Causes of the Civil War

Do you say the Pledge of Allegiance every morning at school or do you say a pledge to your state? During the Civil War time period, people cared more about their state than their country. This is called sectionalism. Sectionalism divided the United States even before the Civil War started. In fact, it was one of the main causes of the war. The states were divided because they could not agree on a number of things. They could not agree about slavery, taxes, and states’ rights.

The way of life in the North was very different than the way of life in the South. Many people in the South relied on agriculture, or farming. The production of cotton, was important to the economy. The North was more industrial. Because they were so different, the North and the South wanted different things. The South supported low taxes and wanted to be able to own slaves to produce more cotton. Even though the South could still make a lot of money on cotton without slaves, slavery allowed them to make more money much faster. The North did not agree. Because the Northern economy was based on manufacturing, it wanted to put protective tariffs in place to stop other countries from taking business away from American companies. Most Northerners also believed slavery was wrong and wanted it to end.

Imagine what it would be like to always do what someone else told you to do. That’s what slaves dealt with! The people in the North wanted to end slavery. The people in the South needed it. Slaves helped the Southerners make more goods and more money. As America continued to grow, slavery became a big issue. The disagreement about slavery divided the North and the South. To make matters worse, the North and the South also did not agree on states’ rights. When the United States government was created, all states had an equal number of votes in the Senate. This meant there was an equal number of votes for the North and for the South. However, when new states were added, it would give the North or the South an extra vote. The side that had more votes would use this advantage to pass laws that would hurt the other side.

Do your parents have a lot of rules? Are there any that you just want to throw in the trash can? That’s how the Southern states felt about some federal laws before the start of the Civil War. If a state didn’t like a law that was passed, they could choose to ignore it, or nullify it. The South believed that states’ rights were more important than federal laws. The North did not agree with this idea. The North wanted the whole country to be unified under one set of laws rather than have separate states make their own laws.

Have you ever voted on something? Even if it’s just which movie your family will watch, how do you feel if what you voted for loses? The South was pretty upset when the Southern candidate lost to Abraham Lincoln in the Presidential Election of 1860. Lincoln stood for everything that the South was against. His election was “the straw that broke the camel’s back.” Just a couple days after Lincoln was elected, South Carolina became the first state to secede from the Union. Other Southern states followed shortly after. The newly independent Southern states disowned the North and started their own country: the Confederate States of America.

**FUN FACT:** Cotton production was actually declining in the South until Eli Whitney invented the cotton gin. The cotton gin made it a lot easier and faster to separate seeds from cotton fibers.
Causes of the Civil War

Do you say the Pledge of Allegiance every morning at school or do you pledge your loyalty to your state? During the Civil War times, people cared more about their state or region (North or South) than their country. This is called sectionalism. Sectionalism divided the United States before the actual fighting of the Civil War started. In fact, it was one of the main causes of the war. Some of the main issues that divided the country were slavery, tariffs, and states’ rights. Almost everything about the cultures of the Northern and Southern states was different. The South relied on agriculture, especially the production of cotton, to support its economy while the North was more industrial. Because they were so different, the North and the South had very different desires. The South supported low tariffs and wanted to be able to own slaves so it could produce more cotton. However, the North did not agree with this approach. The North wanted to put protective tariffs in place to help its manufacturing base. Most Northerners also believed the institution of slavery was wrong and wanted it abolished.

How do you repay your friend when he or she does something for you? Do you do something for them in return? Imagine what it would be like to always do what someone else told you to do. That’s what slaves dealt with! The people in the North didn’t like slavery and wanted to get rid of it, but the people in the South needed it because the work the slaves did made them rich. As America continued to grow, slavery became a big issue. The legality of slavery in the territories was a huge issue that divided the North and the South. However, an even bigger point of tension between the North and the South was states’ rights. Before the U.S. began expanding and adding new states to the country, free states and slave states had an equal number of votes in the Senate. However, when new states were added, one side would be given an advantage. The side that had more votes would use this advantage to pass laws that would hurt the other side. Even though the South could still make a lot of money on cotton if they weren’t allowed to have slaves, they wanted to make as much money as possible and slavery allowed them to do just that.

Do your parents have a lot of rules? Are there any that you just want to throw in the trash can? That’s how the Southern states felt about certain federal laws before the start of the Civil War. If a state didn’t like a law that was passed, they could choose to ignore it, or nullify it. The South believed that states’ rights were more important than the laws issued by the federal government. Unfortunately for the South, the North did not agree with this idea. The North wanted the whole country to be unified under one law rather than have separate states make their own laws.

Have you ever voted on something? Even if it’s just which movie your family will watch, how do you feel if the thing or person you voted for loses? After the Southern candidate lost to Abraham Lincoln in the Presidential Election of 1860, the South was pretty upset. Lincoln stood for everything that the South was against. His election was “the straw that broke the camel’s back.” Just a couple days after Lincoln was elected, South Carolina became the first state to secede from the Union. Other Southern states followed shortly thereafter. The newly independent Southern states disowned the North and started their own country: the Confederate States of America.

**FUN FACT:** Cotton production was actually declining in the South until Eli Whitney invented the cotton gin. The cotton gin made it a lot easier and faster to separate seeds from cotton fibers.
Do you say the Pledge of Allegiance every morning at school or do you pledge your loyalty to your state? During the Civil War times, people were more devoted to their state or region (North or South) than they were to their country. This idea is called sectionalism. Sectionalism divided the United States in the time leading up to the Civil War. In fact, people’s deep devotion to their state and region ultimately ended up being one of the main causes of the war. Some of the other issues that divided the country were slavery, tariffs, and states’ rights. The Northern and Southern states were incredibly different. The South relied on agriculture, primarily the production of cotton, to support its economy. On the other hand, the Northern economy was focused on industry and manufacturing. The South supported low tariffs and wanted to be able to continue owning slaves. Slave labor was one of the main reasons why Southern plantation owners were able to produce so much cotton. However, the North did not agree with this approach. The North held vastly different beliefs. Northern states wanted to place protective tariffs on foreign goods to help its manufacturing base. Northerners also believed that the institution of slavery was wrong and they wanted it abolished.

How do you repay someone when they do something for you? Do you do something for them in return? Imagine what it would be like to always do what someone else told you to do. That’s what the slaves had to do! The people in the Northern states thought slavery was a cruel practice and wanted to abolish it as soon as possible.

The Southerners recognized the unfair nature of slavery, but they tolerated it because the work the slaves did made them rich. Slavery became a national issue once America started growing. The legality of slavery in the territories was a huge issue that further divided the North and the South. However, an even bigger point of tension between the North and the South was states’ rights. Before the U.S. began expanding and adding new states to the nation, free states and slave states had an equal number of votes in the Senate. However, as new states were added, one side would be given more votes than the other depending on whether or not the new state was a slave or a free state. The side that had more votes would use this advantage to pass laws that were unfair the other side. The South was afraid that the Northern states would gain a voting advantage in the Senate and vote to make slavery illegal. Even though the Southern states would still be able to make a lot of money through agriculture if slavery was abolished, plantation owners wanted to make as much money as possible and slavery allowed them to maximize their profits.

Do your parents have a lot of rules? Are there any that you just want to throw in the trash can? That’s how the Southern states felt about certain federal laws that were established before the start of the Civil War. At the time, states could choose to nullify, or ignore, laws that they did not agree with. The South believed that states’ rights were more important than the laws issued by the federal government. Unfortunately for the South, the North did not agree with this idea. The North wanted the whole country to be unified under one law rather than have separate states make their own laws.

Have you ever voted on something? Even if it’s just which movie your family will watch, how do you feel if the thing or person you voted for loses? After the Southern presidential candidate lost to Abraham Lincoln in the Presidential Election of 1860, the South was pretty upset. Lincoln stood for everything that the South was against. His election was “the straw that broke the camel’s back.” Just a couple days after Lincoln was elected, South Carolina became the first state to secede from the Union. Other Southern states followed shortly thereafter. The newly independent Southern states disowned the North and started their own country: the Confederate States of America.

FUN FACT: Cotton production was actually declining in the South until Eli Whitney invented the cotton gin. The cotton gin made it much more effective and efficient to separate seeds from cotton fibers.
Overview

The Battle of Fort Sumter was the first time that disagreements between the Northern states and the Southern states turned into violence. It marked the beginning of the American Civil War. On April 12, 1861, General P.G.T. Beauregard led Confederate forces toward Fort Sumter. Fort Sumter was controlled by the Union Army. After only one day of fighting, Union Major Robert Anderson surrendered. The Battle of Fort Sumter was a major Confederate win. It marked the beginning of their success in the South.

Just after news broke that Abraham Lincoln won the Presidential Election of 1860, the state secession crisis broke out. South Carolina was the first state to secede. South Carolina left the Union in December of 1860. Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia, Florida, Louisiana, Texas, North Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, and Arkansas later broke away from the Union, too. These states formed their own country. They called themselves the Confederate States of America. There were many reasons why these states chose to leave the United States. They had very different ideas about slavery, states' rights, and westward expansion.

Fort Sumter was a U.S. military fort near Charleston, SC. The fort was built to protect Americans from attacks made from the Atlantic Ocean. Before South Carolina left the Union, there was only one army in America: the United States Army. After the Confederacy was formed, they decided to form their own army. After the Confederate Army was formed, Union Major Robert Anderson and eighty-five soldiers moved to Fort Sumter.

The Confederacy was not happy that Union troops were at Fort Sumter. Fort Sumter was in Southern territory! Brigadier General P.G.T. Beauregard and his Confederate troops surrounded Fort Sumter on April 12, 1861. Beauregard told Major Anderson to surrender the South Carolina fort. Anderson refused. Early the next morning, the fighting began. For thirty-two hours, the over five hundred Confederate men fired on Fort Sumter. Union soldiers could not return fire for the first two hours of the battle because they were low on supplies. When the Union troops finally began firing, they were only able to use solid shots. They did not have any fuses for their exploding shells.

The battle continued into the night. Union forces were only able to make slow, scattered attacks because of their low supply of ammunition. On Saturday, April 13, 1861, Major Anderson surrendered Fort Sumter to the Confederates. Anderson was given one day to evacuate his troops. He was also allowed to perform a 100-gun salute. Unfortunately, there was an accidental explosion while the army was setting up for the salute. There were only two deaths during the Battle of Fort Sumter. One of the deaths happened during the accidental explosion. The other death occurred during the actual fighting.

On April 14, the Union soldiers that were stationed at Fort Sumter boarded a ship to leave. These troops were greeted like heroes when they returned to the North even though the Confederates had won the battle. This win boosted Confederate confidence. It proved their strength to the North.

**FUN FACT:** The first death of the Civil War did not actually happen until the day after the Battle at Fort Sumter began. Union Private Daniel Hough died while loading a cannon.

**FUN FACT:** Before General P.G.T. Beauregard led his Confederate troops at the Battle of Fort Sumter, he was one of Major Robert Anderson’s students at West Point (the United States Military Academy).
Overview

The Battle of Fort Sumter marked the first time that tensions between the Northern states and the Southern states turned into violence. It also marked the beginning of the American Civil War. On April 12, 1861, General P.G.T. Beauregard led Confederate forces toward Union troops at Fort Sumter. Fort Sumter Charleston was controlled by the Union Army. After only one day of fighting, Union Major Robert Anderson surrendered. The Union Army left the fort on April 14th. The Battle of Fort Sumter was a major Confederate win. It marked the beginning of their success in the South.

Just after news broke that Abraham Lincoln won the Presidential Election of 1860, the state secession crisis broke out. South Carolina was the first state to secede. South Carolina broke away from the Union in December of 1860. Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia, Florida, Louisiana, Texas, North Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, and Arkansas later broke away from the Union as well. These states formed their own country called the Confederate States of America. There were many reasons why these states chose to secede from the United States. They had very different ideas about slavery, states' rights, and westward expansion.

Fort Sumter was a U.S. military fort located near Charleston, SC. The fort protected Americans from attacks made from the Atlantic Ocean. Before South Carolina left the Union, there was only one army in America: the United States Army. However, the Confederate States decided to form their own army. After the Confederate Army was formed, Union Major Robert Anderson and eighty-five soldiers moved to Fort Sumter.

In response to the Union’s move to Fort Sumter, Brigadier General P.G.T. Beauregard and his Confederate troops surrounded the fort on April 12, 1861. Beauregard demanded that Major Anderson surrender the South Carolina fort. Anderson refused. Early the next morning, the bombardment began. For thirty-two hours, over five hundred Confederate soldiers fired on Fort Sumter. Union soldiers did not return fire for the first two hours of the battle because they were low on supplies. When the Union troops finally began firing, they were only able to use solid shots. They did not have any fuses for their exploding shells.

The battle continued into the night. Union forces were only able to make slow, scattered attacks because of their low supply of ammunition. On Saturday, April 13, 1861, Major Anderson surrendered Fort Sumter. Anderson was given one day to evacuate his troops. He was also allowed to perform a 100-gun salute. Unfortunately, there was an accidental explosion while setting up for the salute. There were only two deaths during the Battle of Fort Sumter. One of the deaths happened during the accidental explosion. The other death occurred during the actual fighting.

On April 14, the Union soldiers that were stationed at Fort Sumter boarded a ship to leave the Charleston area. These troops were greeted like heroes when they returned to the North even though the Confederates had clearly won the battle. This win boosted Confederate morale. It proved their strength to the North.

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Battle of Fort Sumter

Overview

The Battle of Fort Sumter marked the first time that tensions between the Northern states and the Southern states escalated into violence. It also marked the beginning of the American Civil War. On April 12, 1861, Confederate forces led by General P.G.T. Beauregard opened fire on Union-controlled Fort Sumter from the Charleston Harbor. After only one day of bombardment, Union Major Robert Anderson surrendered and the fort was evacuated on April 14th. The Battle of Fort Sumter was a major Confederate victory that signaled the start of their success in the South.

Shortly after news broke that Abraham Lincoln won the Presidential Election of 1860, the state secession crisis broke out. South Carolina was the first state to secede, or break away, from the Union in December of 1860. Many other states including Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia, Florida, Louisiana, Texas, North Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, and Arkansas later broke away from the Union as well. These states formed their own country called the Confederate States of America. There were many reasons why these states chose to secede from the United States, including differing opinions about slavery, states' rights, and westward expansion.

Fort Sumter was a U.S. military fort located on an island off the coast of South Carolina. Close to Charleston, the fort protected Americans from attacks made from the Atlantic Ocean. Prior to South Carolina seceding from the Union, the U.S. army was the only military force in America. However, the Confederate army was formed shortly after the Southern states seceded. In response to the formation of the Confederacy, U.S. Major Robert Anderson and eighty-five U.S. soldiers moved to Fort Sumter.

A month after the official creation of the Confederate States, Brigadier General P.G.T. Beauregard and his Confederate troops surrounded Fort Sumter and demanded that Major Anderson surrender the South Carolina fort. Anderson refused. Early the next morning, the bombardment began. For thirty-two hours, the Confederate force of over five hundred men fired on Fort Sumter. Union soldiers did not return fire for the first two hours of the battle because they were low on supplies. When the Union troops finally began firing, they were only able to use solid shots because they did not have any fuses for their exploding shells.

The battle continued into the night. Union forces were only able to make slow, sporadic attacks due to their low ammunition supply. On Saturday, April 13, 1861, Major Anderson surrendered Fort Sumter. Anderson was given one day to evacuate his troops and was allowed to perform a 100-gun salute. Unfortunately, the salute had to be reduced to only 50 guns after an accidental explosion occurred. The only casualties of the battle were a single gunman who was killed in the accidental explosion and one soldier who was fatally wounded during the actual fighting.

On April 14, the Union soldiers that were stationed at Fort Sumter boarded a ship that carried them to Union ships outside Charleston Harbor. These troops were greeted like heroes when they returned to the North, but the Confederacy had clearly won the first battle of the Civil War. This victory boosted Confederate morale and cemented their position as a legitimate force to be reckoned with.

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Have you ever played capture the flag? Do you plan everything out to make sure you win? That’s exactly what Confederate General Robert E. Lee did! Lee planned to attack the North at Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. He wanted to beat the Union Army once and for all. He hoped his attack would establish his army in the North. Sadly for Lee, his plan did not work out. He was forced to retreat.

What Happened
    General Robert E. Lee led his troops into battle on July 1, 1863 near Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. He planned to end the war. The Confederates felt confident because of a big win at Chancellorsville, Virginia just a few months earlier. General Lee wanted to make the Union troops wish they had not started the war. President Abraham Lincoln was worried about Lee’s attack in the North. Lincoln sent Union troops to follow Lee’s troops. Major General George Meade was the leader of the Union troops at Gettysburg.

    On the first day of battle, the two armies fought just outside of Gettysburg. A large group of Confederate reinforcements arrived. This helped the South take the upper hand. They forced the Northerners to retreat into the hills that were south of the town. The fighting continued the next day, but not too much happened on the second day of battle. The Union troops held strong in the hills. The Confederates gained a lot of land. The battle ended on July 3, just the third day of battle. The Confederate Army tried to charge the Union troops, but it failed. General Lee led what was left of his troops in a sad retreat back to Virginia.

    In the end, General Lee’s brilliant plan did not end well. He had wanted to break the Union’s spirit. His attack was a big loss for the Confederacy. Over 51,000 soldiers from both armies were killed, wounded, missing, or captured during the three-day battle. President Lincoln gave his famous Gettysburg Address four months later. Lincoln’s speech gave the Civil War a greater purpose. Instead of just being a fight between the North and the South, he said that the Civil War was a battle for the equality of all humans. He also said it was a fight for democracy, the foundation of the United States.

FUN FACT: President Lincoln did not use a speechwriter to help him write the Gettysburg Address. In total, the speech was only ten sentences long, and it took President Lincoln just over two minutes to deliver.
Battle of Gettysburg

Have you ever played capture the flag? Do you plan everything out to make sure you win? That’s what Confederate General Robert E. Lee did! Lee planned to attack the North at Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. He wanted to defeat the Union Army once and for all. Losing was not part of his plan though! Instead of firmly establishing the Confederate Army in the North like he had planned, Lee was forced to retreat. As a result, the confidence of the Union Army skyrocketed.

What Happened

General Robert E. Lee led his Confederate troops into battle on July 1, 1863 near Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. He had every intention of ending the war. The Confederates were feeling confident after their big win at Chancellorsville, Virginia just a few months earlier. General Lee wanted to send a message to the North by winning a major battle on Northern soil. He wanted to make the Union troops regret starting the war. President Abraham Lincoln was worried about Lee’s attack in the North. Lincoln advised Major General Joseph Hooker to follow Lee’s troops. Hooker agreed, but he was replaced by another leader three days before battle. Major General George Meade replaced Hooker and became the leader of the Union troops at Gettysburg.

On the first day of battle, the two armies clashed around Gettysburg. The Confederate troops took the upper hand after a large group of reinforcements arrived. They forced the Northerners to retreat into the hills to the south of the town. The fighting continued the next day, but not too much happened on the second day of battle. The Union troops held strong positions in the hills. The Confederates gained a lot of land. The struggle at Gettysburg came to an end of July 3, the third and final day of battle. The Confederate Army tried to charge at the Union troops, but it failed. General Lee led what was left of his troops in a sad retreat back to Virginia.

In the end, General Lee’s brilliant plan to break the Union’s spirit backfired. His attack became a major loss for the Confederacy. Over 51,000 soldiers from both armies were killed, wounded, missing, or captured during the three-day battle. President Lincoln gave his famous Gettysburg Address four months after the battle. Lincoln’s speech gave the Civil War a greater purpose; instead of just being a struggle between the North and the South, he said that the Civil War was a battle for the equality of all humans and a fight for the democratic ideals that the United States was founded on.

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Have you ever played capture the flag? Do you plan everything out to make sure you win? That’s what Confederate General Robert E. Lee did! Lee attacked the North at Gettysburg, Pennsylvania because he wanted to defeat the Union Army once and for all. What he didn’t plan on was losing! Instead of firmly planting the Confederate Army in the North like he had planned, Lee was forced to retreat. As a result, the morale of the Union Army skyrocketed.

What Happened

When General Robert E. Lee led his Confederate troops into battle on July 1, 1863 near Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, he had every intention of ending the war. The Confederates were feeling confident following their important win at Chancellorsville, Virginia just a few months earlier. General Lee wanted to send a message by winning a major battle on Northern soil. He thought this would make the Union troops regret the war altogether. President Abraham Lincoln became worried when he was made aware that Lee was making his way into the North. Lincoln advised Major General Joseph Hooker to pursue Lee’s troops. Although Hooker agreed, he was relieved of his post just three days before the fighting began in Gettysburg. Major General George Meade was appointed in place of Hooker and became the leader of the Union troops at Gettysburg.

On the first day of battle, the two armies clashed to the west and the north of Gettysburg. The Confederate troops finally claimed the upper hand after a large group of reinforcements arrived. They forced the Northerners to retreat into the hills just south of the town. The fighting resumed the following day, but the second day of battle was relatively uneventful. The Union troops still held strong positions in the hills despite the fact that the Confederates gained a lot of land. The third and final day of battle, July 3, brought the struggle at Gettysburg to an end. After a dramatic but unsuccessful charge at the Union center, the Confederate army was broken. General Lee led what was left of his troops in a painful retreat back to Virginia.

In the end, General Lee’s brilliant plan to break the Union’s spirit backfired and instead became a major loss for the Confederacy. A total of over 51,000 soldiers from both armies were killed, wounded, missing, or captured during the three-day battle. President Lincoln gave his famous Gettysburg Address at the dedication ceremony for Gettysburg’s Soldiers National Cemetery four months after the battle ended. Lincoln’s speech gave the Civil War a greater purpose; instead of just being a struggle between the North and the South, he said that the Civil War was a battle for the equality of all humans and a fight for the democratic ideals that the United States was founded on.

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Have your parents ever punished you? Have they ever given you a speech about rules that you don’t agree with? That is how the Southerners felt when President Abraham Lincoln shared the Emancipation Proclamation. The Emancipation Proclamation freed all slaves in the Confederate states.

The Issue of Slavery

Slavery was a major issue during the Civil War. It was part of the Southern way of life. Slaves were needed to work in the cotton fields on big plantations. People in the South did not want slavery to be abolished. Slaves made farming very profitable for them. The Northern economy was more focused on industry and manufacturing. So, slaves were not needed for Northerners to make money. Because of this, many people in the North were against slavery. Northerners wanted it to be abolished, or ended for good.

If slavery was such a big problem, why didn’t President Lincoln just free the slaves at the beginning of the Civil War? Good question! Lincoln knew that would be a huge decision. A decision that big would need to be supported by a big win by the North. If the Union was losing the war when Lincoln ended slavery, it would mean even less to the Southerners. So he waited, and waited, and waited… Finally, on September 17, 1862, Lincoln had the perfect chance to end slavery.

War Order

The Union Army had just won the Battle of Antietam. The Confederate Army lost many lives at Antietam. Their confidence was weakening. Lincoln knew the time was right to issue the important order. On January 1, 1863, President Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation. This statement immediately ended slavery in the Confederate states.

The Emancipation Proclamation ordered the end of slavery. However, only about 500,000 slaves were freed right away. Over 3.5 million slaves were not let go! This is because the proclamation only freed slaves in the Confederate states. The Confederate states thought they were not part of the Union any longer. So, they thought they did not need to listen to the U.S. President. Plus, border states were not included in the Proclamation. Many slaves would not be freed until after the war ended in 1865.

Still, give President Lincoln some credit! The Emancipation Proclamation sent a message to the South: the Union did not plan to lose the war. It also showed that the President was serious about the end of slavery. The Emancipation Proclamation also helped allow black men to join the Union Army. Around 200,000 black men joined.

Impact of the Proclamation

Slavery was not officially ended until the Thirteenth Amendment was ratified. President Lincoln knew the change would be slow to happen when he issued the order. But, he knew that the Proclamation could put the country one step closer to ending slavery. The Thirteenth Amendment abolished, or ended, slavery in the United States of America. It is one of the most important amendments to the U.S. Constitution. It gave freedom to millions of people.

FUN FACT: President Abraham Lincoln thought the Emancipation Proclamation was his greatest accomplishment. When talking about the Emancipation Proclamation he said, “If my name ever goes into history, it will be for this act.”
Emancipation Proclamation

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The Emancipation Proclamation called for the end of slavery. However, only about 500,000 of the 4 million slaves were set free right away. Over 3.5 million slaves were not let free! This is because the proclamation freed slaves in the Confederate states. The Confederate states thought they were not part of the Union any longer and did not need to listen to the U.S. President. Plus, the border states that were loyal to the Union were not included in the Emancipation Proclamation. Many slaves would not be freed until after the war ended in 1865.

Still, give President Lincoln some credit! The Emancipation Proclamation made a clear statement to the South: the Union did not plan to lose the war. It also showed that the President was serious about bringing an end to slavery. The Emancipation Proclamation also helped allow black men to join the Union Army. Around 200,000 black men joined the fight.

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Have your parents ever punished you or lectured you for hours and hours about rules that you don’t agree with? That’s similar to how the Southerners felt when President Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation. The Emancipation Proclamation officially freed all slaves in states that were not loyal to the Union.

The Issue of Slavery

Slavery was a major issue during the Civil War. It was part of the Southern way of life for slaves to work in the cotton fields on huge plantations. People in the South did not want slavery to be abolished because slave labor made their agricultural efforts very profitable. The Northern economy, on the other hand, was much more focused on industry and manufacturing, so slaves were not needed for financial success. Because of this, many people in the North were against slavery and wanted it to be abolished, or ended completely.

If slavery was such a big problem, why didn’t President Lincoln just free the slaves at the beginning of the Civil War? Good question! Lincoln knew that a huge decision like ending slavery needed to be backed up by a major win by the North otherwise it would lose its impact. So he waited, and waited, and waited... Finally, on September 17, 1862, Lincoln was presented with the perfect opportunity to declare the end of slavery.

War Order

The Union Army had just won the Battle of Antietam by a large margin. The Confederate Army suffered great losses at Antietam and the overall morale of the Southern states was weakening. Lincoln knew the time was right to issue the important order. On January 1, 1863, President Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation. This statement immediately ended slavery in the Confederate states that were in rebellion against the U.S.

Although the Emancipation Proclamation called for the abolishment of slavery, only about 500,000 of the 4 million slaves were set free immediately. Over 3.5 million slaves were still in bondage! This is because the proclamation freed slaves in the Confederate states, which were no longer under the rule of the U.S. President. Plus, the border states that were loyal to the Union were not included in the Emancipation Proclamation. Many slaves wouldn’t be freed until after the war ended in 1865.

Still, give President Lincoln some credit! The Emancipation Proclamation made it clear to the South that the Union had no intention of losing the war. It also showed that the President was serious about bringing an end to slavery. The Emancipation Proclamation also allowed black men to fight in the Union Army. Around 200,000 black men took advantage of this privilege and joined the fight.

Impact of the Proclamation

Although President Lincoln declared the end of slavery through the Emancipation Proclamation, the institution of slavery was not officially abolished until the Thirteenth Amendment was ratified. President Lincoln knew this when he issued the order, but he also knew that the Proclamation could be issued quickly and would put the country one step closer to its ultimate goal of ending slavery. The Thirteenth Amendment states that slavery has been abolished or ended in the United States of America. It is widely considered to be one of the most influential amendments that has ever been made to the U.S. Constitution, and it provided millions of people with the freedom they deserve.

FUN FACT: President Abraham Lincoln thought the Emancipation Proclamation was his greatest accomplishment. When talking about the Emancipation Proclamation he said, “If my name ever goes into history it will be for this act.”
Surrender at Appomattox

Imagine how tired the Confederate and Union soldiers felt at the end of the Civil War. They had been fighting for almost four years! Although both sides were tired, the South had lost more men than the North. The South was also running really low on supplies. Things were not looking good for the South.

Trouble in the South

The Confederates were in trouble in early 1865. Union troops began marching south through Virginia. The Union was planning to push the Confederate Army as far south as it could. Even though it was the last thing he wanted to do, General Robert E. Lee, the commander of the Confederate troops, ordered his men to retreat. Lee was forced to give up control of Richmond, VA, the capital of the Confederacy. He was too low on supplies and men to stay and fight. The Union Army wanted to push the Confederates even further south than Richmond. Northern troops marched ahead of the retreating Confederates. They were eventually able to cut the Confederates off before the army got out of Virginia. This was bad news for General Lee – he was surrounded!

Trouble Within

The Confederates faced even bigger problems. Men started deserting the army. Soldiers had lived and fought in terrible conditions for over three years. It was becoming increasingly clear that the South was going to lose the war. On April 8, 1865, General Ulysses S. Grant of the Union Army sent a letter to General Lee. Grant asked Lee to surrender. Low on supplies, surrounded by Union troops, and losing soldiers who were abandoning the army, Lee knew what he had to do. The next day, Lee and Grant met at Appomattox Court House in Virginia. They planned the details of the South’s surrender.

Lincoln’s Plan

Before meeting with Lee, General Grant had talked with President Lincoln about the terms of surrender that the North was willing to accept. The Civil War had torn the country apart. President Lincoln’s main concern was re-uniting the nation. Lincoln cared more about unity than he did about punishing the South. Lincoln made sure the terms of surrender were kind to the Southerners. Confederate soldiers had to turn in their rifles, but they were allowed to return home. In fact, the Union even gave the Southern troops food. The Confederacy did not have enough food to provide for its people! People in the South could not be angry with President Lincoln anymore. He was so kind to them after the war ended.

Surrender

After Lee’s surrender, other groups of Confederate soldiers were still scattered across the country. These armies began to surrender after word spread of Lee’s surrender. The last Confederate general surrendered on June 23, 1865. Even though the fighting was over, there was a new war to be fought. It would be a political war.

Politics

Confederate President Jefferson Davis held the last meeting with his Confederate Cabinet on May 5, 1965. The Confederacy was officially finished after this meeting. An entire country was gone just like that! Davis tried to run away. He did not get very far before he was captured and thrown in jail. He spent two years in prison for treason.

The surrender at Appomattox Courthouse marked the end for the Confederacy. The North won the Civil War and reunited the Union. Sadly, it would take years for America to become a fully united nation.

FUN FACT: The first battle of the Civil War, the Battle of Bull Run, was fought on a man named Wilmer McLean’s farm. After this battle, McLean wanted to keep his family away from the fighting, so he moved. Four years later, General Lee surrendered his forces in the parlor of Wilmer McLean’s home in Appomattox, Virginia. Talk about coming full circle!
Surrender at Appomattox

Imagine how tired the Confederate and Union soldiers felt toward the end of the Civil War. They had been fighting for almost four years! Although both sides were tired, the South had lost more men than the North. The South was also running really low on supplies. Things were not looking good for the South.

Trouble in the South

The Confederates were in trouble in early 1865. Union troops began marching south through Virginia. The Union was planning to push the Confederate Army as far south as it could. Even though it was the last thing he wanted to do, General Robert E. Lee, the commander of the Confederate troops, ordered his men to retreat. Lee was forced to give up control of the Richmond, VA, the capital of the Confederacy. He was too low on supplies and men to stay and fight. The Union Army wanted to push the Confederates even further south than Richmond. Northern troops marched ahead of the retreating Confederates. They were eventually able to cut the Confederates off before the army even got out of Virginia. This was bad news for General Lee – he was surrounded!

Trouble Within

As if being surrounded by its enemy was not bad enough, the Confederate Army faced even bigger problems. Men began deserting. Soldiers had lived and fought in terrible conditions for over three years. It was becoming increasingly clear that the South was going to lose the war. On April 8, 1865, General Ulysses S. Grant of the Union Army sent a letter to General Lee. Grant asked Lee to surrender. Low on supplies, surrounded by Union troops, and losing soldiers who were abandoning the army, Lee knew what he had to do. The next day, Lee and Grant met at Appomattox Court House in Virginia. They planned the details of the South’s surrender.

Lincoln’s Plan

Before meeting with Lee, General Grant had talked with President Lincoln about the terms of surrender that the North was willing to accept. The Civil War had torn the country apart. President Lincoln’s main concern was re-uniting the nation. Lincoln cared more about unity than he did about punishing the South. Because of Lincoln, the terms of surrender were unusually kind to the Southerners. Confederate soldiers were required to turn in their rifles, but they were allowed to return home. In fact, the Union even provided the Southern troops with food since the Confederacy did not have enough to provide it for them! People in the South could not be angry with President Lincoln anymore. He had been so kind to them after the war ended.

Surrender

While General Lee and most of the Confederate Army surrendered at Appomattox, smaller groups of Confederate soldiers were still scattered across the country. These small armies began to surrender after word spread of General Lee’s surrender. The last Confederate general surrendered on June 23, 1865. Even though the fighting was officially over, there was an entirely new war to be fought. This war would be fought on the political battlefield.

Politics

Confederate President Jefferson Davis held the last meeting of his Confederate Cabinet on May 5, 1965. The Confederacy was officially done with during this meeting. An entire country was gone just like that! Davis tried to run away, but he did not get very far before he was captured and jailed. He spent two years in prison for treason.

The surrender at Appomattox Courthouse marked the beginning of the end for the Confederacy. After its brilliant military leader was forced to surrender, the rest of the Confederate Army had no choice but to surrender as well. The North won the Civil War and reunited the Union. Unfortunately, it would take years for America to become a fully united nation.

FUN FACT: The first battle of the Civil War, the Battle of Bull Run, was fought on a man named Wilmer McLean’s farm. After this battle, McLean wanted to keep his family away from the fighting, so he moved. Four years later, General Lee surrendered his forces in the parlor of Wilmer McLean’s home in Appomattox, Virginia. Talk about coming full circle!
Imagine the fatigue that the Confederate and Union soldiers felt toward the end of the Civil War. They had been fighting for almost four years! Although both sides were tired, the South had lost a great deal more men than the North, and it was running really low on supplies. Things were not looking good for the South.

**Trouble in the South**

The Confederates were in trouble in early 1865. Union troops began marching south through Virginia with the intention of pushing the Confederate Army as far south as it could. Even though it was the last thing he wanted to do, General Robert E. Lee, the commander of the Confederate troops, ordered his men to retreat. Because he was low on supplies and manpower, General Lee was forced to relinquish control of the Richmond, VA, the capital of the Confederacy. The Union Army was not satisfied with this victory. Northern troops darted ahead of the retreating Confederates and were eventually able to cut them off before the army even got out of Virginia. This was bad news for General Lee – he was surrounded!

**Trouble Within**

As if being surrounded by its enemy wasn’t bad enough, the Confederates faced even bigger problems when their own men began deserting. Soldiers had lived and fought in terrible conditions for over three years, and it was becoming increasingly evident that the South was going to lose the war. On April 6, 1865, General Ulysses S. Grant of the Union Army sent a letter to General Lee asking for the Confederates to surrender. Low on supplies, completely surrounded by Union troops, and facing the growing issue of soldiers abandoning the army, Lee knew what he had to do. On the next day, Lee and Grant met at Appomattox Court House in Virginia to discuss the terms of the South’s surrender.

**Lincoln’s Plan**

Prior to the meeting with Lee, General Grant had discussed the terms that the North was willing to accept with President Lincoln. The Civil War had torn the country apart and President Lincoln’s main concern was re-uniting the nation. Lincoln cared more about unity than he did about punishing the South. Because of this, the terms of surrender were unusually kind to the Southerners. Confederate soldiers were required to turn in their rifles, but they were allowed to return home immediately with their horses or mules. In fact, the Union even provided the Southern troops with food since the Confederacy couldn’t provide it for them! People in the South could not hold anything against President Lincoln because of the compassion he showed them after the war ended.

**Surrender**

While General Lee and the main part of the Confederate Army surrendered at Appomattox in April of 1865, smaller groups of Confederate soldiers were still scattered across the country. These small armies began to surrender after word spread of General Lee’s surrender at Appomattox. The last Confederate general surrendered on June 23, 1865. Even though the fighting was officially over, there was an entirely new war to be fought, this time on the political battlefield.

**Politics**

Confederate President Jefferson Davis held the last meeting of his Confederate Cabinet on May 5, 1965. The Confederacy was officially dissolved during this meeting. An entire country was gone just like that! Davis tried to run away, but he did not get very far before he was captured and jailed. He spent two years in prison for treason.

The surrender at Appomattox Courthouse marked the beginning of the end for the Confederacy. After its brilliant military leader was forced to surrender in Virginia, the rest of the Confederate Army had no choice but to surrender as well. The North won the Civil War and reunited the Union. Unfortunately, it would take years for America to become a fully united nation.

**FUN FACT:** The first battle of the Civil War, the Battle of Bull Run, was fought on a man named Wilmer McLean’s farm. After this battle, McLean wanted to keep his family away from the fighting, so he moved. Four years later, General Lee surrendered his forces in the parlor of Wilmer McLean’s home in Appomattox, Virginia. Talk about coming full circle!
Damage Done by the War

When you have your friends over to play, your room probably gets messy! And when your mom makes a big meal, she probably pulls out every pot and pan in the kitchen. Wherever the action is, a mess usually follows. That is what happened to the South after the Civil War.

Overwhelming Impact

Most of the fighting in the war happened in the South. Livestock was killed, farmland was burned, and homes were destroyed during the fighting. Many men were hurt during the war. Sometimes their injuries were bad enough to keep them from going back to work after the war. Many women had to find a way to pay for everything. The damages done during the war changed life in the South. The Southern economy had been strong before the war. By the end, it was very weak. Plantation owners were used to free labor. Now, they had to pay slaves for their work. Because of this, they made less money. The plantation owners felt like they lost a lot of money! The price of cotton also went down after the war. Cotton was the main source of income for the South.

Newly freed slaves wanted to be paid. They also wanted to own land. The former slaves thought they would be given “forty acres and a mule.” The Freedman's Bureau promised land and a mule to every freedman. Unfortunately, many freedman did not get either. This left many unhappy former slaves living in the Southern states.

Casualties

More people died during the Civil War than in any other war in American history. That includes WWI and WWII! One out of every four soldiers died during the war. Over 620,000 men did not come home from the war. Neither the North nor the South were able to care for the deceased very well because there were so many. Families had to go to the battlefields after the fighting ended to find their loved ones. Some fathers and husbands that did return home were too injured to work. Women had to step up and support their families. They had to do jobs that men normally would have done. Women sold butter, sewed, rented out their homes, and worked small jobs. After Lincoln declared the Emancipation Proclamation, many slaves were freed. The wives of plantation owners had even less help without the slaves. Soon women began to wear pants, cut their hair shorter, and ask for change. They were starting to be given more rights because of the extra work they took on during wartime. However, they were still far from being equal to men.

New Life

African Americans found many new opportunities in their freed lives. Some former slaves moved to the North. There was less racism than there was in the South. Some slaves still chose to stay in the South. Those that stayed in the South became sharecroppers.
Damage Done by the War

Sharecropping is when a landowner allows a worker to farm their land. In return, the worker gives the landowner a share of the crops. This sounds like a good deal, right? Sadly, these agreements usually ended up doing no good for the worker. The landowners usually took so much of the shared crops that the worker was left with just enough to live off of. The worker did not make much money and was forced to keep working. They were stuck in a cycle of owing money. The landowners usually treated them poorly, too. Life did not get much better for former slaves who became sharecroppers after the war.

Many slave families were separated before the war. Sometimes mothers, fathers, and siblings ended up living several states apart. Some former slaves tried to find their family members after the war. African Americans also wanted to get an education. As freed people, they had a right to an education. Separate schools were created for colored people. There is no doubt that African Americans gained more rights after the Civil War. However, racism was still around in the South. It took years for African Americans to be given the same rights as whites in the South.

Lincoln’s Impact

The country was turned upside down when Abraham Lincoln was assassinated on April 15, 1865! Americans were devastated. The government was divided. A group called “Radical Republicans” controlled Congress at the time. Radical Republicans thought the Southern states should be punished for their actions during the war. Lincoln had not agreed. He wanted to welcome the South back into the Union with open arms. After Lincoln’s death, Andrew Johnson took over as President of the United States. The Radical Republicans were not happy because Johnson was from the South. Radical Republicans could not handle having a Southerner serve as president. And so, even though the physical fighting stopped, a political battle was just beginning.
When you have your friends over to play, your room probably gets really messy! And when your mom makes a big meal for your family on a holiday, doesn’t it seem like she pulls out every pot and pan in the kitchen? Wherever the action is, a mess usually follows. That’s exactly what happened to the South during and after the Civil War.

**Overwhelming Impact**

Most of the fighting in the war happened on Confederate territory. Livestock was killed, farmland was burned, and homes were destroyed during the fighting. Many men were injured during the war. Their injuries sometimes prevented them from being able to go back to work when the fighting ended. This left women to find a way to pay for everything. The damages done during the war impacted all areas of life in the South. The Southern economy had been booming before the war. By the end of the war, it was crumbling. Plantation owners were used to free labor. Now, they had to pay slaves for their work. This pay cut into their profits. This felt like a huge loss to the plantation owners! Not only that, but the price of cotton - the main source of income for the South – dropped after the war.

Newly freed slaves wanted to be paid and to own land. The former slaves expected to be given “forty acres and a mule” as the Freedman’s Bureau promised. Unfortunately, this never happened for many freedmen. This left many unhappy former slaves living in the Southern states.

**Casualties**

More people died during the Civil War than in any other war in American history, including WWI and WWII. For every four soldiers who went to war, one never returned home. Over 620,000 men died during the war. Because so many lives were lost, neither the North nor the South were able to care for the deceased very well. Families often had to go to the battlefields after the fighting ended to find their loved ones. Some fathers and husbands that did return home were too injured to work. Women had to step up and support their families by doing jobs that men normally would have done. Women sold butter, sewed, rented out their homes, and worked random jobs in order to support their family. After Lincoln declared the Emancipation Proclamation, many slaves were freed. The wives of plantation owners had even less help after the slaves left. Soon women began to wear pants, cut their hair shorter, and demand change. They were starting to be given more rights because of the extra work and responsibility they took on during wartime. However, they were still far from being treated as equals to men.

**New Life**

African Americans found many new opportunities in their freed lives. Some former slaves moved to the North. There was less racism and more opportunity in the North than there was in the
Damage Done by the War

South. Some slaves still chose to stay in the South, though. Those that stayed in the South became sharecroppers. Sharecropping is when a landowner allows a worker to farm their land and, in return, the worker gives the landowner a share of the crops. While this might sound like a good deal, these agreements usually took advantage of the worker. The landowners usually took so much of the worker's crops that the worker was left with just enough to live off of. The worker was forced to keep sharing land and crops. They got stuck in a cycle of owing money. On top of that, the landowners usually treated them poorly. Many former slaves involved in sharecropping did not see much improvement in their lives after the war.

Many slave families were separated before the war. Sometimes mothers, fathers, and siblings ended up living several states apart. Some former slaves tried to find their family members after the war. African Americans also wanted to get an education. As freed people, they had a right to an education. Separate schools were created for colored people. There is no doubt that African Americans gained more rights after the Civil War. However, racism was still around in the South. It took years for African Americans to be given the same rights as whites in the South.

Lincoln's Impact

When Abraham Lincoln was assassinated on April 15, 1865, the country was turned upside down! Americans were devastated. The government was divided. A group called "Radical Republicans" controlled Congress while Lincoln was president. Radical Republicans thought the Southern states should be punished for their actions during the war. Lincoln did not agree. He wanted to welcome the South back into the Union with open arms. After Lincoln's death, Andrew Johnson took over as President of the United States. The Radical Republicans were not happy. Johnson was from the South and, given what took place during the Civil War, they could not fathom having a Southerner serve as president. And so, although the physical fighting had come to a close, divisions in the government began to lead to political struggles that would continue for years to come.
Damage Done by the War

When you have your friends over to play, your room probably gets really messy! And when your mom makes a big holiday meal, doesn’t it seem like she pulls out every pot and pan in the cabinet? Wherever the action is, a mess usually follows. That’s exactly what happened to the South during and after the Civil War.

Overwhelming Impact

The majority of the fighting in the war took place on Confederate territory. As a result of the fighting, livestock was killed, farmland was burned, and homes were destroyed. Many men suffered injuries during the war that prevented them from being able to go back to work when the fighting ended. The damages done during the war impacted all areas of life in the South. The Southern economy had been booming before the war, but by the end it was crumbling. No longer did plantation owners have free labor; they had to pay slaves for their work, which cut into farming profits. This felt like a huge loss to the plantation owners! Not only that, but also the price of cotton - the main source of income for the South – dropped dramatically after the war ended.

Newly freed slaves not only expected to be paid, but they also sought land of their own. The former slaves had worked on the land their entire lives, and they expected to be given “forty acres and a mule” as the Freedman’s Bureau promised. Unfortunately, this never happened for many freedmen. As a result, there were many discontent former slaves living in the Southern states. Needless to say, there was quite a bit of rebuilding to be done in the South after the war!

Casualties

More people died during the Civil War than in any other war in American history, including WWI and WWII. For every four soldiers who went to war, one never returned home. Over 620,000 men lost their lives during the war. Because there was such a large number of casualties, neither the North nor the South were able to care for the deceased very well. Families often had to go to the battlefields after the fighting subsided to find their loved ones. Because so many men left home to fight in the war, women had to step up and support their families by doing jobs that men typically would have done. Women sold butter, sewed, opened their homes to renters, and worked a number of odd jobs in order to support their family. After the Emancipation Proclamation went into effect and the slaves were freed, the wives of plantation owners had even less help. Soon women began to wear pants, cut their hair shorter, and call for reform. They were gaining more rights because of the extra work and responsibility they took on during wartime, but they still had a long way to go!

New Life

African Americans had a multitude of new opportunities
Damage Done by the War

available to them after slavery was abolished. Some former slaves moved to the North where there was less racism and greater opportunity than there was in the South, but some slaves chose to stay in the South. Those that remained in the South became sharecroppers. Sharecropping is when a landowner allows a tenant farm their land and in return gives the tenant a share of the harvest. While this might sound like a pretty good deal, these arrangements often took advantage of the tenant. The share of crops that the sharecroppers received as payment for their work often was not enough to get them out of debt. They got stuck in a vicious cycle of debt and the landowners often treated them unfairly. While they now had their freedom, many former slaves turned sharecroppers did not see much improvement in their lives after the war.

Many slave families were separated in the years leading up to the war, and sometimes mothers, fathers, and siblings ended up living multiple states apart. Some former slaves tried to reunite their families after the war. African Americans also sought education. As freed people, they had a right to an education; separate schools were created for colored people. There is no doubt that African Americans gained more rights after the Civil War, but racism was still prevalent in the South. It took years and years for African Americans to be granted the same rights as whites in the South.

Lincoln’s Impact

When Abraham Lincoln was assassinated on April 15, 1865, the country was thrown into turmoil! Americans were devastated and the government was divided. A group called “Radical Republicans” controlled Congress during Lincoln’s presidency. Radical Republicans thought Reconstruction should be used to punish the Southern states for their actions during the war. This directly contradicted what President Lincoln believed in, which was welcoming the South back into the Union with open arms. After Lincoln’s death, Andrew Johnson took over as President of the United States. The Radical Republicans were not happy. Johnson was from the South and, given what took place during the Civil War, they could not fathom having a Southerner serve as president. And so, although the physical fighting had come to a close, divisions in the government began to lead to political struggles that would continue for years to come.