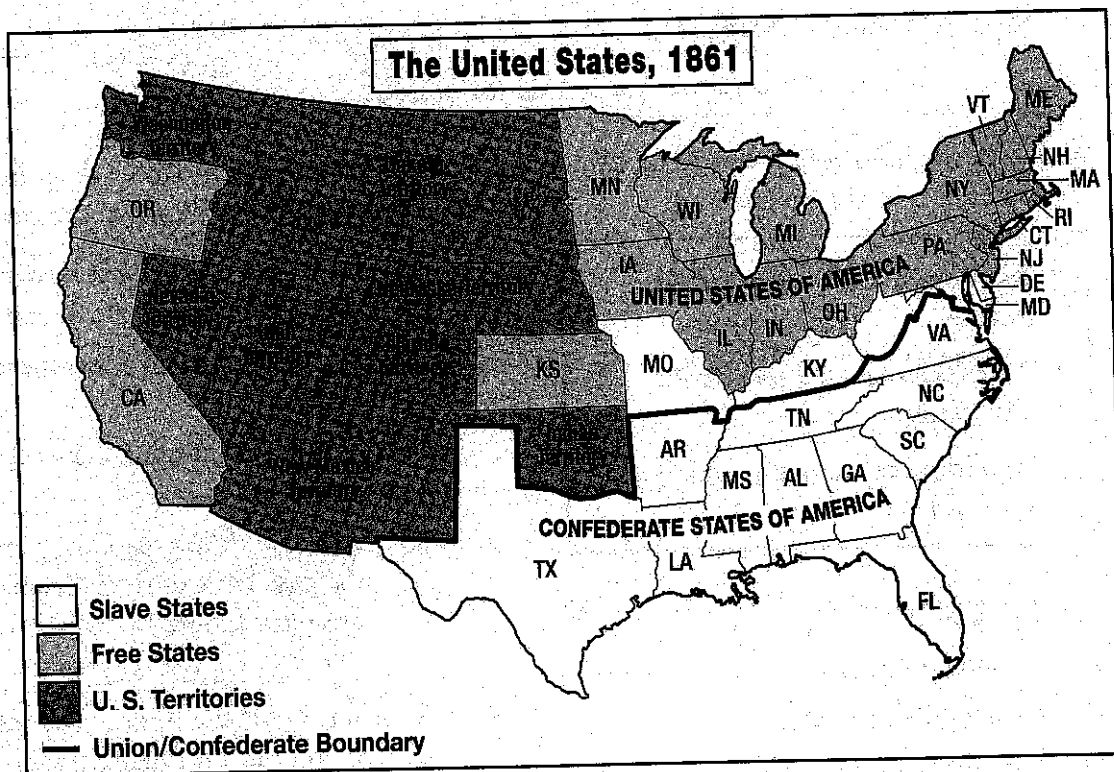


13 The Civil War

SS8H6.b

The first shots of the Civil War rang out on April 12, 1861, when the Confederate army attacked Fort Sumter, South Carolina. Although there was no blood shed, the Union forces surrendered the fort to Confederate troops. Upon hearing the news of the surrender of Fort Sumter, President *Abraham Lincoln* called for 75,000 men to serve in the Union army, and ordered a naval blockade of Southern ports from South Carolina to Texas on April 19, 1861.



Blockade of the Georgia Coast

Many of Georgia's ports were blocked throughout the war. These included the ports at Darien and Brunswick. Other areas were harder to block off completely. Strong Confederate forts protected some cities from falling under the blockade.

Savannah was Georgia's biggest port. It was also one of most important cities in the Confederacy. Fort Pulaski protected the city. It was a very strong fort that took eighteen years to build. Some of the best army engineers from both the North and the South believed that the fort would not crumble from artillery fire. In April of 1862, Union artillery bombarded the fort and caused the Confederate forces to surrender.

As a result, the Union troops used the fort to block ships from entering Savannah. Savannah fell under the blockade. The blockade made it difficult for farmers and merchants to sell their wares. It also made it hard for the Confederate army to receive new supplies from their allies in other countries. Confederate forces in the North were experiencing difficulties of their own in their pursuit of gaining military supplies and capturing the Union capital of Washington, D.C.

Battle of Antietam

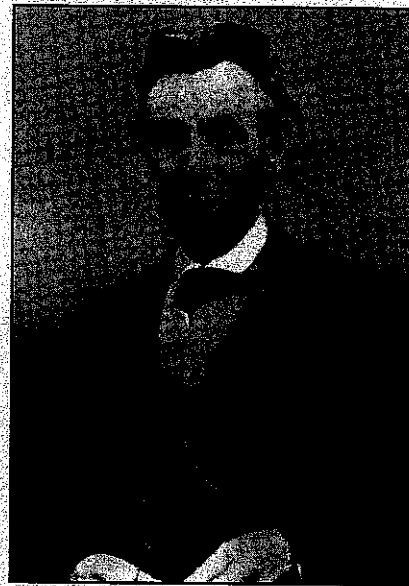
After his victory at the Second Battle of Bull Run, Confederate General *Robert E. Lee* moved his troops to Maryland. From there he planned to capture Washington, D.C. However, his troops were stopped by Union troops commanded by *George B. McClellan* at Antietam Creek, Maryland. On September 17, 1862, George B. McClellan and his troops stopped the Confederate army from advancing on Washington, D.C. The Battle of Antietam proved to be one of the bloodiest single days in the war. Confederate casualties were about 13,700, while the Union lost about 12,400 men. Although McClellan protected the capital from Confederate forces, he allowed Lee's army to escape to Virginia.

Emancipation Proclamation

In 1862, four slave-owning states—Maryland, Delaware, Missouri, and Kentucky—were still loyal to the Union. Abraham Lincoln was careful when talking about slavery. He wanted these four states to remain part of the Union. Therefore, when he decided to emancipate, or free slaves, he emancipated slavery only in Confederate states.

Abraham Lincoln announced the emancipation of slavery in rebellious states on January 1, 1863. This decree was known as the **Emancipation Proclamation**. Northern states could now feel that they were fighting not only to save the Union, but also to end slavery. Yet as far as the Confederate government was concerned, the new law held no power. Confederate states had already seceded from the Union and no longer followed Union laws.

The proclamation officially signified the intentions of the United States government concerning slavery. European countries were reluctant to support a government that promoted slavery and thus more likely to assist the Union cause. In addition to freeing enslaved people, the Emancipation Proclamation allowed the Union to recruit African Americans from the Confederacy to fight in the army. By 1865, nearly 180,000 African American soldiers had enlisted in the Union army.



Abraham Lincoln led the country through this difficult time with diplomacy.

Battle of Chickamauga

The Battle of Chickamauga took place September 18–20, 1863. Control of the railroad in nearby Chattanooga, Tennessee, was at stake. After three days of fighting, most of the Union forces retreated in disorder to Chattanooga. Casualties numbered more than 16,000 for the Union and more than 18,000 for the Confederates. It was the bloodiest battle fought in Georgia. The battle was considered a Confederate victory because Confederate forces pushed Union forces back to Chattanooga rather than letting them proceed into Georgia. However, Union forces captured Chattanooga which was the campaign's goal.

Sherman's March to the Sea

In May 1864, Union General *William Tecumseh Sherman* began his March to the Sea in Georgia with 100,000 soldiers. After fighting off a much smaller force of Confederates, Sherman and his troops entered the city of Atlanta. General Sherman told the people of Atlanta they had five days to leave the city. Five days later, General Sherman had his troops burn Atlanta to the ground. After this, Sherman started his March to the Sea with 60,000 men, marching through Georgia and South Carolina. The plan was for the army to feed itself with what it found in its path. Sherman's troops took everything they could use and destroyed what they could not use. Because of the blockades, Southern farmers had a surplus of what they could not sell. Many animals were slaughtered but not eaten. Stored crops like rice, flour, cotton, and corn were emptied onto the ground. Houses were looted and burned to the ground. Railroads were destroyed. When Sherman's troops reached South Carolina, they burned down most of the capital city of Columbia. Sherman's March to the Sea generated bad feelings between the North and South even years after the war was over.



Sherman's March to the Sea destroyed Georgia.

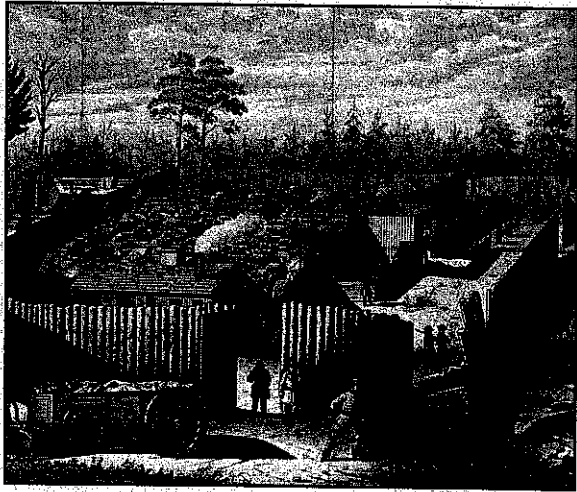
The Confederate army was destroyed. On April 9, 1865, Lee surrendered the Confederate army of Northern Virginia to *Ulysses S. Grant* at the Appomattox Court House in Virginia. This marked the end of the Civil War. The Union was preserved and slavery was outlawed.

Andersonville Prison

In February 1864, the Confederates opened a prison camp to house Union soldiers. Andersonville Prison was located in Georgia and held the largest amount of prisoners than any other camp at the time. During the Civil War, tens of thousands of Union soldiers were imprisoned there. Conditions were very bad. Unhealthy sanitation conditions, malnutrition, and overcrowding led to mass amounts of casualties. Out of 45,000 men that were imprisoned at Andersonville, almost 13,000 died. Today, the prison is part of Andersonville National Historic Site, a memorial for all American prisoners of war.



The surrender at the Appomattox Court House was the end of the war.



Many Union soldiers were held at Andersonville Prison.

Lesson Practice

DIRECTIONS

Circle the letter of the best answer for each item.

Thinking It Through

1. What was at stake in the Battle of Chickamauga?
 - A. access to ammunition
 - B. the fate of Washington, D.C.
 - C. control of the railroad center in nearby Chattanooga
 - D. access to the port city of Savannah

Union forces wanted to control the railroad lines leading into the South. A major railroad station was located outside of Chattanooga.

2. Why was the Union victory at Antietam important?
 - A. It stopped Confederate forces from advancing to Washington, D.C.
 - B. It cut the Confederate forces off from their supplies.
 - C. The Confederate forces lost thousands more soldiers than the Union forces.
 - D. It put an end to the war.

HINT

Antietam Creek, Maryland, is not far from Washington, D.C.

3. Why did General Sherman burn Atlanta and destroy everything in his path on his March to the Sea?
 - A. His armies were large and they needed all of the resources they found.
 - B. He couldn't control his armies anymore.
 - C. He was ordered to by President Lincoln.
 - D. He wanted to destroy the resources of the South.
4. Which Georgia port city did Fort Pulaski protect?
 - A. Brunswick
 - B. Savannah
 - C. Darien
 - D. Atlanta