The Civil War

The **election of Abraham Lincoln in 1860** angered the South tremendously. Lincoln emerged as the winner, but he received less than half the popular vote and in some of the Southern states didn’t even appear on the ballot! The North realized they had no say in the government when Lincoln was elected president even without one Southern states votes. State by state, conventions were held and the Confederacy was formed. South Carolina acted first, calling for a convention to secede from the Union. Within three months of Lincoln's election, seven states had seceded (or left) from the Union.

**Mobilizing for War**

Both the North and South were unprepared for the war. Armies were small, there was alack of faith in current gov’t, and the federal government had levied no direct tax for decades. Both sides had to work hard to overcome deficiencies, raise and supply armies, and finance the cost of war

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| NORTH | SOUTH |
| * The North had many advantages including;
* More people
* More factories
* Greater food production
* More railroads
* Better communication
 | * The South had some advantages over the Northern forces
* First rate military leadership
* Highly motivated soldiers
* First- rate generals
* Only had to defend their land – not attack North
* King Cotton and the money it made in the world market
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At the beginning of the War, the North had many volunteers. The Enrollments Act allowed substitution and exemptions. In the South, **conscription** was enforced and this required all white men aged 18 to 35 to serve in the military for three years. Well-off Southerners could hire substitutes for $300 and the War became known as the “POOR MAN’S FIGHT”.

The war begins the day after the inauguration. Lincoln gets a message from Major Anderson, **Fort Sumter’s** (S. Carolina) commander, that the Confederacy was demanding surrender or attack. Lincoln knew his actions would set the tone for a possible upcoming war. Knowing his actions would dictate the war Lincoln decided to send in food for the surrounded Union troops instead of initiate the war. This was a smart political move because know it was up to the Confederacy to act. **Jefferson Davis, the President of the Confederacy**, chose to initiate war and on 4/12/1861 the first shots were fired. After 4000 rounds, Anderson and his men surrendered and the South claimed victory. This first battle united the North and 75, 000 men volunteered for the Union army within 3 months. Many states like Virginia, Arkansas, Tennessee, and North Carolina did not want to fight so they left the Union. Both Northerners and Confederates expected a short glorious war and both sides felt the right was on their side

The battle strategies of the North and South differed. The Union plan was nicknamed the **Anaconda Plan** because it planned on splitting the Confederacy by going down the Mississippi river blockading their ports and capturing the Confederate capital city of Richmond, Virginia. The Southern goal was to survive as their own nation so they came up with a defensive plan that encouraged generals to attack and invade the North anytime the opportunity arose

First major bloodshed of the war occurred at **Bull Run** near Washington, D.C. – summer 1861. This battle made Confederate General Thomas Jackson famous and earned him the nickname “Stonewall Jackson” because he inspired the Confederates to hold firm. This early Confederate victory boosted moral.

The Civil War brought **changes in warfare**. An ironclad ship could splinter wooden ships, withstand cannon fire, and resist burning. Invention of a more accurate rifle that could be loaded quicker and the minie ball, a soft lead bullet that was more destructive than earlier bullets, led to more war causalities

As the Civil War progressed it became a war for the capitals. Union General George McClellan was extremely cautious and waited until he felt prepared to head to Richmond. Having more troops and better weapons than the South; McClellan was criticized and mocked by his failure to act. Confederate General Robert E. Lee confronted the Union troops and started the Seven Day’s Battle. McClellan retreated and the South gained ANOTHER victory. General Lee now moved towards the enemy’s capital. However, after finding Lee’s army orders, McClellan ordered an immediate attack in **Antietam**, Maryland This turned out to be the single bloodiest day in American history --- 26,000 died. Lee and the Confederates retreat and McClellan refused to follow. This led President Lincoln to fire McClellan and to state that he has a serious case of “the slows” ☺

As the war dragged on both sides **suffered heavy casualties,** poor living conditions, horrible diet, and lack of medical care. A common food for the troops was “Cush” stew made up of small cubes of beef and crumbled cornbread mixed with bacon grease. The United States Sanitary Commission was formed to improve hygiene and to recruit and train nurses. One of these nurses was named **Clara Barton** (angel of the battlefield) and later forms the **Red Cross**

As the war progressed, Lincoln used his powers to end slavery. Many Northerners believed that just winning the war would not be enough if slavery still existed.

In January 1863, Lincoln issued the **Emancipation Proclamation**, which became a weapon of war. The Proclamation didn’t immediately free slaves because it only applied to Southern slave states that had seceded and that were behind Confederate lines.

As Union troops took Southern land the army was ordered to seize Confederate supplies and emancipate slaves. Reaction to the Emancipation Proclamation was mixed. In the North, it gave the war a high moral purpose because they were now fighting to free the slaves! Free blacks quickly joined the Union Army and proved to be talented soldiers. However, many disagreed with the Emancipation Proclamation like the Democrats that thought it would only make the South more mad.

**African Americans join the fight** in 1862 when Congress passed a law allowing African Americans to serve in the military. African Americans made up 1% of the North’s population, but by the end of the year 10% of the Union’s army were African American. Even though they were fighting for the same cause as the white soldiers, they still suffered discrimination such as serving in separate regiments, being paid less and received no clothing allowance for uniforms. Confederates would not take African-American soldiers as prisoners and would often kill them on the spot

The Civil War had a large **impact on the economy** both in the North and South. In the North industry boomed because of the production of war supplies and even though inflation caused prices to rise, wages did not. Farmers bought machines to compensate for the lack of manpower on the farms. With the men off to defend the Union cause immigrants, free blacks, and women would be hired for less pay in the factories. To ensure money for the war, Congress enacted a new tax law creating the nation’s first income tax. The Southern economy was in worse shape then the North. With Southern men leaving to fight, slaves were left to work the fields. The percentage of slaves decreased rapidly as the war progressed either for runaway, or emancipated. The Union blockaded Southern ports, causing shortages on all trade items. Food prices soared from $6.65 a month in 1861 to $63 a month in 1863.

In a small town in Pennsylvania, the most decisive battle of the war was fought. This became a turning point of the war. **Gettysburg** was a three-day battle fought in early July of 1863. The Union had 90,000 troops under George Meade and the Confederates had 75,000 troops under General Lee. On day one, Confederate troops were looking for shoes and were planning on meeting up with Lee and other reinforcements. However, they ran into Union troops, but still ended up taking the town. On day two, Confederates attack Union troops. Running out of ammunition quickly, they launched a bayonet attack. Rebels were exhausted from the day before so they were not able to break through Union lines. On day three, Lee orders another attack. Two hours of artillery was followed by an attack of the army. The North waited and fired on the Confederates when they were close by. The death total from both sides was over 50,000. In November 1863 a ceremony was held to dedicate a cemetery. Lincoln talked for a little over two minutes but his speech became famously known as the **Gettysburg Address.** He stated that the “dead shall not have died in vain... that this nation shall have a new birth of freedom.”

After the defeat of Gettysburg and having no supplies the South hoped to hold on long enough to destroy Northern morale and call an armistice (cease fire with no real winner). Many soldiers deserted and headed home or even joined the Union cause

Grant and Lee know the war is wearing down so they create plans to end it. Grant’s plan was to immobilize Lee’s army in Virginia while Union Commander Sherman raided Georgia. They would then march towards each other and free every Confederate state in between. Grant threw **Union troops into battle after battle**.

The Union had more soldiers than the South so Grant knew he could afford the loss and could replace the soldiers. The South did not have this advantage and were running low on men. Even though Newspapers called GRANT a “butcher”, he knew there was NO turning back. As Grant attacked Virginia General Sherman marched Union troops throughout Georgia creating a wide path of destruction. The goal was, “to make the Southerners so sick of war that generations would pass away before they would again appeal to it.” For three months Union troops destroyed Georgia before turning North to meet up with Grant. Destruction continued, homes were burned and Union troops marched on to destroy Lee and the rest of the Confederate troops. This became known as **Sherman’s March.**

**The election of 1864-**

Democrats nominate George McClellan with hopes of an immediate armistice. Radical Republicans nominate John C. Fremont and lay out a strict proposal of readmitting the Confederate states. National Union Party (Republican) chooses Andrew Johnson as Lincoln’s running mate. Being pro Union and from the South gave hope to the ticket. Lincoln is pessimistic about winning the election, but with the victories in the North and absentee ballots from the Union troops, Lincoln wins a second term

By March 1865, Generals Grant and Sheridan were approaching Richmond from the West and Sherman was approaching from the South. Knowing it was only a matter of time, President Davis and his government leaves the capital and burns it to the ground. On 4/9/1865 the **Confederates surrender** in a Virginia village called **Appomattox**. All Southern Troops were paroled and sent home and after four years of fighting the Civil War was OVER

There were many **lasting impacts** to the Civil War. Economy of Northern states boomed and they had money to invest after the war. Thanks to new agricultural machines more output was seen and prices eventually dropped. The South was devastated when slavery was taken away because it was cheap labor. The war and Sherman’s march had also destroyed over half of Southern livestock, railways and farms. Political Changes also occurred. The Federal government assumed supreme national authority and the power and involvement in citizen’s life increased. Changes such as income taxes, the military draft, and a national currency would be enacted.

 One of the most important legacies of the Civil War was the ratification of the **13 Amendment**. This was introduced to the house in January 1865 and stated. “Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for crime whereof the party shall have been duly convicted, shall exist within the United States.” Slavery was officially over and now our country was headed to a new challenge of rebuilding themselves after an internal war.

1. Why did the election of Abraham Lincoln anger the South? What actions did they take?
2. Describe the advantages and disadvantages of the North and South prior to the start of the war. In your opinion, who had a better chance of winning? Defend your opinion
3. Define Conscription and describe the ways you could avoid it.
4. Summarize the Anaconda Plan. Why did they name it this?
5. Describe the new changes to warfare and the impact it had on causalities.
6. How was the Emancipation Proclamation seen as a way to punish the South for their role in the Civil War?
7. What discrimination did African Americans endure while fighting for the Union?
8. Describe the impact the war had on American economy
9. How did Grant’s approach on Lee and Sherman’s March through Georgia push the South to surrender? Where did the surrender take place?
10. Elaborate on how federal government and law were changed by this internal war.