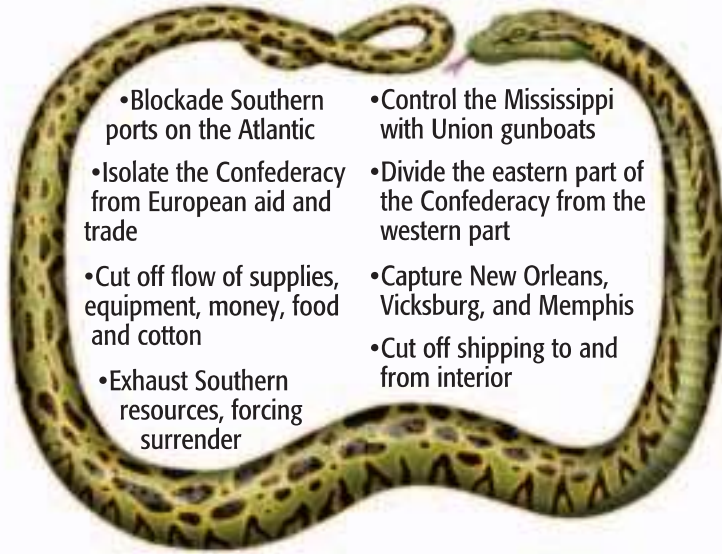


## The Anaconda Plan



Early in the war, Jefferson Davis imagined a struggle similar to the American war for independence against Britain in which Southern generals would pick their battles carefully, attacking and retreating when necessary to avoid heavy losses. By waging a defensive war of attrition, Davis believed the South could force the Union to spend its resources until it became tired of the war and agreed to negotiate. Instead, President Davis felt pressure to strike for a quick victory, especially since many Southerners believed that their military traditions made them superior fighters. In the war, Southern troops went on the offensive in eight battles, suffering 20,000 more casualties than the Union by charging enemy lines. These were heavy losses the South could not afford.

The general in chief of the United States, Winfield Scott, suggested that the Union blockade Confederate ports and send gunboats down the Mississippi River to divide the Confederacy in two. The South, thus separated, would gradually run out of resources and surrender. Many Northerners rejected the strategy, which they called the Anaconda Plan, after a snake that slowly strangles its prey to death. They thought it was too slow and indirect for certain victory. Lincoln eventually agreed to implement Scott's suggestions and imposed a blockade of Southern ports. He and other Union leaders realized that only a long war that focused on destroying the South's armies had any chance of success.

**Reading Check** **Comparing** In what areas did the opposing sides have advantages and disadvantages?

## The Early Stages

**Main Idea** With Union casualties rising, President Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation.

**Reading Connection** Do you know someone who lived through the food rationing during World War II? Read on to learn how the war affected daily life.

During the first few months of the war, President Lincoln felt tremendous pressure to strike hard against the South. He approved an assault on Confederate troops gathered near Manassas Junction, Virginia, only 25 miles (40 km) south of Washington, D.C. The First Battle of Bull Run, as it came to be called, started well for the Union as it forced Confederate troops to retreat. Then the tide turned when reinforcements under the command of Thomas J. "Stonewall" Jackson helped the Confederates defeat the Union forces. This outcome made it clear that the North would need a large, well-trained army to prevail against the South.

Lincoln had originally called for 75,000 men to serve for three months. The day after Bull Run, he signed another bill for the enlistment of 500,000 men for three years. The North initially tried to encourage voluntary enlistment by offering a bounty—a sum of money given as a bonus—to individuals who promised three years of military service. Eventually both the Union and the Confederacy instituted the draft.

**The Naval War** While the Union and Confederacy mobilized their armies, President Lincoln proclaimed a blockade of all Confederate ports in an effort to cut Confederate trade with the world. Although the blockade became increasingly effective as the war dragged on, Union vessels were thinly spread and found it difficult to stop the blockade runners—small, fast vessels the South used to smuggle goods past the blockade, usually at night. By using blockade runners, the South could ship at least some of its cotton to Europe in exchange for shoes, rifles, and other supplies.

As part of its effort to close Southern ports, the Union navy developed a plan to seize New Orleans and gain control of the lower Mississippi River. In February 1862, David G. Farragut took command of a combined Union force consisting of 42 warships and 15,000 soldiers led by General Benjamin Butler. On April 25, 1862, Farragut arrived at New Orleans. Six days later, General Butler's troops took control of the city. The South's largest city, and a center of the cotton trade, was now in Union hands.

**The War in the West** In February 1862, as Farragut prepared for his attack on New Orleans, Union general **Ulysses S. Grant** began a campaign to seize control of the Cumberland and Tennessee Rivers. Control of these rivers would cut Tennessee in two and provide the Union with a river route deep into Confederate territory.

All of Kentucky and most of western Tennessee soon came under Union control. Grant next headed up the Tennessee River to attack Corinth, Mississippi. Seizing Corinth would cut the Confederacy's only rail line connecting Mississippi and western Tennessee to the east. Early on April 6, 1862, Confederate forces launched a surprise attack on Grant's troops, which were camped about 20 miles (32 km) north of Corinth near a small church named Shiloh. The Union won the Battle of Shiloh the following day, but both sides paid an enormous cost. Twenty thousand troops had been killed or wounded, more than in any other battle up to that point. When newspapers demanded Grant be fired because of the high casualties, Lincoln refused, saying, "I can't spare this man; he fights."

**The War in the East** While Grant fought his battles in the West, another major campaign was being waged in the East to capture Richmond, Virginia, the Confederate capital. In late June 1862, Confederate general Robert E. Lee began a series of attacks on the Union army that became known collectively as the Seven Days' Battle. Although Lee was unable to decisively defeat the Union army, he did force its retreat. Together the two sides suffered over 30,000 casualties.

As Union troops withdrew, Lee decided to attack the Union forces defending Washington. The maneuvers by the two sides led to another battle at Bull Run, near Manassas Junction, the site of the first major battle of the war. The South again forced the North to retreat, leaving the Confederate forces only 20 miles (32 km) from Washington, D.C. Soon after, Lee's forces invaded Maryland.

Both Lee and Jefferson Davis believed that only an invasion would convince the North to accept the South's independence. They also thought that a victory on Northern soil might help the South win recognition from the British and help the Peace Democrats gain control of Congress in the upcoming midterm elections. By heading north, Lee also could feed his troops from Northern farms and draw Union troops out of Virginia during harvest season.

On September 17, 1862, Lee's forces met Union troops under the command of General George B.

McClellan at **Antietam** (an·TEE·tuhm) Creek. The Battle of Antietam, the bloodiest one-day battle in American history, ended with over 6,000 men killed and around another 16,000 wounded. Although McClellan did not break Lee's lines, he inflicted so many casualties that Lee decided to retreat to Virginia.

The Battle of Antietam was a crucial victory for the Union. The British government had been ready to intervene in the war as a mediator if Lee's invasion had succeeded. Britain also had begun making plans to recognize the Confederacy in the event the North rejected mediation. Lee's defeat at Antietam changed everything. The British again decided to wait and see how the war progressed. With this decision, the South lost its best chance at gaining international recognition and support. The South's defeat at Antietam had an even more important political impact in the United States. It convinced Lincoln that the time had come to end slavery in the South.

**The Emancipation Proclamation** Most Democrats opposed any move to end slavery, while Republicans were divided on the issue. With Northern casualties rising to staggering levels, however, more Northerners began to agree that slavery had to end, in part to punish the South and in part to make the soldiers' sacrifices worthwhile.

On September 22, 1862, encouraged by the Union victory at Antietam, Lincoln publicly announced that he would issue the **Emancipation Proclamation**—a decree freeing all enslaved persons in states still in rebellion after January 1, 1863. Because the Proclamation freed enslaved African Americans only in states at war with the Union, it did not address slavery in the border states. Short of a constitutional

▼ *The "Hornet's Nest" at the Battle of Shiloh*





amendment, Lincoln could not end slavery in the border states, nor did he want to endanger their loyalty. 📖 (See page 995 for more on the *Emancipation Proclamation*.) The Proclamation, by its very existence, transformed the conflict over preserving the Union into a war of liberation.

**Life During the Civil War** As the war intensified, the economies of the North and South went in different directions. By the end of 1862, the South's economy had begun to suffer greatly. The collapse of the South's transportation system and the presence of Union troops in several important agricultural regions led to severe food shortages in the winter of 1862. In several communities, food shortages led to riots. Hearing of such hardships, many Confederate soldiers deserted to return home to help their families.

In contrast, the North actually experienced an economic boom because of the war. With its large, well-established banking industry, the North raised money for the war more easily than the South. Its growing industries also supplied Union troops with clothes, munitions, and other necessities.

Innovations in agriculture helped minimize the loss of labor as men left to fight. Greater use of mechanical reapers and mowers made farming possible with fewer workers, many of whom were women. Women also filled labor shortages in various industries, particularly in clothing and shoemaking factories.

Both Union and Confederate soldiers endured a hard life with few comforts. They faced the constant threat of disease and extreme medical procedures if

### **Picturing History**

**Battlefield Medicine** The greatest impact women had on the battlefield was through serving as nurses. [In what non-military ways did women contribute to the war effort?](#)



they got injured in battle. Life for prisoners of war was just as difficult, especially in Southern prisons that faced food shortages.

While the war brought hardship to many Americans, it offered new opportunities for African Americans. The Emancipation Proclamation officially permitted African Americans to enlist in the Union army and navy. Almost immediately, thousands of African Americans rushed to join the military.

Women helped in the war effort at home by managing family farms and businesses. Perhaps their most important contribution to the Civil War was in serving as nurses to the wounded. One of the most prominent war nurses was Clara Barton, who left her job in a Washington patent office to aid soldiers on the battlefield. The Civil War was a turning point for the American nursing profession. The courage shown by women helped break down the belief that women were emotionally weaker than men.

✔ **Reading Check Analyzing** Why do you think so many African Americans were willing to volunteer to fight?

## **The Turning Point**

**Now Try** **With the help of key victories at Vicksburg and Gettysburg, the North defeated the South after four long years of fighting.** **-TURNING POINT-**

**Reading Connection** Recall a time when you faced a situation you had been dreading. Did the outcome surprise you? Read on to learn about Confederate general Robert E. Lee's surrender to Ulysses S. Grant.

In 1863 an end to the war still was not in sight. Two more long years of battle lay ahead for Americans.

**Vicksburg and Gettysburg** Gaining control of the Mississippi River was a vital element of the Union strategy for winning the Civil War. If the Union could capture **Vicksburg**, Mississippi, the last major Confederate stronghold on the river, then the North could cut the South in two.

On May 19, 1863, Grant launched an all-out assault on Vicksburg, but the city's defenders repulsed the attack and inflicted high casualties. When a second attack also failed, Grant decided to put the city under **siege**—cutting off its food and supplies and bombarding the city until its defenders gave up. On July 4, 1863, with his troops literally on the verge of starvation, the Confederate commander at Vicksburg surrendered.

Emboldened by recent victories against Union troops, Lee decided in June 1863 to invade the North. At the end of June, as Lee's army foraged in the Pennsylvania countryside, some of his troops headed into **Gettysburg**, hoping to seize a supply of shoes. When they arrived near the town, they discovered two brigades of Union cavalry. On July 1, 1863, as Confederates pushed the Union troops out of the town, the main forces of both armies hurried to the scene of the fighting.

On July 2, Lee attacked, but the Union troops held their ground. The following day, Lee ordered nearly 15,000 men under the command of General George E. Pickett and General A.P. Hill to make a massive assault. In the attack, which became known as Pickett's Charge, Union cannons and guns inflicted 7,000 casualties in less than half an hour of fighting.

Pickett's Charge failed to break the Union lines. Fewer than 5,000 men made it up the ridge, and Union troops quickly overwhelmed those who did. "It is all my fault," said Lee. "It is I who have lost this fight." Lee's troops retreated back to Virginia. At Gettysburg, the Union suffered 23,000 casualties, but the South's toll was an estimated 28,000 casualties, more than one-third of Lee's entire force.

The disaster at Gettysburg proved to be the turning point of the war in the East. The Union's victory strengthened the Republicans politically and ensured once again that the British would not recognize the Confederacy. For the remainder of the war, Lee's forces remained on the defensive, slowly giving ground to the advancing Union army.

In November 1863, Lincoln came to Gettysburg to dedicate a part of the battlefield as a cemetery. His speech, the **Gettysburg Address**, became one of the best-known orations in American history. In it, Lincoln reminded his listeners that the nation was "conceived in liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal":

“It is . . . for us to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us—that . . . we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain; that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom; and that the government of the people, by the people, and for the people, shall not perish from the earth.”

—from the Gettysburg Address

 (See page 996 for the complete text of the Gettysburg Address.)

**Grant Secures Tennessee** After the Union's major victories at Vicksburg and Gettysburg, fierce fighting erupted in Tennessee near Chattanooga, a



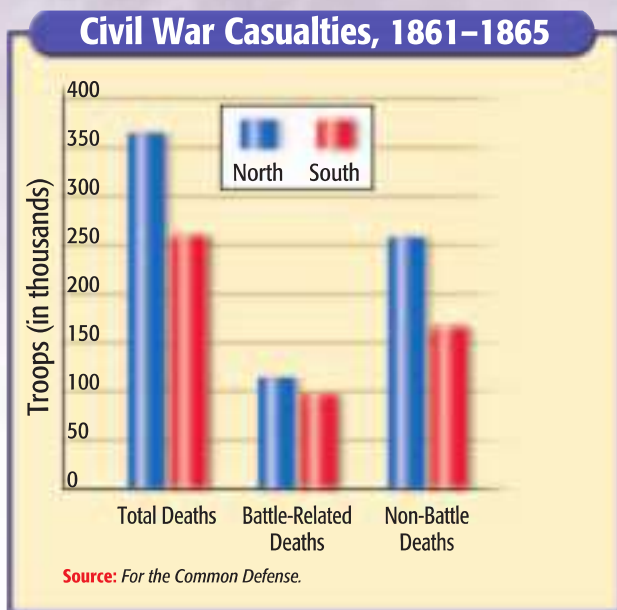
### Picturing History

**Vicksburg Besieged** Union troops used this house as a headquarters during the siege of Vicksburg. Nearby are Union trenches and the opening to a tunnel being dug under Confederate lines. [For how long was the city of Vicksburg under siege by Grant's Union forces?](#)

vital railroad junction. Both the North and South knew that if Union forces captured Chattanooga, they would control a major railroad running south to Atlanta. Following several battles, union forces under the command of General Grant succeeded in scattering the Confederate soldiers who blocked the way to the city.

By the spring of 1864, Grant had accomplished two crucial objectives for the Union. His capture of Vicksburg had given the Union control of the Mississippi River, while his victory at Chattanooga had secured eastern Tennessee and cleared the way for an invasion of Georgia. Lincoln rewarded Grant by appointing him general in chief of the Union forces and promoting him to lieutenant general, a rank no one had held since George Washington. The president had finally found a general he trusted to win the war.

**Grant Versus Lee** By the spring of 1864, Union leaders knew that the only way to end the long and bloody war was to defeat Lee's army. General Grant put his most trusted **subordinate**, William Tecumseh Sherman, in charge of Union operations in the West. Grant then took command of the Union troops facing Lee. His campaign led to battles in the Wilderness, a densely forested area near Fredericksburg, Virginia, and Spotsylvania Courthouse southeast of the Wilderness. Convinced that his relentless attacks had weakened and demoralized Lee's troops, Grant decided to launch an all-out assault at Cold Harbor, a strategic crossroads northeast of Richmond. The



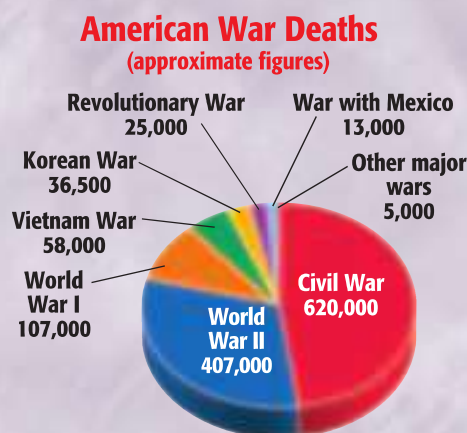
attack failed miserably, costing the Union 7,000 casualties, compared to only 1,500 for the South.

Grant then tried another plan. He ordered General Philip Sheridan to distract Lee with a cavalry raid outside Richmond. Grant headed south to capture the nearby town of Petersburg and thus cut off the rail line supplying Richmond and Lee’s forces. The strength of the city’s defenses intimidated the Union troops, who were already exhausted and demoralized. Realizing a full-scale frontal assault would be suicidal, Grant ordered his troops to lay siege to the city.

**Union Victories in the South** On August 5, 1864, the Union navy under David Farragut tried to secure the last major Confederate port on the Gulf of Mexico east of the Mississippi—Mobile, Alabama. After getting past the Confederate forts, Farragut’s ships destroyed a Confederate fleet defending Mobile Bay. Although Farragut did not capture Mobile, he did seal off the bay.

At the same time, General Sherman marched his army from Chattanooga toward Atlanta, Georgia. In late August 1864, his army easily took the city. Sherman’s troops set fires to destroy railroads, warehouses, mills, and factories. The fires spread quickly, destroying more than one-third of Atlanta.

On November 15, 1864, Sherman led his troops east across Georgia in what became known as the March to the Sea. The purpose of the march was to make Southern civilians understand the horrors of war and to pressure them into giving up the struggle. Sherman’s troops cut a path of destruction through Georgia that was at times 60 miles (97 km)



Source: United States Civil War Center; For the Common Defense

### Chart Skills

- 1. Interpreting Graphs** How do the battle-related deaths compare to non-battle deaths?
- 2. Understanding Cause and Effect** What do these graphs tell you about conditions on and off the battle field in both the North and South?

wide. By December 21, 1864, they had reached the coast and seized Georgia’s first settlement, the city of Savannah.

After reaching the Atlantic coast, Sherman turned north and headed into South Carolina, the state that many people believed had started the Civil War. “The whole army,” Sherman wrote, “is burning with an insatiable desire to wreak vengeance upon South Carolina.” Sherman’s troops burned and pillaged nearly everything in front of them. The march greatly demoralized Southerners. As one South Carolinian wrote, “[T]o fight longer seems madness.”

**The South Surrenders** The capture of Atlanta came just in time to revitalize Northern support for the war and for Lincoln himself. On Election Day, voters elected the president to another term. Lincoln interpreted his reelection as an approval of his war policies and as a **mandate**, or clear sign from the voters, to end slavery permanently by amending the Constitution. To get the amendment through Congress, Republicans appealed to Democrats who were against slavery to help them. On January 31, 1865, the **Thirteenth Amendment** to the Constitution, banning slavery in the United States, was narrowly passed by the House of Representatives and was sent to the states for ratification.



Meanwhile, Lee knew that time was running out. On April 1, 1865, Union troops led by Philip Sheridan cut the last rail line into Petersburg at the Battle of Five Forks. The following night, Lee's troops withdrew from their positions near the city and raced west.

Lee's desperate attempt to escape Grant's forces failed when Sheridan's cavalry got ahead of Lee's troops and blocked the road at **Appomattox Courthouse**. When his troops failed to break through, Lee sadly observed, "There is nothing left for me to do but go and see General Grant, and I would rather die a thousand deaths." With his ragged and battered troops surrounded and outnumbered, Lee surrendered to Grant on April 9, 1865.

Grant's generous terms of surrender guaranteed that the United States would not prosecute Confederate soldiers for treason. When Grant agreed to let Confederates take their horses home "to put in a crop to carry themselves and their families through the next winter," Lee thanked him, adding that the kindness would "do much toward conciliating our people." As Lee left he shook hands with Ely Parker, a Senecan who served as Grant's secretary. "I am glad to see a real American here," Lee told the Native American. Parker replied, "We are all Americans."

With the war over, Lincoln delivered a speech describing his plan to restore the Southern states to the Union. In the speech, he mentioned including African Americans in Southern state governments. One listener, actor John Wilkes Booth, sneered to a friend, "That is the last speech he will ever make."

Although his advisers had repeatedly warned him not to appear unescorted in public, Lincoln went to Ford's Theater with his wife to see a play on the evening of April 14, 1865. Just after 10 P.M., Booth slipped quietly behind the president and shot him in the back of the head. Lincoln died the next morning.

The president's death shocked the nation. Once viewed as an unsophisticated man unsuited for the presidency, Lincoln had become the Union's greatest champion. Tens of thousands of men, women, and children lined railroad tracks as Lincoln's body was transported back to Springfield, Illinois.

The North's victory in the Civil War saved the Union and strengthened the power of the federal government over the states. It transformed American society by ending slavery, but it also left the South socially and economically devastated, and many questions unresolved. No one knew how to bring the Southern states back into the Union or what the status of African Americans would be in Southern society. Americans from the North and the South tried to answer these questions in the years following the Civil War—an era known as Reconstruction.

 **Reading Check** **Examining** Why did General Sherman march his army to the sea?

## SECTION 4 ASSESSMENT

### Checking for Understanding

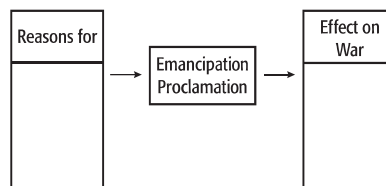
- Vocabulary** Define: martial law, greenback, conscription, habeas corpus, attrition, siege, conceive, subordinate, mandate.
- People and Terms** Identify: Robert E. Lee, Ulysses S. Grant, Emancipation Proclamation, Gettysburg Address, Thirteenth Amendment.
- Places** Locate: Fort Sumter, Antietam, Vicksburg, Gettysburg, Appomattox Courthouse.
- Explain** why Robert E. Lee refused to command Union troops.

### Reviewing Big Ideas

- Identifying** What developments prior to the Civil War gave the North an advantage over the South?

### Critical Thinking

- Historical Analysis** **Analyzing** What effect do you think would the Emancipation Proclamation and the Thirteenth Amendment have on African Americans? Why? **CA HI.4**
- Organizing** Complete a graphic organizer similar to the one below to explain President Lincoln's reasons for issuing the Emancipation Proclamation and the effects the Proclamation had on the war.



### Analyzing Visuals

- Examining Graphs** Study the graphs of war deaths on page 214. What would account for the thousands of non-battle deaths listed in one of the graphs?

### Writing About History

- Descriptive Writing** Imagine that you are living in one of the border states at the beginning of the Civil War. Write a letter to a relative explaining why you plan to join either the Union or Confederate army. Include in your letter specific reasons for your decision. Also discuss any fears you might have about fighting in the war. **CA11WS1.2; 11WA2.1**