inadmissible." Now, again, he said that in his inaugural address in March of 1861. Let's take some time for you to independently explore Lincoln's inaugural address just a little bit further.

Section 4

00:00:01 TEACHER: So let's examine Jefferson Davis' inauguration and his opinion on secession as contrasted to Abraham Lincoln's. First, it's important to note that Davis was not in favor of war between the states. As early as the 1850s, he's encouraging both sides to come to some sort of agreement with one another. However, like many Southerners, he felt that

00:00:22 slavery was in jeopardy with Lincoln as president. And although he did not initially support the secession of South Carolina, he did feel that the states had the right to withdraw from the Union. This is because he feared that Lincoln would force the seceded States back into the Union. In his inaugural address, he discusses how the Confederacy will succeed on its own as a new independent nation.

00:00:47 He first explains the reasons for secession. He goes on to describe the form the new government would take and expresses that war was not wanted, but that the Confederate States would fight if necessary. He says that he believes the Southern states had the right to secede because their government had failed them. He believes that citizens had the right to end their relationship with their government if

00:01:12 they wish to do so. He says, "Our present political position has been achieved in a manner unprecedented in the history of nations. It illustrates the American idea the governments rest on the consent of the

governed, and that it is the right of the people to alter or abolish them at will whenever they become destructive of the ends for which they were

00:01:33 established. This is said in his inaugural address on February 18, 1861. Let's break it down a bit. When we look at the first sentence, he says, "achieved in a manner unprecedented in the history of nations." he means that this has never happened before. He goes on to say "that governments rest on the consent of the governed," meaning with the approval.

00:01:57 And so he feels that the Southern states have the right to secede because their government has failed them. And it is the right of the people when the government is acting without their consent to end the relationship with that government.

Section 6

00:00:00 TEACHER: In today's lesson, we're answering the question, how did the Civil War begin? You've had a chance to learn a little bit about the differing views of President Lincoln and President Davis on the issue of secession. President Lincoln would not accept secession, whereas President Davis was a supporter of secession. This major disagreement is what

00:00:20 ultimately led to the conflict. But there was one single event that we're going to talk about now that actually led to the start of the Civil War, and that was the attack on Fort Sumter.

Section 7

00:00:01 TEACHER: Now, Fort Sumter is one of a series of forts along the southern coastline that's meant to protect the commercial interests of the United States. Now, Fort Sumter you'll notice here, is located in South Carolina, which in 1860, was under Union control. But after South Carolina secedes from the Union, it begins seizing federal property, like forts and ammunition depots, that are located within its territory.

00:00:28 Now, the Union still occupies this fort because the Union is not recognizing South Carolina's secession. And so, Lincoln finds himself facing an enormous challenge in this situation at Fort Sumter. Let's break this down. Lincoln finds himself in a position where he needs to resupply this fort. The soldiers were running out of food and supplies.

00:00:50 And he worried that resupplying this fort would risk an armed conflict with the South. Now, if you remember during his inaugural address,

Lincoln outright rejected secession. He did not want to appear to be giving into the Confederacy by not resupplying the fort. He wanted to avoid war, though, at all costs. And so these two conflicting goals ultimately lead to this

00:01:14 situation being an enormous challenge for him.

Section 9

00:00:00 TEACHER: In March of 1861, the Confederacy demands the surrender of Fort Sumter under the threat of attack. Now we know the fort was low on supplies and soldiers. And as a result, it would not be able to hold out much longer without reinforcements. Nonetheless, the Union refuses to surrender. The image on the screen here is a letter written to President Lincoln from one of his top advisers, William

00:00:24 Seward, asking the president what his advice is to do about the situation at Fort Sumter. Ultimately, President Lincoln decides to send unarmed ships to resupply that fort. Now we see on the screen here an image of that supply ship that Lincoln sends. He does send word ahead of time to the Confederate leaders, letting them know that he's sending this ship so

00:00:48 that they wouldn't attack. He promises that no men, weapons or ammunition would go along with that ship.

Section 11

00:00:03 So now we've had a chance to examine the events leading up to the attack on Fort Sumter. Fort Sumter was a union held fort in south Carolina that the Confederate states wanted to claim as their own. The Union did not to surrender the fort unless the Confederates felt no other choice but to use force. So when examining how the Civil War begins we're going to move forward and looking at the effects of this battle

00:00:26 between the two sides.

Section 12

00:00:00 TEACHER: With US Naval ships on the way to resupply Fort Sumter, Confederate troops begin to open fire on the fort in the early morning hours of April 12. The Confederacy feels that the Union has provoked this conflict in its effort to resupply the fort. Ultimately, the fort could not hold up against the heavy artillery, the large, mounted guns, and as a result, surrenders the fort on April 13, just a day after this

00:00:25 brief battle is begun. And with this brief battle, the Civil War has officially started. Now, after the bombing at Fort Sumter, President Lincoln calls for volunteers to the US Army. He asks for 75,000 troops from each state, including those states that had seceded from the Union. Now, those seceded states refused to send troops.

00:00:50 There was another major effect of this bombing. Four more states secede from the Union. Many people within those states believed that Lincoln had provoked the conflict in his decision to resupply the fort. Now, these four new seceded states included Tennessee, Arkansas, North Carolina, and Virginia. But in Virginia, the western delegates who disagree with

00:01:16 secession decide to break away, start a new state of West Virginia. This state is ultimately admitted to the Union in 1863.

Section 14

00:00:01 TEACHER: So at this point we know that there are two sides in this conflict. You've got the northern states that make up the Union, you've got the southern states that make up the Confederacy, but it's important to acknowledge the border states. These border states were very key, especially to Lincoln because he was determined to keep them part of the Union. He needed these states to protect the capital.

00:00:25 And the states we're looking at here-- Delaware, Maryland, West Virginia, Kentucky, and Missouri-- three of which, West Virginia, Maryland, and Delaware are very close to the nation's capital, which we can see right there in southern Maryland. These border states contained almost all of the South's manufacturing capacity, so he knew that they would be

00:00:50 valuable in defeating the South. And they also contained rivers located in these border states flowing deep into the Confederacy, so that would give him an opportunity for fighting against the Confederate armies. Because these border states were slave states, Lincoln made it clear that the goal of the war was to preserve the Union, not to free enslaved people.

00:01:17 Now to review what we've talked about to this point, we're going to look at a timeline, beginning in November of 1860 with Abraham Lincoln's election. Within three months of this election, seven states had seceded from the Union. By February of 1861, Jefferson Davis is inaugurated as the Confederate president, and just a month later Lincoln is inaugurated as the Union president.

00:01:44 In April of 1861, Fort Sumter is attacked, leading to the beginning of the Civil War, and within a month of that attack, four more states seceded from the Union.

Mobilizing for War

Section 1

00:00:02 TEACHER: So we'll begin by examining the strengths and the weaknesses of both the North and the South in this war. The North, the Union. The South, the Confederates. On one hand, the North had more money, more people, and more weapons, whereas the South was defending its way of life and its land.

00:00:22 We'll begin by examining the North.

Section 2

00:00:01 TEACHER: We'll begin by examining the country today. Because even today, there are regions in the US that are quite different from one another, just as they were 150 years ago when the Civil War began. The Northeast is a region that's full of large, densely-populated cities. Many of the economies here specialize in business and banking.

00:00:27 This region differs from the Midwest in that the Midwest is a more relaxed culture with an economy based most heavily in farming and agriculture. Finally, the Southwest, an area where the climate is a lot warmer, sees an oil economy being kind of it's a big role player. Now, today we probably have a more complicated system of regions than we did during the Civil War.

00:00:57 But nonetheless, we have different sides that kind of represent different advantages, disadvantages, strategies, and resources. So we'll begin by looking at the advantages of the North. And most of those advantages seem to be steeped in the availability of resources. Those resources we see in population. The South had only 9 million people, 3 and 1/2 million of

00:01:29 which were slaves. Whereas, the North had 21 million people, so more than twice the number of people and more than four times the number of factories. Whereas the North had 100,000 factories, the South only had 18,000. This results in the North creating 97% of all weapons made in the US, a distinct advantage in war.

00:01:56 Finally, when it came to miles of railroad, the North had more than twice as many miles of railroad, with 20,000 versus 9,000 miles for the South. This means that the North has 70% of all the railroads, which is going to help them in transporting troops and supplies during the war.

Section 4

00:00:02 TEACHER: So as you're probably already aware, Abraham Lincoln was the political leader of the Union. His primary goal was to reunite the country, and in doing so he tried to avoid armed conflict at Fort Sumter. But since he was unable to do so, he decided to take a defensive stance. He did not want to provoke war, nor did he want to promote peace.

00:00:27 However, he was ready to risk war to preserve the Union. One of his key strategies was to enlist George McClellan as the commander of the Union Army. McClellan had years of military experience. He went to West Point, and he knew how to train soldiers. He'd also fought in the Mexican American War. He was known for being a good organizer and was known to be highly cautious.

00:00:58 And as a result, it took him seven months to train Union soldiers before they began to fight. Now this leads to one of the early conflicts between McClellan and Lincoln, who wanted more decisive action right away.

Section 6

00:00:02 TEACHER: So now that we've had a chance to review the resources and the advantages that the Union had, we're going to take a look at their strategy. The North actually had a few different strategies at the start of the war. The first of which is the so-called Anaconda Plan. The Anaconda Plan actually came from General Winfield Scott, who was an adviser to McClellan and Lincoln.

00:00:25 And the plan is named for the snake who surrounds and squeezes the life out of its victims. And so the idea here is to surround the Southern states, and in doing so, calling for a blockade of the Southern ports. This blockade, which is an organized effort to stop people and goods from entering or leaving a place, have the ultimate goal of stopping the South from selling goods and

00:00:52 receiving supplies, draining them of the little resources that they had. Another strategy for the North was to take control of the Mississippi River. The Mississippi was the South's major transportation link. I'm actually going to try to highlight it in a color that stands out here.

00:01:17 So the Mississippi River goes straight through, all the way from the top of Minnesota through the bottom of Louisiana. And what we see is it actually divides some of the Southern states to the west from Southern states to the east. Now with this river being a major transportation link of the South, the Union hoped they would be able to kind of split the South in two by taking control of this river

00:01:46 and thereby isolating the states to the west of it, including Texas, Arkansas, and Louisiana. Another major strategy of the North was to take control of Richmond, Virginia. Now Richmond is the Confederate capital, so this is a stronghold of the South. It was, as we notice looking at the capital here, it was close to the border states and Washington, DC, which was the

00:02:24 Union capital. So this would have been an enormous win for the Union if they were able to take control of Richmond. In order to do so, Lincoln needed to keep the support of the border states Maryland and West Virginia.

Section 8

00:00:02 TEACHER: So now that we've had a chance to take a look at the North's strengths and weaknesses, we've been able to answer part of our essential question in this lesson. What were the strengths and weaknesses of both the North and the South in the Civil War? So we've gone through half of this question. We know that the North had more industrial resources, more people, more money, more weapons.

00:00:24 They had solid political leadership in President Lincoln. However, their general, George McClellan, was a bit more cautious than Lincoln had anticipated. So it took him a long time to train the troops. From here, we're going to look at how the South used its strengths to its advantage. The South is defending its way of life and its land.

00:00:50 Let's take a look at that now.

Section 9

00:00:02 TEACHER: So while the South is less populated and less industrial than the North, it does have some distinct advantages of its own. First of all, very strong military leaders. Many US generals actually left the Union to join the Confederate forces. Next, a very long coastline. 3,500 miles of coastline, which made even plans like the

00:00:26 Anaconda Plan very difficult to enact. Because the South had an agricultural economy, it had much more food production. And, finally, because the South was fighting for its way of life and its land, the

Confederates had a strong fighting spirit. As a result of these advantages, the South would not be defeated as easily as the North anticipated.

00:00:54 As a matter of fact, the South even won a lot of the early battles of the war. Now the South is led by a man named Jefferson Davis, who was the president of the Confederacy. His job was to guide the Confederacy into being an independent nation. He was capable leader. And he acted quickly in the Fort Sumter conflict, which,

00:01:21 as a result of his decisions, leads to the surrender of the fort by the Union army. Finally, he makes a very wise decision in appointing Robert E. Lee to command the Confederate army.

Section 11

00:00:02 TEACHER: So Robert E. Lee is another figure in this war that's important to talk about. He was a leading commander in the Confederate army who actually turned down an offer to command the Union army when his home state, Virginia, seceded. So he resigns from the Union army, joins forces with the Confederate army, and begins the war as an adviser to president Davis.

00:00:26 However after the previous commander is killed in battle, he is promoted to being the leading commander of the Confederate army. He proved to be very talented general. Even though the South was outnumbered by the Union, under his leadership the Confederate army was able to achieve many victories.

Section 13

00:00:00 TEACHER: Now the South's strategy is a simple one, to defend its land until the North no longer wanted to fight. The South simply wanted independence, and they were willing to wait the war out until they got that. Now the South did have the resources that they needed to fight a very long war, and they thought that eventually the Union would just grow tired and give up.

00:00:23 They also had a very large territory. The size of the territory led the Confederacy to believe that the Union did not have the resources or the soldiers to conquer all of that land. Now one of the strategies that was employed by the South was an effort to earn money from Europe by selling cotton to Britain and France. They called this cotton diplomacy.

00:00:46 They hoped to use cotton as a tool of foreign diplomacy in order to generate a profit that they could use to fund the war effort. Ultimately though, this strategy fails, because Britain refused to recognize and

trade with the Confederacy. And so the Confederacy places an embargo on cotton to Europe.

00:01:05 This led to the failure of cotton diplomacy, as Britain did not want to be forced into recognizing the Confederate States.

Early Successes of the War

Section 1

00:00:01 TEACHER: What were the key battles at the beginning of the Civil War? In the warm-up, you had a chance to learn a little bit about how both sides were unprepared at the start of the war. So what happens when these battles begin? We're going to start off by talking about the very early battles of the war, which were major setbacks for the union.

00:00:21 Then we'll go into some details about the bloody stalemate at Antietam, which neither side won. And finally, we'll wrap up by talking a little bit about how the South responds to Antietam. But to start, let's talk a little bit about the battle at Bull Run.

Section 2

00:00:00 TEACHER: Now, the first major battle between the Union and the Confederacy occurs on July 21, 1861, with a surprise attack by the Union. Now, this occurs near Manassas, Virginia. And, as we look at the map, we can see that Manassas is located pretty much equidistant between the two capitals of the Union and the Confederacy. The capital of the Union is located here to the north, at

00:00:24 Washington, DC. And the capital of the Confederacy is located to the south, at Richmond, Virginia. Now, the two sides had different names for this battle. The Union calls it the First Battle of Bull Run. The Confederacy calls it the Battle of Manassas. The two sides often had different names for these

00:00:44 battles, perhaps the result of their appreciation for different things. The North, tending to appreciate nature, names the battle after a stream in the battlefield. The South, tending to appreciate human-made things, like railroads and cities, names the battle after the railroad junction in which the battle took place. Now, in this battle, we saw 37,000 Union troops face off

00:01:10 against 35,000 Confederate troops. Initially, the South was on the defense, but the Union was unable to break through the Confederate lines. And by the end of the day, Confederate reinforcements had

arrived by train, which forced the Union to retreat. One of the most important commanders in the Battle of Bull Run was Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson. Now, Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson is one of the most

00:01:37 admired military leaders in the Confederacy. He also serves as Lieutenant General of the Confederate forces. Now, he trains at West Point Military Academy in New York as a young man, and he earns his nickname of "Stonewall" Jackson at the Battle of Bull Run when he and his troops stood like a stone wall against the Union Army. He ultimately becomes famous for his quick maneuver

00:02:03 strategies and his personal courage.

Section 4

00:00:00 TEACHER: The second battle of Bull Run had significant effects for both the Union and the Confederacy. On the Union side, this loss shocked and discouraged the Union soldiers. They had expected a quick and easy victory. This loss made them realize that the war would be long and difficult. Now, this loss led to a change in leadership.

00:00:23 General Winfield Scott, who had lead the army during that second battle of Bull Run, was aging. He was 75 years old, he was getting very ill. And so President Lincoln decides to change the leadership and put the army in the hands of General George McClellan, who was much younger and had more aggressive tactics. On the Confederate side, we saw the result of this victory

00:00:44 lead to a bolstering of confidence. They now believe that they have a real opportunity to beat the North.

Section 6

00:00:00 TEACHER: Now the Civil War doesn't take place only on land. Both sides are competing fiercely for controlled waterways, ports, and supply channels like the Mississippi River. As a result of this competition, both sides start to develop new technology in the form of a new ship called an ironclad.

00:00:18 Now an ironclad is a steam-operated ship that's got thick metal plating along its sides for defense. And in March of 1861, the Confederate Army launches a surprise attack with their ironclad, the Merrimac, attacking wooden Union ships. The next day, the Merrimac returns for another attack against the Union ships, but this time, the Union is prepared.

00:00:43 They launch attacks against the Merrimac with an ironclad of their own, the Monitor. Now these two ships fight against one another for nearly four hours. At the end of this battle, there's no clear winner, but it does change warship design going forward. As a result of this battle, these old wooden ships are now obsolete.

00:01:05 And what you're going to find all over the world are countries building ironclads of their own.

Section 8

00:00:01 TEACHER: Now, as a result of all of the technological development of the time, the Civil War is often called the first modern war, because of all this new technology. Some of this technology included the very first submarine to sink an enemy ship. Now, this was done by the Confederate side, with the submarine the Hunley, which sank a Union ship. But it unfortunately also sank itself in that explosion.

00:00:27 We also see the introduction of large bullets called minie bullets. These bullets were used by both sides of the army. And they caused very much increased damage. This is because the design allows for the rapid firing rifles. And the widespread use of rifles increases on the battlefield as a result of this development.

00:00:50 The Union also starts to use something called the Gatling gun. And we see an example of the Gatling gun pictured here. This is kind of an early form of the machine gun. And it could fire 200 times per minute. We also saw the Union using hot air balloons that could reach 3,500 feet, and see distances up to 6 miles. Finally, the use of trains for battle to transport troops

00:01:18 quickly over large distances were used. Now, all of these new technologies made the Civil War an extremely deadly conflict. This is because even with the new technology, both sides were still incorporating outdated tactics. Meaning that they're doing things like charging the defenses that now have greater ability to shoot them from further away.

00:01:46 So we see that the conflict becomes more and more deadly, as a result of the combination of new technology and old strategies.

Section 9

00:00:02 TEACHER: What were the key battles at the beginning of the Civil War? We've had a chance to examine the early setbacks for the Union. These setbacks, like losing the first Battle of Bull Run, completely disgraced and shocked the Union army. So we're going to move on to

talk a little bit about the bloody stalemates that followed these early battles.

00:00:21 A stalemate is when neither side is able to gain any sort of an advantage.

Section 10

00:00:01 TEACHER: So after its disastrous loss at Bull Run, the Union needed to regroup. And as we mentioned previously, one of the ways it regroups is by appointing a new Union commander, a man named George McClellan, who was young, had a lot of military experience, and specifically had experience training soldiers. Now he was able to build a very powerful army with all of

00:00:23 this experience. But he hesitated to bring that army into battle. As a matter of fact, Lincoln had to direct order him to launch a new military campaign. Now this new campaign comes in the form of the second battle at Bull Run. This happens August 29th and 30th of 1862, when 56,000 Confederate soldiers face off against 70,000 Union soldiers.

00:00:52 The Confederate strategy was simple-- to split its forces and surround the Union. And this was effective even though they had far less men in battle. The Confederate forces were able to win this battle, but at the very high cost of lives-- 9,000 Confederate soldiers dead and 15,000 Union soldiers dead.

00:01:13 As a result of this victory, the Confederate army had the opportunity to continue advancing north, which directly put Washington DC in danger.

Section 12

00:00:00 TEACHER: By 1862, Confederate forces were continuing to advance towards Washington. So from the South, we see that General Lee is making his way towards Maryland. Now, as a result of this, General McClellan from the North moves to block him. These two sides end up meeting at Antietam, Maryland, which is known as Sharpsburg in the South, in September of 1862.

00:00:27 As a result of this battle at Antietam, September 17, 1862 becomes known as the bloodiest day of battle in US history. In total, about 23,000 soldiers were killed or wounded in action-- about 10,000 on the Confederate side and over 12,000 on the Union side. Eventually, the Confederate army retreats back into Virginia.

- 00:00:50 Now, because the Union was able to stop the Confederacy from moving into Washington, this is seen as a strategic victory on the side of the Union. However, Antietam had both positive and negative effects for the Union. On the positive side, they were able to stop the Confederate offensive, and that lifted Union spirits and kept Washington safe.
- 00:01:14 However, on the negative side, just like the Confederates, the Union did suffer heavy casualties. And because he did not take advantage of going after General Lee when he had the chance, McClellan was removed from commander of the Army, so they had to re-strategize their leadership at this point. Now, the Battle of Antietam was significant and important to both sides.
- 00:01:39 Primarily, it convinced President Lincoln to issue the Emancipation Proclamation. Now, this was a written proclamation that he was saving for a Union victory. It would free all of the enslaved people in the Confederate states. It also gave the Union new momentum. It showed that they had a chance of winning.
- 00:01:59 And as a result, it slows the South's momentum. Finally, it convinces Great Britain not to recognize the Confederate states as an independent country. Now, this was important because the Confederate army was hoping that they would be able to use Britain's support to help them win the war.

Section 14

- 00:00:00 TEACHER: Now, to recap, we're trying to answer the question, what were the key battles at the start of the Civil War? What we've learned so far is that the Union suffers another crushing defeat at the second battle of Bull Run. We went on to talk about the Battle of Antietam, which becomes known as the bloodiest day of battle in US history. At the end of this battle, there's no clear winner. But the Union sees a strategic victory.
- 00:00:25 And so this bolsters the Union confidence going forward, leading them to a new offensive. We'll soon see, though, that this new offensive only leads to more victories for the South.

Section 15

- 00:00:01 TEACHER: Now, after the Battle of Antietam, President Lincoln decides to replace General McClellan with General Ambrose Burnside. A fun fact about General Burnside is the word "sideburns" actually comes from him. Now General Burnside has a lot of experience. He

commanded forces at Antietam. He also wants to employ a new, more aggressive strategy for

00:00:21 the Union going forward. His alternative goal is to capture the Confederate capital at Richmond, Virginia, and decides to pursue that goal by crossing the river at Fredericksburg, Virginia and moving towards the Confederate capital at Richmond. Now before he could cross the river, he finds himself delayed because of weather, miscommunication. He doesn't have the equipment he needs to cross the river.

00:00:51 In that time that he was delayed, General Lee is able to set up a blockade with his Confederate Army to prevent the Union forces from crossing the river. And so on December 13, 1862, these two sides meet in a battle at Fredericksburg, Virginia. In this battle, we see 120,000 Union troops facing off against 78,000 Confederate troops. Now because of the delay in crossing the river, General

00:01:20 Lee was able to set up a strong defensive position. And when General Burnside attempts to cross the river to attack, he faces that blockade, and ultimately faces a major loss in this battle. As a result of the heavy casualties, nearly twice as many losses on the Union side as the Confederate side, we see the Confederacy see a major victory. This victory allows the Confederates to feel new

00:01:46 confidence facing the setback at Antietam.

Section 17

00:00:02 TEACHER: Now following the Union's loss at Fredericksburg, President Lincoln decides to make another change in command. He decides to replace General Burnside as the Union commander with General Joseph Hooker. Now, General Hooker has plenty of military experience in other wars. He fought in the Seminole Wars, he fought in the

00:00:22 Mexican-American War, and he had led Union forces in earlier battles, including Antietam and Fredericksburg. His ultimate goal was to surround and destroy General Lee's forces. He had the first opportunity to do this at the Battle of Chancellorsville. Now, this battle begins on May 1, 1863 when General Stonewall Jackson attacks General Hooker's forces

00:00:50 in a surprise attack. Now, although 60,000 Confederate were more than twice outnumbered by 130,000 Union troops over the course of five days and General Jackson was killed in this battle, the Confederates were able to pull out yet another victory, and General Hooker decides

to retreat. Do note the patterns in these early battles. Now, to summarize visually what we've talked about to

- 00:01:23 this point, these early battles of the Civil War, we've got a timeline that we can outline here. We'll begin with the very first battle of Bull Run, July 21, 1861, resulting in a Confederate victory. After this battle, we find that the war goes to the water. And we've got these two ironclad, the Monitor going up against the Merrimack, resulting in a draw, but
- 00:01:49 ultimately changing the course of warfare as the world knows it from that point forward. In August of 1862, there's another battle at Bull Run, another Confederate victory. And about three weeks later, we see the battle of Antietam, known as the bloodiest battle in US history, ultimately resulting in a stalemate or a draw. However, McClellan's forces do retreat, so that gives the
- 00:02:22 Confederate side a bit of strategic elements going forward. In December of 1862 we find the Battle of Fredericksburg, another Confederate victory. And finally by May of 1863, a surprise attack at Chancellorsville leads to yet another Confederate victory. So as we can see here, the Confederacy wins most of those early battles of the war.

Emancipation

Section 1

- 00:00:00 TEACHER: In today's lesson, we're going to attempt to answer the question, what was the African American experience during the Civil War? Now to recap, you might remember that many free African Americans, like Frederick Douglass, began putting pressure on the Union to free enslaved people. So in this lesson, we're going to look at life for African Americans during the war.
- 00:00:21 President Lincoln's road to the Emancipation Proclamation and the effects of that proclamation. But to start, we're going to look at the contributions of African Americans to the Union war effort both at home and in combat, and how they fought enslavement in the South.

Section 2

- 00:00:00 TEACHER: When the Civil War begins, African Americans in both the North and the South take action. In the North, many African Americans tried to join the Union army, but they were barred by law

from doing so. Now, President Lincoln doesn't change this law, because he fears that more states would leave the Union if he did. In the South, many enslaved people fled to the North, where they encountered Union soldiers.

00:00:26 Now, Congress said that Union commanders were allowed to take these formerly-enslaved people as contraband of war and free them. So many enslaved people found themselves fleeing north that they had to set up refugee camps for them. Now, by the middle of 1862, the Union army needed more recruits. We still saw a number of African Americans attempting

00:00:50 to enlist, and so Congress decides to pass a law in July of that year to allow African American enlistment. Enlistment officially begins that September. Now, at that point, 180,000 African Americans join the Union army. This makes them about 10% of the total soldiers fighting on the Union side. Most of these African American units were led by white

00:01:16 officers and, at first, African American soldiers were paid less than white soldiers. Now perhaps one of the most famous African American units during the Civil War was that 54th Massachusetts regiment. They were formed in March of 1863 and are well known for their heroic effort at Fort Wagner, near Charleston, in July of 1863, where half of the unit was either wounded or killed.

00:01:45 Now this battle proved that African Americans could fight, which up until this point was something that many white soldiers were unsure of. Now what we see in the image is a photograph of a memorial in Boston honoring the "Fighting 54th."

Section 4

00:00:02 TEACHER: So we'll take a moment to pause and look at the overall impact of African Americans in the armed forces historically. We learned a little bit about the Massachusetts 54th that was the first of many African American units. Fast forward a few decades to World War II when the Tuskegee Airmen became the first all African American flying squadron in that conflict.

00:00:29 And today, African Americans make up more than 30% of the armed forces. Now, it's not just in combat that African American had an impact on the Civil War. They also heavily impacted the home front. And we find that men and women kind of took on very different roles. Men found themselves having the opportunity to enlist in

00:00:54 combat positions, but they also could work as cooks, as surgeons and as carpenters. Whereas women, who could not formally join the army, found themselves working as nurses, spies and scouts. And two very vocal African American advocates for freedom, Frederick Douglass and Harriet Tubman, proved to be vital to this home front effort as well. Frederick Douglas argued that African Americans should be

00:01:22 able to enlist, whereas Harriet Tubman worked as a Union spy and was notorious for the work that she did leading enslaved people to freedom through the Underground Railroad. The work of these men and women ultimately served to inspire African Americans over the course of the war.

Section 6

00:00:02 TEACHER: What was the African American experience during the Civil War? As we've learned, African Americans had a major impact on the war effort, from rushing to join the Union army to working diligently on the home front. But the road to emancipation was not easy. It was winding and treacherous. President Lincoln was doing the best he could to keep the

00:00:24 nation together. And he did not issue the proclamation until the war was well under way.

Section 7

00:00:02 TEACHER: So we start off by examining Lincoln's early beliefs about slavery. Long before he issues the Emancipation Proclamation, Lincoln was kind of in the middle on the issue of slavery. While he did not support abolition, he also did not support allowing slavery to grow. He believed that slavery should not expand into new

00:00:23 territories. And he argued against the 1854 Kansas-Nebraska Act, which allowed a vote on slavery in those two states.

Section 9

00:00:02 TEACHER: So long before the Civil War even began, the issue of slavery was very divisive in the country. And looking at this map here you can see the geography of how slave states versus free states were outlined. I'll start off by circling the free states here. We see that those are mostly the Northern states and then a couple in the Midwest and in the Western part of the country.

00:00:32 And then, the slave states make up most of the Southern states here. Now the green is territory that's open to slavery depending on how those states decide to vote. Now politically, anyone who was trying to win a national election needed votes from these slave holding states that we see down here. And so, as a result, many of these national candidates

00:01:04 promised southern voters that slavery would not change. That they would do everything in their power to keep the status quo, keep things the way that they were. And so, all of the tensions between the slave states, the free states, and the states in the middle culminates with Lincoln's election in 1860. In his inaugural address, in March 1861, Lincoln's doing his best to try to reassure the South that he would not

00:01:33 abolish slavery. And that he would leave slavery alone, where it already existed. He's quoted here in his inaugural address as saying, "I have no purpose, directly or indirectly, to interfere with the institution of slavery in the states where it exists. I believe I have no lawful right to do so, and I have no

00:01:52 inclination to do so." So let's just underline lawful right and inclination. He's saying he has no power, nor no interest, to abolish slavery. Ultimately, what he was trying to do was keep the South from leaving the Union over this hot button issue of slavery.

Section 11

00:00:02 TEACHER: So President Lincoln fails at his ultimate goal of keeping the South from leaving the Union. Almost immediately after his 1860 election, South Carolina seceded. Other states soon followed. Now what you're looking at in this image here is a newspaper headline describing what's happening when this conflict begins.

00:00:23 And we see that the headline is very simple. It says the Union is dissolved. Dissolved means to end. To break up. And so shortly after Lincoln's election, part of the Union dissolve as many of these Southern states secede. Nonetheless, Lincoln still tried to convince the South to rejoin the Union.

00:00:47 But his efforts were not enough. Pretty soon after his election, by 1861, the North and the South were at war with one another. Now the South found early victories, like the first Battle of Bull Run. But the September 1862 battle at Antietam proved to be a stalemate or a tie. And because the South had retreated in that battle, the

00:01:18 Union saw that as a strategic victory. And so after this battle, President Lincoln issues the preliminary Emancipation Proclamation. Now when

we look at this word here, preliminary, we want to acknowledge that means this is the first round or something that's coming before something more important later on. And so in this case, the preliminary Emancipation Proclamation was the very first one.

00:01:46 And this proclamation promised to end slavery in the South unless Southern states surrendered and rejoined the Union. None of the Southern states opted to rejoin. And so this takes the conflict a little bit further. Let's see how this leads to the final Emancipation Proclamation. Now this preliminary approximation is just the

00:02:11 first step towards the final one. So we'll outline kind of step by step how we go from preliminary to final here. First, Lincoln writes the proclamation. He, however, has to wait for a Union victory in order to issue it. Now when he sees this window of opportunity when the Union wins the battle--

00:02:33 strategically wins anyway-- he decides at that point to issue the preliminary proclamation. And this proclamation would, again, free enslaved people in the Confederate States that did not rejoin the Union. And this would take place on January 1, 1863. Because none of the Southern states rejoined, the proclamation immediately took affect.

00:02:57 Or takes affect by January of 1863.

Section 13

00:00:02 TEACHER: What was the African American experience during the Civil War? What we've learned so far is that African Americans had an enormous impact on the Civil War, both at home and on the front lines. We know that they looked to President Lincoln, either from the North to free their enslaved brothers and sisters, or from the South to free themselves.

00:00:24 But we also know that Lincoln's priority was keeping the Union together, not free enslaved people. But once the Confederacy succeeds, and the Union has a strategic win at Antietam, Lincoln decides that it's time to issue the Emancipation Proclamation. Now we're going to look at the effects of this proclamation, and how it changes the war into a struggle against slavery, and how it affected African Americans everywhere

00:00:53 in the country.

Section 14

00:00:02 TEACHER: After nearly two years of fighting, President Lincoln issues the Emancipation Proclamation on January 1, 1863. In this proclamation, freedom is given to enslaved people in the Confederate States. And the Union is allowed to start recruiting African American soldiers. However, not everyone was free.

00:00:25 Enslaved people in the border states were left out of the Emancipation Proclamation. These border states, highlighted here, include Missouri, Kentucky, West Virginia, Maryland, and Delaware. As well, the Union controlled area near New Orleans, Louisiana was left out of the Emancipation Proclamation. This is probably because Lincoln wants to keep the

00:00:48 border states loyal. He doesn't want any more states to secede from the Union and join the confederacy. However, Maryland, Missouri, and West Virginia ultimately abolish slavery over the course of the war.

Section 16

00:00:02 TEACHER: The Emancipation Proclamation had strong effects in both the North and the South. In the North, it allowed for about 180,000 African American men to join the Union military, thus making African Americans about 10% of the Union's total armed forces. It also, and perhaps more importantly, changes the purpose of the war. We see the war going from being a war about saving the

00:00:31 Union to being a war about freedom and about freeing enslaved people of the Confederacy. In the South, the effects were a bit different. First off, the proclamation enraged the slavers of the South. It also served to inspire enslaved people to resist their owners. They did this by staging work slowdowns, by escaping to the

00:00:57 North if they had the opportunity, and by joining Union army units. And the image here to the right shows us some postcards that kind of detail this journey from enslavement to escape to giving his life as a Union soldier. So we see a man going through this process, from start to finish here. Finally, there were international effects of the

00:01:23 Emancipation Proclamation, namely, the South losing its support from France and Britain. Now, initially, France and Britain sought to recognize the Confederacy because they needed cotton. And what you're looking at in this image here is a ship leaving South Carolina with 1,000 bales of cotton. So this is something that's really necessary to the European market.

00:01:50 However, if France and Britain supported the South, they would indeed be supporting slavery. And since they had already ended slavery in their own countries, they did not want to support it in other countries.

Section 18

00:00:02 TEACHER: So as we've already discussed the Emancipation Proclamation alone does not end slavery. However, it does serve to be the beginning of the end of slavery. What officially ends slavery is actually an amendment to the Constitution. The 13th Amendment formally abolishes slavery in 1865, after the war has ended.

Life During the War

Section 1

00:00:01 TEACHER: So we know that the war was not easy for both sides already. What we're going to try to answer today is the question, what was life like for soldiers and civilians on both sides during the Civil War? The war would have far-reaching effects for both the Union and the Confederacy on both the front lines and on the home front.

00:00:23 We're going to start off by talking about the Union's experience on the front lines.

Section 2

00:00:02 TEACHER: First, let's discuss who the Union soldiers were and why they chose to volunteer. Some things that you should know about them. Most of these Union volunteers were farmers, and many of them were young men who had never been away from home before. They saw going to war as an adventure. And many of them needed the money that the army paid them to fight.

00:00:23 Now this pay was low, but it was steady and reliable. Their daily experience was either being on the front lines in battle or in one of the camps. And life in the camps was a little better than life on the march, but not a whole lot. Food was provided, but it was often spoiled. And it came in the form of mostly meat and bread. Very, very few vegetables and fruits were available for

00:00:51 these soldiers. The water that they had to drink was very dirty. And as a result of this dirty water, soldiers got sick from the lack of sanitation.

Diseases like diarrhea and pneumonia were common. And because of the unsanitary conditions, lice was something that was very prevalent, as well. Finally, soldiers got bored in camp.

00:01:16 They did pass time with some training exercises, but for the most part they just were waiting between battles.

Section 4

00:00:01 TEACHER: Now, women proved to be a vital asset to the Union's cause in many different ways during the Civil War. They work as nurses helping sick and wounded soldiers. For example, Louisa May Alcott, the author of Little Women, worked as a nurse near Washington, DC. They also work as spies, gathering intelligence on the enemy.

00:00:20 Harriet Tubman, perhaps most famous for the work she did for the Underground Railroad, also worked as a Union spy. Finally, some women even went so far as to disguise themselves as men so that they could fight on the front lines. Now, one woman who underscores the value of women for the Union's cause is Clara Barton. Clara Barton who serves as a Union nurse, ultimately

00:00:45 becoming known as the angel of the battlefield after her midnight delivery of much needed supplies to a Union army camp. She serves at many key battles of the Civil War, and later on in her life, founds the American Red Cross, an organization that to this day is dedicated to providing medical supplies and relief to victims of wars and natural disasters.

00:01:09 Now, medical care during the Civil War was basic at best. Most doctors received very little training. They had no knowledge of germs, and because of water shortages, they often went days without washing their hands or their equipment. As a result, infection is passed from one soldier to another, and these infections lead to multiple deaths. Now because of the advanced weaponry, we also start to see

00:01:35 greater injury imposed on the Union Army. And as a result, many amputations were performed. And what we see in the image on the screen here is a hospital on the battlefield performing one of these amputations. Now in addition to poor medical care, the Union faced a number of challenges. Now, both sides were poorly equipped, but the Union really

00:02:00 suffered from its loss of leadership. Many military officials, like General Robert E. Lee, actually left the US military to join the Confederacy. As well, because so much of the war was fought in the

South, the Union generals were fighting in unfamiliar territory. They didn't know the region or the terrain quite as well as their commanders in the South did.

Section 6

00:00:01 TEACHER: So we've had a chance to explore what life was like for soldiers and civilians on the Union side, on the front lines. We know that they faced difficult conditions, that they often found themselves unprepared, and that women took on vital roles as nurses and spies for the Union Army. Now we're going to go on to talk a little bit about the Confederate side on the front lines.

00:00:24 We'll talk about soldiers and civilians and what their experiences were.

Section 7

00:00:01 TEACHER: So let's discuss who the Confederate soldiers were and why they volunteered. Many of these volunteers were passionate about the Southern cause. And that was their primary motivation. This is because they were defending their homes, their farms, and their way of life. And like a lot of the Union volunteers, many of these were

00:00:19 working class young men who were leaving home for the very first time, and they saw going off to war as some sort of an adventure. When these young men arrive in the army camps, they find that daily life is quite grueling. It's harsh. This is because food shortages were common. Many of the young men who were fighting had previously worked

00:00:42 as farmers. And with their absence, their farms began to suffer, and thus food shortages were incurred. Camp life could be boring for the Confederate soldiers, just as it was for the Union soldiers. The stretches between battles were long, and they found themselves passing time by performing drills sometimes, but mostly just waiting for the next battle.

00:01:06 Just like on the Union side, they also suffered enormous losses from infection and disease. Now the role of women on the Confederate front lines was very impactful as well. They served in a few different ways during the Civil War. They worked as nurses to help the sick and wounded soldiers. And in this image, we see a nurse named Annabelle working with soldiers in Nashville, Tennessee.

00:01:35 They also worked as spies for the Confederate Army. And in this photo, we see Rose O'Neal Greenhow, who was instrumental in helping the Confederates win the Battle of Bull Run. We also know

that some women disguised themselves as men and fought in combat, much like on the Union side. But the problems for the Confederate Army were many. These challenges included not being as well equipped as the

00:02:04 Union Army. They also had a lot of trouble getting supplies. This is because the Union performed a sea blockade that kept the South from being able to access many supplies, and the South's lack of industry an created enormous challenge in creating the resources that they needed. But nonetheless, the Confederate army had some strengths.

00:02:26 They had strong leaders like Robert E. Lee. And they were more familiar with the region in and the terrain. And as a result, they were kind of more motivated to win this war. They were more motivated to defend their home and their way of life.

Section 9

00:00:01 TEACHER: So as we've learned, life was very similar in many ways on the front lines for both the Union and the Confederacy. They both struggled with shortages of equipment and resources. And both sides were supported by women working as nurses and spies. However, the differences were far greater on the home front.

00:00:22 We'll begin by talking about life on the home front on the Union side.

Section 10

00:00:01 TEACHER: So women on the home front were just as vital to the Union's war effort as women on the front lines were. This is because when the men left their farms and factories to go to war, women were the ones left behind to do the work. This included making weapons, making uniforms, taking care of farms, shops, and businesses, and becoming more active politically, including letter-writing campaigns to

00:00:25 the government asking for help for veterans, participating in civic groups, collecting supplies for the war effort, and working to free the enslaved. One of the most important women that the Union had on its side was a woman named Sojourner Truth. She was an abolitionist who made a major impact by becoming a preacher after she sought freedom. She fought for the rights of both women

00:00:53 and enslaved people. And when the war started, she fought to allow African American soldiers to fight in the Union army. Once they were, she worked to collect food and clothing for these soldiers.

Section 12

- 00:00:00 TEACHER: Not everyone on the home front supported the war. President Lincoln feared that the opposition he faced would disrupt the war effort. And so in 1862, he decides to suspend the writ of habeas corpus. Now, this is the part of the Constitution that protects citizens from illegal imprisonment. Lincoln believed that this was necessary because of the riots
- 00:00:20 and other threats that the Union faced. Nonetheless, there were many people who believed that President Lincoln went beyond his powers as president. And in this political cartoon, we can see President Lincoln facing off against members of government who did believe that he went too far. Now, one group in particular that stood in opposition to President Lincoln were known as the Copperheads.
- 00:00:43 The Copperheads were members of the Democratic Party who opposed the war. And in this political cartoon, we see copperhead is named for a type of snake. So you see the heads of the members of this party on the snakes. And they are going up against this woman with the shield who is supposed to be representative of the Union.
- 00:01:01 Now ultimately, the Copperheads wanted to make peace by reforming the United States with slavery allowed. Most of these Copperheads were Democrats from the Midwest. Now, in the North, the Union saw opposition in another way The draft was something that forces people to join a branch of the military. And in New York, low paid workers, including many Irish immigrants, rioted against the draft, because they felt that
- 00:01:29 they were unfair targets. This is because wealthy people could buy their way out of the draft for \$300. Now, \$300 at this time was more than six months wages for a common laborer. The riot in New York lasted for four days. It resulted in the burning of many buildings and the draft headquarters being attacked.
- 00:01:52 Finally, because it was very expensive to manage a war at home and on the battlefield, the Union saw that they needed to print and borrow a lot more money to fund this war. This resulted in inflation, or an increase in prices. Now, although the war does help Union industries, ultimately, the Northern debts were massive by the end of the war.

Section 14

- 00:00:02 TEACHER: So as we've learned, on the Union side's home front, many women took men's jobs in order to keep the economy going. And the

Union had an advantage. They had far more industry on their side. And in some ways the war actually helped develop the Union's economy. The home front on the Confederate side was an

00:00:21 entirely different story. The Confederacy did not have the same kind of industrial advantage that the North had. Since so many of the men were off fighting the war, they found themselves suffering from a food shortage. What we're going to talk about now is what life on the home front was like for the Confederacy.

Section 15

00:00:00 TEACHER: Now on the Confederate home front, women played a very vital role as well. When the men left to go to war, they ended up taking on the roles that the men fulfilled previously, like running the family farms. Now, in doing this, they're taking on jobs and roles that they had not been prepared for. They are running large plantations, working in the

00:00:19 fields, and, initially, were helped by enslaved labor. But enslaved people seemed to have ideas of their own. The war and the Emancipation Proclamation helped inspire these enslaved people to resist. Many of them rise up against slave holders, and some even try to escape to the Union. This made food production even more difficult in the South.

Section 17

00:00:02 TEACHER: The Confederacy also faced a number of economic challenges. The first one stemmed from Lincoln's order of a blockade of the Southern coast which started in 1861. Now, despite using a faster ship, called the blockade runner-- an example, which we see in the image to the right here-- the blockade ultimately prevents the Confederate

00:00:26 supplies from getting in and cotton, which they would make money from, from getting out. And because the Confederacy had far fewer factories to make weapons and equipment, they really depended on as much of these kind of economic advantages as they could get. Now, much in the way that we saw inflation on the Union side, we did see inflation cause a lot of disruption on the Confederate side as well.

00:00:53 Now, the food shortages, combined with the inflation, led to riots within the Confederacy, beginning with the problem of not having enough crops. We know that many of the men left their homes, left their farms, and too few were left behind to continue working to

develop these farms and these crops. And as a result of enslaved workers fleeing to the North, there weren't as many hands to cultivate these crops either.

00:01:23 And because so much of the fighting happens in the South, many of the farms are destroyed. As a result, we see food shortages and increased prices. The lack of crops causes food shortages, and the shortages causes higher prices. And prices were already high because of the inflation, and so they only get even higher from here.

00:01:48 As a result of the lack of food, people start starving. And their frustration and their desperation from starving leads to major riots breaking out. Finally, there was some opposition from within the Confederacy to the war, namely coming from many state governor's who opposed the Confederate government because they wanted to keep their independence due to their strong belief in state's rights.

00:02:19 It's part of the reasons that they seceded from the union to begin with. They really did resent the taxes that the Confederacy imposed upon them.

Turning Points

Section 1

00:00:02 TEACHER: So we've already learned that the Union faced a series of defeats at the beginning of the war. What we're going to explore now is how does the Union turn the tide of war in its favor. We're going to start off by talking about how the war in the West was very different from the war in the East and how a key figure in this shift from defeat to victory was Ulysses S. Grant.

00:00:27 Then we'll move on to talk about the importance of the battles at New Orleans and Vicksburg. We'll wrap up by talking about the battle at Gettysburg and why this was a major turning point. But let's begin by talking about the war in the West and how this helped the Union win its needed victories.

Section 2

00:00:01 TEACHER: So the war in the Western Theater was mostly fought around key rivers in the region. These rivers, as we see on the map here, included the Ohio River, which we see kind of goes along here;

the Tennessee River, which goes in a U-shape there; and then the Mississippi River, which stretched all the way from the north down into the south. Now the US ultimately wanted control of the Mississippi

00:00:29 River, because the hope was that in taking control of this river, they would ultimately be splitting the Confederacy in half, and thus taking away a major supply and transportation route from the Confederacy. Now for their part, the Confederacy thought that control over states like Missouri and Kentucky, which is kind of in this area, would give them control over the border areas.

00:00:59 Now in the West, a face-off begins when Confederates who controlled key river forts, including the major fortress of Vicksburg in Mississippi, are facing off against a fleet of armored Union gunboats. And we see a sketch of gunboats here, which were boats that moved very quickly along the rivers. And they would attack forts with cannon fire. The Union had about 90,000 troops in the West, which

00:01:31 outnumbered the Confederacy by about 20,000.

Section 4

00:00:01 TEACHER: Ulysses S. Grant serves as an influential Union general, as he is responsible for turning the tide of the war to the Union's favor. Now he was a graduate of West Point Academy and did serve in the Mexican-American War, though as a soldier, not as a leader. And before the Civil War begins, he's working in his family's store.

00:00:23 Once the conflict does start, he's given the role as a low-level general but quickly moves up through the rankings because of his success in the western theater. He was given command of the entire Union Army in 1864. And he was so popular that, by 1868, he was elected president and serves two terms. Now as a commander, Grant was determined, aggressive, and willing to learn from his mistakes.

00:00:56 In 1862, he's responsible for capturing Fort Henry and Fort Donelson. And we see in this image here a sketch of the battle at Fort Donelson, which was one of the victories that helps the Union control the border state Kentucky and much of the Confederate-controlled Tennessee. One battle in particular really tested Grant's mettle. This is the Battle of Shiloh, which

00:01:25 happens in April of 1862. In this battle, the Confederates really strike back hard. They do this by launching a surprise early morning attack on Grant's army. As a result of this surprise, the Union is in really bad

shape initially. But Grant refuses to retreat, and Union reinforcements come

00:01:50 within a day. This advantage pushes Grant's army and forces the Confederates to retreat instead. The battle at Shiloh was very intense. Both sides face casualties of about 10,000. This is as many casualties as any battle has seen to this point in the war. And while both sides do claim victory, it is Grant showing

00:02:15 his toughness as a leader that really stands out in this conflict.

Section 6

00:00:02 TEACHER: Now we've been able to get a glimpse at the Union success in the Western theater. But these victories were not enough to completely turn the tide of war in the Union's favor. The Union still needed to take control of the Mississippi in order to split the Confederacy.

Section 7

00:00:02 TEACHER: Now, New Orleans was a key Confederate port located at the mouth of the Mississippi River, which made it vital to Confederate trade as it was necessary to carry goods and supplies into the Western Confederate states. Now because of its importance, it was heavily defended by forts. These forts carried as many as 125 cannons in order to protect the city.

00:00:29 In April of 1862, flag officer David Farragut makes a decision to try to lead a Union fleet past both of the forts that protected New Orleans. The Confederates did their best to send all the ships that they had at hand to stop that fleet, and the fighting was fierce, as we can see in this sketch here. While the Union fleet was badly damaged after the fighting, the Union was able to get into New Orleans and,

00:00:59 eventually, force the Confederacy to surrender the city. And thus, Union troops were able to take control of New Orleans. Nonetheless, the Union leaders still faced some additional challenges. They needed to capture the Confederate fort of Vicksburg in Mississippi.

00:01:21 Now, this fort is located here at the bottom of Mississippi, just north of Louisiana, right on the Mississippi River that we see here. Now, this was the last Confederate fort that protected this major supply chain. And so the Union believed that capturing Vicksburg would give them an opportunity to control the entire river supply chain, and thus they would be able to divide the Confederacy.

00:01:52 Their goal was to separate these Southern-Western states, including Arkansas, Texas, and Louisiana, and cut off the Confederacy from being able to ship supplies and people back and forth from the states.

Section 9

00:00:02 TEACHER: So the Vicksburg campaign was one that was very challenging. This is because Vicksburg was a fort that was extremely well defended by the Confederacy. As you can see in the image here, it's high above the river. And it's surrounded by swamps and trenches. And it was very well protected by a Confederate army.

00:00:21 And while the Union navy had tried and failed to take Vicksburg in 1862, and General Grant and his armies also failed to take Vicksburg in early 1863, Grant did understand just how vital this fort was. And thus, he decides that a new plan of attack is needed. And this plan of attack comes in a siege on May 22 of 1863, where Grant's army begins to block people and supplies from coming and going from the city.

00:00:53 As a result of the siege, living conditions in the city were very, very hard. This is because the number of civilians and soldiers crammed into the region forced many people to dig hillside caves for homes, as we can see in the image here. Very soon after the siege begins, the Confederacy finds itself running out of food and supplies, and thus decides to surrender on July 4 of 1863.

Section 11

00:00:01 TEACHER: So the Union's capturing of Vicksburg proves to be a turning point in the war for a number of reasons. First of all, it helps the Union win the war in the west, which gives it an opportunity to start focusing more of its efforts into the eastern theater. As well, the Union's able to take control of the Mississippi River, and thus divide the Confederacy and take control of the vital supply chain that they

00:00:26 depended on. It also results in raising Union morale and severely hurting the Confederacy's morale. And finally, it leads to Grant taking control of all of the Union armies, which for the first time gives Union forces a successful leader with a proven track record.

Section 13

00:00:00 TEACHER: Now, we know that the union wins the war in the West, they succeed in dividing the Confederacy by capturing Vicksburg. But at the same time that Vicksburg was falling, there was another major

turning point happening in a battle in Pennsylvania. Let's move on to talk about why this battle was so important.

Section 14

- 00:00:02 TEACHER: So at this point, all of the Eastern battles have been fought in the Confederate territory. And so in June of 1863, General Lee decides that the time has come to invade the Union's territory. He does this for a few different reasons. He primarily wants to remove Union pressure from Virginia. His goal is to take Union troops out of Virginia, and therefore protect his territory by
- 00:00:32 threatening the North. He also hoped that a victory on Union soil would break down some of the North's morale. He hoped that in succeeding in a victory in a Northern territory, that would convince European nations to recognize the Confederacy is an independent nation, as the South needed allies. Finally, this was all happening as Vicksburg was
- 00:00:57 simultaneously under siege by the Union, and he hoped to relieve some of their pressure. And thus we see the beginning of the Battle of Gettysburg, which happens in the southern part of Pennsylvania, Union-controlled territory. And this territory was controlled by the commander of the Army of the Potomac, George Meade. On July 1, 1863, these two sides meet in Gettysburg.
- 00:01:28 On that first day of fighting, the Confederates were able to drive the Union troops back into a defensive position. But all of that changes once Union reinforcements arrive. On July 2, General Lee tries and fails to break Union lines by attacking the defensive positions at Cemetery Ridge and Little Round Top. The fighting was fierce and both sides suffer extreme losses.
- 00:01:55 On July 3, the Confederate army tries one more time to attack the strongest part of the Union lines. This becomes known as Pickett's Charge, which was named after the man who led the charge, George Pickett. Here the Confederates were defeated and faced heavy losses. Of 14,000 troops, not even half came back. And on July 4, when the Union had lost about a quarter of
- 00:02:23 its total troops, compared to about a third of the total forces lost by the Confederacy, General Lee finds himself forced to retreat. And this proves that Gettysburg is his greatest defeat thus far in the war.

Section 16

00:00:00 TEACHER: Let's talk a bit about the significance of the Battle of Gettysburg, which is known as a major turning point in the American Civil War. The Battle of Gettysburg and the battle of Vicksburg, which occurs just a few days later, would prove to be significant union victories. Now, Gettysburg would once and for all

00:00:19 end hopes of Europe allying with the Confederacy. Many European countries at this point believe that the Union was going to win the war and so they were more likely to ally or support the Union. This is going to combine with the weakening of Lee's army during this particular battle. And that the weakening of the Army, the support of Europe kind of going into the Union,

00:00:46 is going to have an effect on both the Union and on the Confederacy. In the Union, we're going to see increased morale-- meaning increased kind of psychological support. But Confederate morale is going to be severely damaged. Up to this point, many people in the south believed that Lee's army was unbeatable. And here at Gettysburg it is proven that Lee is definitely

00:01:11 beatable and now it's actually looking like Grant is the one that's unbeatable. And so Gettysburg is going to be a significant battle that is recognized by President Lincoln in 1863 when the Union dedicated a cemetery at Gettysburg. President Lincoln gave a very short but very powerful speech that is known as the Gettysburg Address. And since then, this has become one

00:01:38 of the most famous presidential speeches in US history. So now let's check your understanding of the significance of the Battle of Gettysburg.

Section 18

00:00:01 TEACHER: Today the Gettysburg battlefield is a national military park that's preserved by the National Park Service, which also maintains other parks that have Civil War ties, including the battlefield at Antietam. Thousands of guests, including many students like you, visit this park each year to learn more about the Civil War.

Southern Surrender

Section 1

00:00:02 TEACHER: How did the Union win the Civil War? We've had a chance to talk a little bit about how the North really wanted this war to come to an end. After three years of fighting, they were ready for that. And we also know that the Confederate Army begins losing battles in 1864. So in this lesson, you're going to have a chance to learn a little bit about the change in the Union strategy,

00:00:26 the importance of Lincoln's re-election, and the events leading to General Lee's surrender. First, we're going to start off by looking at the Union's strategy for ending the war.

Section 2

00:00:01 TEACHER: As we examine the question, how did the Union win the Civil War, it's important to look at some of the key figures that helped the Union achieve its victory. And Ulysses S. Grant is certainly one of those key figures. Grant was the commander of the Union forces beginning in 1864 and going through to the end of the war. His focus was placed on beating the Confederate

00:00:25 commander, Robert E. Lee, in Virginia. Now, Grant was known as being resilient, independent, and determined. And that legacy, that reputation, actually helped him become the country's 18th president in 1869. Now, one of Grant's strategies was something called total war. And total war is a military strategy in which those

00:00:52 fighting attack their opponent's resources. This includes civilian resources. And Grant decided to use total war on the South. As a result, Southern property was destroyed, and Southern civilians had their food and animals seized by the Army. Before we move on, let's take a moment to review what we've gone over to this point.

Section 4

00:00:01 TEACHER: Now, in the fall of 1864, Union General Philip Sheridan uses the total war strategy in an assault on Virginia's Shenandoah Valley. He hopes to cut off the Confederate supply lines that are vital to their forces. And so the army destroys farmlands and factories, which hurts the South, because now they cannot feed their army. Now, the victory that the Union sees gives them an

00:00:23 advantage, and also helps President Lincoln win reelection that year, which we'll talk about later segment. Another really important general and leader was William Sherman. Now, General Sherman helps General Grant win the Battle of Vicksburg in Mississippi. And although he was initially hesitant to command his own

00:00:41 forces, he does prove to be an effective and successful leader. He also uses the total war strategy in his March to the Sea in Georgia. There he leaves behind a path of destruction that would help bring about the war's end. Now, let's talk a little bit about this march. It happens in November, 1864, where General Sherman begins

00:01:02 in Atlanta, and moves southeast towards Savannah. Along the way, he's destroying buildings, railroads, and crops, reaching Savannah on December 10, and capturing the city on December 21. Now, this march across Georgia dealt a major blow to the Confederates' war effort.

Section 6

00:00:02 TEACHER: So we've had a chance to talk a little bit about the Union strategy to end the war. We've learned that generals like Sheridan and Sherman were responsible for using total war to destroy Confederate land, railroads and supplies. Now we're going to move on to taking a look at Lincoln's re-election in 1864, and how his decisions ultimately lead to the war's coming to an end.

Section 7

00:00:00 TEACHER: Lincoln was worried that he would not win re-election in 1864 for a number of reasons. One, Northerners were divided over the issue of the Emancipation Proclamation, which freed enslaved people in the Confederate States. As well, more than 65,000 Union soldiers had been killed in the summer of 1864 alone. And it seemed that President Lincoln didn't have a plan to

00:00:23 win the war. In this election, President Lincoln faces off against General George McClellan. General McClellan, you might remember, led the Union's Army in the Battle of Antietam, but was later replaced by General Ambrose Burnside. Both parties had very specific platforms going into the election.

00:00:42 The Republican Party, led by President Lincoln, supported emancipation and wanted to continue the war effort until the South was defeated. The Democratic Party, led by General McClellan, opposed emancipation. And even though General McClellan wanted to continue the war, his party was divided on the issue. Some wanted to continue the war.

00:01:02 Some wanted to negotiate for peace. Ultimately, Southern leaders believed that they could negotiate for independence if McClellan won the election. President Lincoln's chances of winning improved when a couple things happened-- when General Sherman captured Atlanta,

which boosted Northern morale, and when General McClellan's campaign started suffering due to the party tensions we mentioned.

00:01:26

Ultimately, President Lincoln wins by a large margin. He wins by about 400,000 popular votes. And he wins about 90% of the electoral votes. Many of the popular votes came from Union soldiers who helped we could win that second term.

Section 9

00:00:02

TEACHER: So by March 4, 1865, when Lincoln takes a second oath of office, the end of the war is in sight. In his inaugural address, Lincoln states that the war has been fought to abolish slavery, and he asks the nation to work to both finish the war and establish peace after the conflict. In his inaugural address, he says, "With malice toward none, with charity for all, let us strive on to finish the

00:00:31

work we are in, to bind up the nation's wounds, to care for him who shall have borne the battle, and cherish a just and lasting peace among ourselves." And in saying the word malice, he means bad feelings. So with no bad feelings.

Section 11

00:00:01

TEACHER: So far, we've had a chance to learn about the Union's new total war strategy in 1864, which included General Sherman's capture of Atlanta. We've also had a chance to talk a little bit about Lincoln's re-election in 1864. Now let's move on to talk about how the war ends.

Section 12

00:00:02

TEACHER: The Siege of Petersburg, one of the most important campaigns that finally leads to the end of the Civil War, happens in Virginia from June of 1864 all the way through April of 1865. In this conflict, General Grant had more than twice the number of soldiers that General Lee had. You're looking at about 120,000 Union soldiers going up against 50,000 Confederate soldiers.

00:00:29

And in this image here, we see Union soldiers taking a little break kind of between battles in a trench at Petersburg. Ultimately, General Grant is able to break through the Confederate lines on April 2, 1865, shortly after which General Lee sends a message to President Davis to evacuate Richmond because the Union forces have arrived. Now the capture at Richmond happens when the Union army is fast approaching and President Davis and his cabinet have to

00:01:06 flee while the defenders of the city set the whole town on fire. Within a day, the Union soldiers have arrived and by that time General Lee's army is down to only about 35,000 soldiers. And they're without food. And since they needed rations and food, they wouldn't be able to go on.

00:01:31 The Confederate army decides to make one last stand near the Appomattox Courthouse, but they were surrounded. When General Lee finds himself up against the wall, he finally surrenders to General Grant on April 9, 1865. Now with this surrender, Grant decides to offer very generous terms. He gives Lee's men food, he orders them to go home rather than taking them prisoner, and he promises that they would

00:02:04 not be put on trial for treason. Shortly after this surrender, other Confederate generals follow Lee's lead and decide to surrender themselves. And the war has come to an end.

Section 14

00:00:01 TEACHER: The Civil War ends up making the total war strategy more common in future warfare. Total war ends up being used in conflicts like World War I and World War II. And in this image here, you're looking at a village that was completely destroyed during World War I.

Aftermath

Section 1

00:00:01 TEACHER: Today's lesson is going to help us answer the question, what problems did the nation face at the end of the Civil War? When the Civil War ends, the nation has to deal with the aftermath. The cost of the war is really high, especially in the South. And so, we're going to look at this aftermath, including looking at the nation's political challenges, its

00:00:24 economic challenges, and the challenges that newly freed people were facing in the aftermath of slavery coming to an end. We'll start off by looking at the political challenges that the country faces.

Section 2

00:00:00 TEACHER: Now the federal government's role is expanded as a result of the Civil War. It establishes a federal pension system, or a system of

providing money to soldiers after they fight. As well, as the result of increased government contracts with private companies, we start to see the groundwork being laid for the industrial system that develops in the late 1800s and early 1900s.

00:00:23 And, finally, after abolishing slavery, we start to see an extension of rights to formerly enslaved people. Now, developed in 1850, the Republican Party sees a major victory just 10 years later when President Lincoln is elected for the very first time. His reelection in 1864 and the Union's victory ends up solidifying the Republican Party's power, and the Republicans and Democrats ultimately create the

00:00:50 two-party system that continues today.

Section 4

00:00:00 TEACHER: Now many people in the South are unhappy about these changes in favor of more Federal power. They are angry at the planned abolition of slavery. And we can see a lot of that anger depicted in the cartoon on the screen here, where many slave holders felt that President Lincoln had them up a tree. They resented abolitionists, President Lincoln, and the Republican Party.

00:00:20 And even though they didn't win the war, they hoped to see an end to Lincoln's leadership. One of the people who supported bringing an end to Lincoln's leadership was a man named John Wilkes Booth. He was an actor from Maryland, who disagreed greatly with President Lincoln and the abolitionists. So much so that he was part of the militia that hanged the abolitionist John Brown in 1859.

00:00:43 He did make several attempts to kidnap President Lincoln in 1864 and 1865, but when those failed he devises a plot to kill the President. Now on April 14, 1865, John Wilkes Booth enters the Presidential box at Ford's Theater and shoots President Lincoln in the back of the head. And you can see the depiction of the events as they unfolded on the screen here.

00:01:09 Now as he flees the theater, Booth cries "Sic Semper Tyranus," which in Latin means, thus always to tyrants. And although President Lincoln was immediately attended to by doctors, he died the following morning. President Lincoln's assassination had major effects on the United States. Immediately, the nation condemns his assassination and goes into mourning.

00:01:34 And the photo that you see on the screen here is of the funeral procession in Washington after his assassination. Now it was very

surprising to John Wilkes Booth that he was condemned for his action, because he expected to be heralded as a hero. He tries to escape but he's caught 11 days later. And when he refuses to surrender he's killed by US

00:01:55 Army soldiers. Now following President Lincoln's assassination, the Vice President, Andrew Johnson, a Democrat, is inaugurated. And thus, it's President Johnson that's going to lead the country into the future.

Section 6

00:00:01 TEACHER: What problems did the nation face at the end of the Civil War? We just had a chance to talk a little bit about the political challenges that the country faces in the aftermath of the war, the increase of the federal government's power and the assassination of President Lincoln. Now we're going to talk a little bit about the economic challenges that the country faces after the war.

Section 7

00:00:02 TEACHER: The Northern economy faced a very different aftermath than the southern economy after the Civil War ends. The North finds itself facing very similar economic advantages after the war as it had before the war began, including thriving factories and businesses. This is because during the war, they supplied the armies. There was also a strong transportation network,

00:00:27 including a good system of train lines and roadways. And the end of slavery doesn't really hurt the North's economy because employers were already accustomed to paying wages to their workers. And since most of the fighting happens in the South, there's very little physical destruction caused by the war in the North. But in the South, economic challenges abound.

00:00:55 The plantations and farms of the South were destroyed. And since its economy is mostly based on agriculture, this is an enormous blow. And since slave labor is no longer an option, wages now had to be paid to these workers, making more demands on an already weakened economy.

Section 9

00:00:00 TEACHER: One of the major changes in the agricultural South is a new system called sharecropping, replacing slavery. Through sharecropping, landowners divided their land into smaller plots. And

sharecroppers got one of these plots, a cabin to live in, and supplies to grow some sort of cash crop, like cotton.

00:00:21 The goal was for sharecroppers to grow a certain amount of crops each year and divide their profits in half. They'd give one half the profit the landowner, and they'd keep the other half for themselves. But as we'll see, sharecropping ends up being not much better than slavery. This is because landowners did not have to pay any sort of wage to the workers.

00:00:43 And the sharecroppers were tied to someone else's land, land that they didn't own. And as a result, sharecroppers were still poor, because they were forced into massive amounts of debt. Let's take a look at how this cycle of debt evolves. Sharecroppers were forced to use credit to buy the supplies from landowners. Buying on credit means doing something now, and promising

00:01:08 to pay for it later. The high interest rates or fees that were imposed on these sharecroppers by landowners, meant that they had to pay back more than the items initially cost. And this forces them to constantly be in debt. They remained poor. And as a result, they had an inability to leave the plot. They are constantly owing the landowner money.

00:01:34 And they couldn't leave the farm and move on to start their lives. You're going to learn more about sharecropping as you continue to study US history.

Section 11

00:00:00 TEACHER: Now, in today's lesson, we're trying to answer the question, what problems did the nation face at the end of the Civil War? Now, to recap, we know in the aftermath of the war, the South had to deal with the challenge of rebuilding an economy that's not based on enslaved labor. In this segment, we're going to talk a little more about the challenges that newly freed people faced following the end of slavery.

00:00:23

Section 12

00:00:01 TEACHER: The 13th Amendment officially abolishes slavery in the United States. It was ratified, or approved, in December of 1865, stating, "neither slavery nor involuntary servitude shall exist within the United States." And this is the first of 3 amendments that give civil rights to African Americans.

Section 14

- 00:00:02 TEACHER: The Civil War does bring about freedom in the South, but the meaning of freedom means different things to different people. For formerly enslaved people, it meant having their own economic independence, having the right to vote, and having the right to choose where to live, where to work, and where to be educated. But for many Southern whites, it meant something different.
- 00:00:30 It meant that there was now a need for a new way to control African Americans, and a need to prevent African Americans from having any real freedom or equality with whites. Now one thing that does improve for formerly enslaved people is family life. Enslaved families were often separated when members of the family were sold away to other slave owners. Now that they were freed, they could legally marry, they
- 00:01:04 could live together as families, and they could divide work and family duties as they wished. But outside the home, something called Jim Crow laws, laws that were passed in states to keep African Americans from gaining real equality with whites, were passed. Now these Jim Crow laws kept African Americans segregated or separated from whites in nearly every aspect of life.
- 00:01:36 And these laws stayed in effect in many states through the 1950s and '60s, when the civil rights movement finally overturns them.