

Chapter

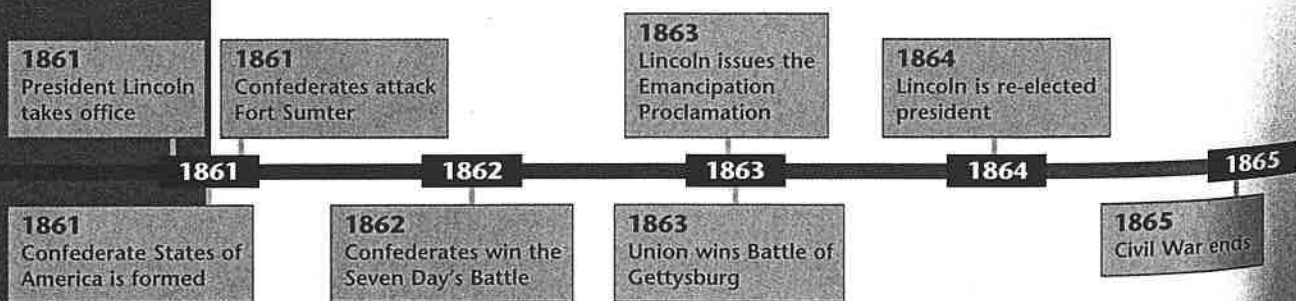
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The Civil War
1861–1865

After several states left the Union, it was clear that the nation was in trouble. Very little could be done to prevent a war. Though President Lincoln tried to avoid war when he took office, the Civil War began in 1861. In this chapter, you will learn how the war started, which battles were fought, and how it came to an end.

Goals for Learning

- ◆ To explain the events leading to the Civil War
- ◆ To describe the preparations and plans of the North and the South
- ◆ To describe the major events and identify important people in the Civil War
- ◆ To explain the Emancipation Proclamation and some important battles of the Civil War
- ◆ To explain how the war ended
- ◆ To describe the losses from the Civil War



DAY 6

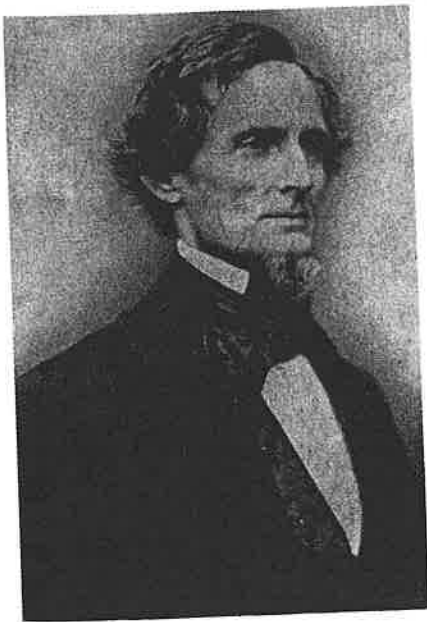
Lesson

1

The North Tries to Compromise

During Buchanan's last four months as president, seven states left the Union. Buchanan did nothing to stop them. Although he was a Northerner, he agreed with the Southern states. He maintained that the North had caused the problems that led to secession. He proposed that the North should return all runaway slaves, while all the new territories should be opened to slavery. Buchanan thought the Southern states would then rejoin the Union.

Senator John Crittenden of Kentucky offered a compromise. He suggested that the Constitution be changed to allow slavery in all new territories. He also suggested that any state north of 36 degrees 30 minutes north latitude could vote to enslave people or not. This boundary was an imaginary line that divided the Louisiana Territory into two areas, north and south. Crittenden thought the Southern states would be pleased with this plan and return to the Union. He hoped the slavery issue would finally be settled.



Jefferson Davis

Members of the Senate discussed the compromise, but they reached no agreement. Abraham Lincoln, leader of the Republican Party, felt that slavery must be stopped forever. Senator Crittenden's plan for compromise was turned down.

What New Government Did the Southern States Form?

In February 1861, the Southern states met in Montgomery, Alabama. They formed the government of the Confederate States of America, or Confederacy. They drew up a constitution that said each state would be independent, slavery would be protected, and Confederate states would pay no federal tariffs. Jefferson Davis was chosen to serve as president of the Confederacy. Montgomery was its first capital. Davis had fought in the Mexican War and served as a senator and a secretary of war.

Customhouse

A building where taxes are paid on imports or exports

Request

The act of asking for something

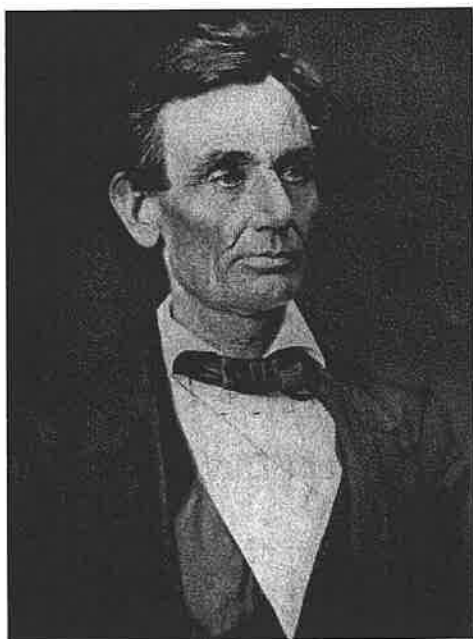
Civil war

A war between groups within the same country

What Did the Seceded States Do?

Near the end of Buchanan's presidency, the seceded states took over most of the federal properties inside their borders. These included forts and arsenals filled with large supplies of weapons. The South claimed many post offices and **customhouses**, as well as the large supply of coins at the New Orleans Mint.

Fort Sumter in South Carolina was commanded by Major Robert Anderson. The newly formed Southern government expected the North to turn the fort over to the South. President Buchanan did not agree with South Carolina's **request**. Instead, he sent a ship of supplies and food to troops at the fort. Confederates fired upon the vessel, forcing it to turn back. Afterward, Buchanan did nothing more to help the troops in Fort Sumter or in any other federal properties in the South.



Abraham Lincoln

What Happened When President Lincoln Took Office?

On March 4, 1861, Lincoln became president. He faced a very serious situation. No state had the right to leave the Union and form a separate government. Lincoln's first challenge as president was to bring the South back into the Union peacefully.

When Lincoln was sworn in as president, his inaugural address was about peace. He stressed that he did not intend to stop slavery in states where it was already in use. However, he wanted to see all federal properties in the South returned to Union control and all tariffs paid.

Lincoln wanted the Union to be preserved. He appealed to the Southern states to return to the Union without bloodshed. Lincoln made it clear, though, that any warlike action the South took would lead to a **civil war**. A civil war is a war between groups within the same country.

Biography

Susie King Taylor: 1848–1912

Susie King Taylor grew up in slavery. She had been enslaved on an island off the coast of Georgia. But unlike most slaves, she had the chance to learn to read and write. During the Civil War, she joined the Union Army. She was only 14 years old. At first, Taylor washed clothes for the soldiers. Later she became the army's first African American nurse.



Although she left the army at age 18, Taylor continued serving others. She helped start a branch of the Women's Relief Corps. She also began a school for freed slaves. The army awarded Taylor the Women's Relief Corps Medal. Her autobiography, *Reminiscence of My Life in Camp: A Black Woman's Civil War Memoirs*, told about her work. She wrote, "My hands have never left undone anything they could do toward aid and comfort."

Word Bank

Abraham Lincoln
 Jefferson Davis
 John Crittenden
 President
 Buchanan
 Robert Anderson

Lesson 1 Review On a sheet of paper, write the correct name from the Word Bank to complete each sentence.

1. _____ thought the Southern states would rejoin the Union if the North returned all runaway slaves.
2. Fort Sumter was commanded by _____.
3. _____ proposed a compromise that would have allowed slavery in new territories.
4. The Confederacy chose _____ as its president.
5. The first challenge facing _____ was to get the Union back together.



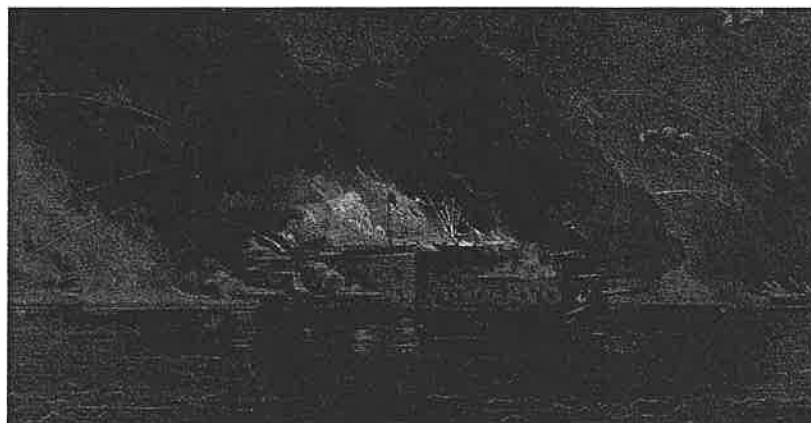
What do you think?

Do you think Lincoln's policy toward the Confederacy was good? Why or why not?

Defense*Protection against attack*

President Lincoln received a message from Fort Sumter in March 1861. Food and supplies were running out. More men were needed too. Major Anderson would have to surrender the fort unless immediate action was taken. President Lincoln would not let Fort Sumter surrender to South Carolina.

In early April, President Lincoln sent a message to the governor of South Carolina. He told him that a ship was being sent to the fort. Jefferson Davis told General Beauregard, the Confederate commander in South Carolina, to order Major Anderson to



surrender the fort. Major Anderson refused to surrender. On April 12, 1861, Confederates attacked Fort Sumter. Major Anderson and his men fought for nearly two days before they were forced to surrender.

Confederates attacked Fort Sumter in 1861. This was the first battle of the Civil War.

The news of the attack on Fort Sumter spread quickly. Thousands joined the Union army when Lincoln called for volunteers. Four more states, Virginia, North Carolina, Arkansas, and Tennessee, joined the Confederacy. A total of 11 states had left the Union and now formed the Confederacy.

Richmond, Virginia, became the new Confederate capital. Virginia organized a large, well-trained army led by good generals. Virginia would serve as a solid line of **defense** for the rest of the Confederacy. The states farthest north in the Confederacy were much stronger and better prepared for war than those in the deep South. The Confederate attack on Fort Sumter was the beginning of a bloody civil war.

DAY 7



Confederate General
Robert E. Lee

What Advantages Did Each Side Have?

With 23 states, the Union had a larger population than the Confederacy. Only 11 states were in the Confederacy. Nearly three times as many people lived in the North as in the South. The North had most of the country's factories and industrial labor force. In addition, the North had more money to pay for a war.

The Confederates were united against those who wanted to destroy their way of life. Southerners were fighting to defend their land and their rights. The Confederacy had some excellent military leaders, including General Robert E. Lee. The Southern men were more familiar than the Northerners with firearms, the outdoors, and horses. Also, the fighting broke out on Southern soil. In 1861, as the war began, the South had a definite military advantage.


What Was the North's Plan?

The war was expected to last only a few months. General Winfield Scott, "Old Fuss and Feathers" of the Mexican War, was the commander of the Union army. Scott was still thought to be an excellent leader. He called his plan for winning the war the "Anaconda Plan." An anaconda is a large snake that crushes its prey to death. Scott planned to crush the enemy. His plan called for:

- a blockade of the South to stop all imports and exports,
- capturing Richmond, Virginia, the new capital of the Confederacy, and
- stopping all shipping on the Mississippi River.

If the plan was successful, the South would be defeated and forced to surrender. Many looked upon the plan as too slow and not forceful enough.

President Lincoln ordered a blockade of all the Southern states that had seceded. He cut off the seaports of the South. The Confederates were unable to ship cotton from their harbors.


Writing About History

Write a short story or poem about the Civil War. Describe how a person not fighting in the war would be affected by the war, how a slave might view the war, or a similar topic. Write the story or poem in your notebook.

They needed to trade cotton for guns and ammunition from Europe. The blockade decreased the amount of supplies coming into the South.

The blockade was an important part of the Union's war plan. Some people said that with trade cut off, the South would choke to death. The South had very little industry and could not produce the materials needed to fight a war.

What Was the South's Plan?

The Southerners took a different approach. They planned to let the North come to them. In addition, the South counted on the North losing interest in the war. Many southerners also thought that at some point Europe would break the Union blockade to get the cotton that it needed.


What do you think?

Who do you think was more prepared for the Civil War—the North or the South? Why?

Lesson 2 Review On a sheet of paper, write the answers to the following questions. Use complete sentences.

1. What did the attack on Fort Sumter cause?
2. What happened in Virginia after the attack on Fort Sumter?
3. What were two advantages the North had during the war?
4. What were two advantages the South had during the war?
5. Why did the North form a blockade of the South?



Then and Now

Today we usually think of hot-air balloon rides as recreation. Did you know that hot-air balloons were used during the Civil War? The Union army sent men up in hot-air balloons to observe Confederate troop movements. The men signaled information to officers on the ground. Officers used this information to direct Union troop movement and cannon fire.

Today, the United States detects military activities from satellites revolving around Earth in space. Directed from control centers in the United States, the satellites gather information. With special cameras, the satellites photograph a target on Earth. Then they send images back to Earth. These images show whether countries are building or disarming weapons according to treaties.

DAY 8

Lesson

3

The Civil War Begins

The new recruits for the Union army were in Washington, D.C., being trained. Scott ordered General Irvin McDowell to lead about 35,000 of these inexperienced soldiers. He led them 25 miles to Manassas Junction, near a stream called Bull Run in northern Virginia. Despite their inexperience in battle, Northerners were certain that their soldiers would defeat the Southern "rebels," as they were called. They were so certain that many people traveled down from Washington to watch the battle.

Camped on the banks of Bull Run, the Confederates were ready for the attack. On July 21, 1861, the battle began. At first, the Union army seemed to be winning. However, troops under General Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson held off many attacks. Then Confederate troops under General Joseph Johnston arrived. The Union army was defeated. They fled back to Washington in panic.

The defeat shocked the North. They realized that the war would be a long one. Northerners were eager for a victory. They urged another attack. Northern newspapers had headlines that read, "Forward to Richmond!"

It Happened in History



Stonewall Jackson

When the Union seemed to be winning the first Battle of Manassas, a Confederate general, trying to get his men to fight on, pointed to General Thomas J. Jackson. "There is Jackson standing like a stone wall. Rally behind the Virginians!" This is how Jackson came to be known as "Stonewall."

Veteran

An experienced or former member of the armed forces

Gunboat

An armed ship used for battle

Ironclad

A military ship covered in iron plates

Who Became the New Union Leader?

In November 1861, General Winfield Scott retired. He was 75 years old. It was time for a younger general to take charge. President Lincoln chose General George B. McClellan as chief of the Union armies. McClellan was 35 years old and a **veteran** of the Mexican War. A veteran is an experienced or former member of the armed forces. He graduated second in his class at West Point, a military school in New York.

McClellan was good at organizing an army and training new soldiers for battle, but he was a very cautious leader. Before going into another battle, McClellan drilled his men over and over. Finally, in the spring of 1862, McClellan was ready to face the Confederate troops in Richmond.

What Happened in the Western Campaign?

The Confederate forts in western Tennessee were important in the Union plan to defeat the South. In February 1862, Union General Ulysses S. Grant and the navy's **gunboats**, or armed ships used for battle, captured Fort Henry. This was the Confederate stronghold on the Tennessee River. Grant continued up the Cumberland River to capture Fort Donelson near Nashville. Under the direction of Admiral David G. Farragut, the Union also gained control of most of the Mississippi Valley. However, the Union needed complete control in order to stop the Confederacy from using the river.

What Happened Between the Monitor and the Merrimac?

In 1861, the Confederates raised a sunken Union ship, the USS *Merrimac*, and renamed it *Virginia*. The Confederates then covered the vessel with iron plates so it could not be damaged by cannonballs. This kind of ship was called an **ironclad**. The North also had an ironclad ship, called the *Monitor*.

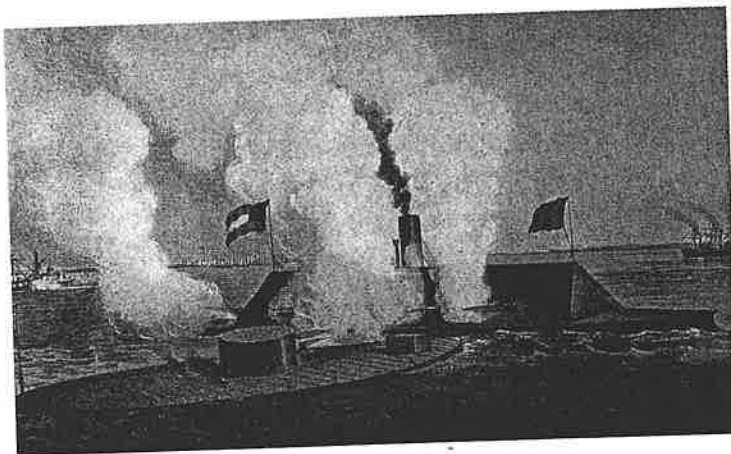
DAY 8

Outnumber

To have more people than an opponent in a battle

The two ships had a battle in March 1862. The Confederates wanted to break the Northern blockade. Neither ship won the battle. The Confederates, however, did use the *Merrimac* to prevent McClellan's army from approaching Richmond on the James River. The Confederates later destroyed the *Merrimac* to keep it from falling into the hands of the North. The *Monitor* sank off the coast of North Carolina. The *Merrimac* and the *Monitor* were the first ironclad ships to be used in battle.

The *Monitor* and the *Merrimac* (Virginia) battled at Hampton Roads channel in Virginia.



Who Won the Seven Days' Battle?

McClellan led his troops toward Virginia. The Confederates were ready for the attack on Richmond. They let McClellan get within a few miles of Richmond before attacking. There was heavy fighting at many different locations for seven days. For this reason, the battle was called the Seven Days' Battle. From time to time, each side seemed to be winning. However, thinking his army was **outnumbered**, McClellan retreated after the seven days.



Fallen soldiers were a common sight on September 17, 1862. Over 4,800 soldiers died that day during the Battle of Antietam.

Who Won Battles at Manassas, Antietam, and Fredericksburg?

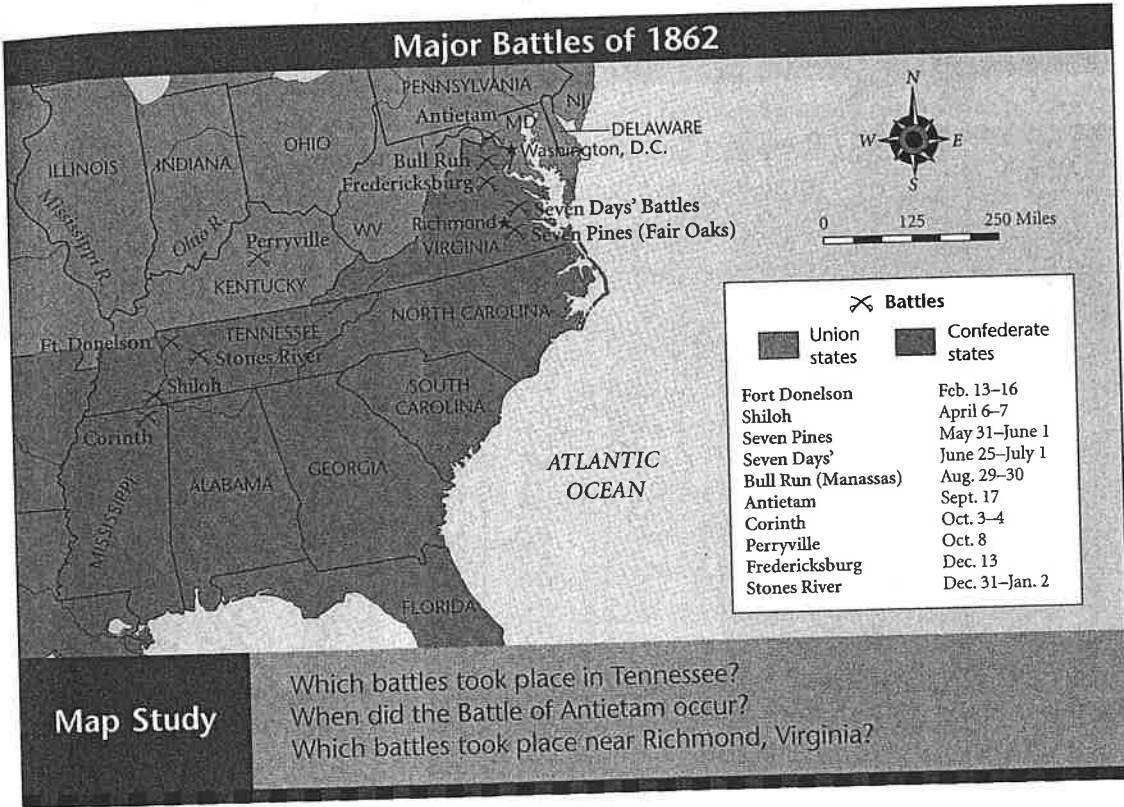
In late August 1862, a second battle was fought at Manassas (Bull Run). The Confederate army again defeated the Union soldiers.

General Lee changed his plan from defense to offense. He prepared to attack Northern states. Confederate soldiers marched into Maryland. On September 17, 1862, General McClellan and his Union

army of the Potomac blocked Lee at Sharpsburg, Maryland, on Antietam Creek. The Battle of Antietam turned out to be one of the bloodiest battles of the war. At the end of the fighting, Lee was forced to retreat. McClellan did not follow Lee into Virginia. For this reason Lincoln removed McClellan as the Union leader, replacing him with General Ambrose Burnside.

General Burnside took the Union army to Fredericksburg, Virginia. Positioned on a line of hills, the Confederates defended the city. The Union army made a strong attempt to charge the hills, but their efforts failed. More than 12,000 Union soldiers were killed. General Burnside resigned. General Joseph Hooker replaced him.

DAY 9



Map Study

Which battles took place in Tennessee?
 When did the Battle of Antietam occur?
 Which battles took place near Richmond, Virginia?

Word Bank

- confederate
- gunboats
- Monitor
- Union
- Virginia

Lesson 3 Review On a sheet of paper, write the correct word from the Word Bank to complete each sentence.

1. The _____ army won both of the battles at Bull Run, or Manassas.
2. In February 1862, Ulysses Grant and navy _____ captured Fort Henry on the Tennessee River.
3. The South renamed the USS *Merrimac* the _____.
4. The _____ and the *Merrimac* were the first ironclad ships to be used in battle.
5. General Burnside resigned after the _____ loss at Fredericksburg.



What do you think?

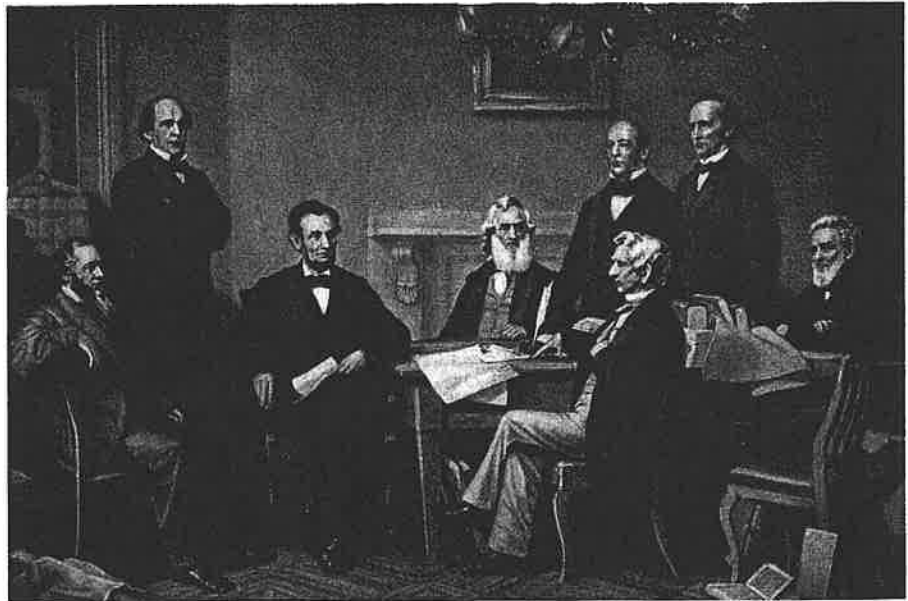
How does the battle of the *Monitor* and the *Merrimac* show that the Civil War was a different kind of war from wars in the past?

Emancipate*To release***Enlist***To join the armed forces*

President Lincoln knew that the victory at Antietam had been important. He issued a warning to the Confederate states. He said he would free all the slaves in those states if the states did not return to the Union by January 1, 1863. The fighting Southern states did not think he would do it. To their surprise, on the first day of January 1863, President Lincoln declared that all slaves in the states that had seceded were free. This was called the **Emancipation Proclamation**.

The proclamation applied only to those states that had left the Union. Although the Emancipation Proclamation did not abolish slavery completely, it was a major step. Northerners cheered the proclamation.

President Lincoln read the Emancipation Proclamation to his Cabinet in 1862.

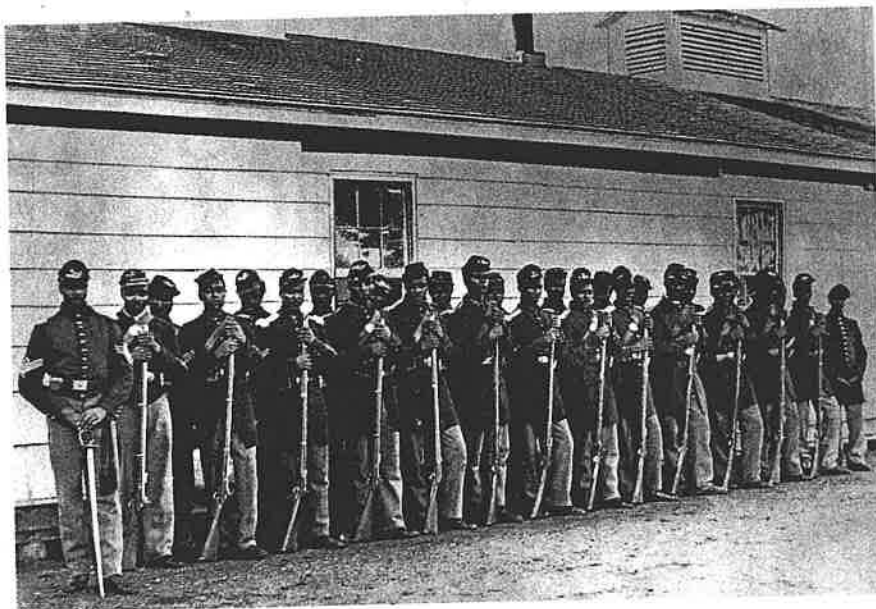


What Did Many Runaway Slaves Do?

Many slaves had run away and joined the Union army even before the Emancipation Proclamation. By the end of the war, nearly 180,000 former slaves had **enlisted** in the army and fought against the Confederacy. To enlist means to join the armed forces.

DAY 10

Twenty-three African soldiers won the Medal of Honor for bravery. Several regiments of Africans were formed. They took part in many major battles. The first African group from a free state was called the 54th Massachusetts Volunteers.



The Fourth Colored Infantry was one of many African regiments to serve in the Civil War.

What Happened at Chancellorsville and Gettysburg?

General Joseph Hooker had intended to keep an army at Fredericksburg to keep General Lee busy. He hoped to attack Chancellorsville at the same time. Meanwhile, General Lee had heard of the planned attack. He left a small army at Fredericksburg, and went on to surprise Hooker at Chancellorsville. Lee's and General Jackson's soldiers easily defeated a much larger Union army. During the battle, Stonewall Jackson was accidentally shot and wounded by his own men. He died eight days later. Lee had lost his most important general.

General Lee's original plan had been to fight a defensive war. He would wait and be ready. Now, though, the war was not going well for the South in the western states. Lee thought about sending soldiers to win back the West. On the other hand, he felt one major victory in the North would bring an end to the war.

Lee decided to attack the North. He made his way into Pennsylvania with an army of about 65,000 well-trained soldiers. General George G. Meade's Union army in Pennsylvania numbered almost 85,000. The two armies prepared for battle near the quiet town of Gettysburg.

On July 1, 1863, Lee attacked. The battle continued for three days, with each side having the advantage from time to time. Lee made a desperate strike on the third day. He sent General George Pickett with 13,000 soldiers to charge the Union line. The line moved back, but it did not break. Slowly, Meade's army forced the Confederates back.

The South lost the battle, and Lee retreated to the Potomac River. The losses on both sides had been very heavy. Gettysburg was the turning point of the war. Although the South continued to fight after this battle, it had little possibility of winning.

