



# The Civil War

## Battle / Event Carousel



## Instructions

- 1.) There are many options for completing this activity, so you may have to modify to meet your needs.
- 2.) Typically, I organize eight different stations around the room with the appropriate handout. We read through Fort Sumter together since it is shorter than the rest, and I believe it is good to demonstrate the expectations of the carousel.
- 3.) Explain the graphic organizer to students and how they should fill out the organizer at each station. An answer sheet has been included!
- 4.) I have also included a “close reading” worksheet that students should complete as they progress through the activity. Each station will have at least ONE question on the worksheet. After completing the organizer, I have students find the question that they can now answer from what they know about this event/battle.
- 5.) You will have to modify the activity to meet your needs, such as including reading assignments, taking out sections, using less of the organizer, or ignoring the “close reading” activity. Enjoy!

# Close Reading in the Civil War

1. Describe "total war." Be sure to explain what it is, who it involves, where it was used, and the effect of using it.

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2. This Union victory presented one positive outcome relating to slavery following the battle, what was it?

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3. Describe the 2 decisions weighted by Lincoln about sending a warship to resupply Fort Sumter.

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4. How did Union leadership completely spoil an opportunity to win the war on September 17, 1862?

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5. Explain the conditions given to the Confederates as part of their surrender?

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6. This was a costly battle for both armies. While the battle was considered a Confederate victory because it pushed the Union army back to Chattanooga, TN rather than letting it proceed into Georgia. Why was this a costly battle?

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7. Describe the event known as "Pickett's Charge." Be sure to explain the circumstances surrounding the event, what the term means, how it receives its name, and the outcome of it.

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8. Explain the term "live off the land." Be sure to explain what it means, how it works, and in what battles it was important.

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9. What goals did Sherman have in his "March to the Sea?"

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10. In President Lincoln's speech, what does he mean when he says: "We are dedicated to the great task remaining before us –".

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# Fort Sumter

## (April 12, 1861)

Fort Sumter was a federal fort in Charleston Harbor, which is located in South Carolina. The fort needed resupplied when it ran low on provisions (supplies) in April of 1861. This fort was important because it was one of two Union-controlled forts in southern territory. President Lincoln was faced with a tough choice in April 1861. With tension rising between the North and South, would sending a warship to resupply the fort be seen as an act of aggression? Also, not resupplying the fort could likely demonstrate weakness in the face of a rebellious south.

Lincoln decided to resupply the fort, but before his ship could get there the Confederacy attacked. Orders were sent to the fort that the Union would be resupplying Sumter. However, South Carolinians claimed this fort was theirs – it was in the South therefore it belonged to the South! Thirty-three hours later, the fort fell to Confederate forces.

At Fort Sumter, the Confederacy was the aggressor since they attacked first over a simple resupply issue. As a result of the South's attack, thousands of northerners flocked into the Union army. Lincoln immediately asked for 75,000 men had signed up to fight.



## The Beginnings of War

# Antietam

## (September 17, 1862)

Prior to the Battle at Antietam the Union had lost again at Bull Run (or Manassas). The Union army was now on the run. Confederate President Jefferson Davis and General Robert E. Lee saw an opportunity now to invade the North. The Union was on the run, northerners were becoming anxious to end the war, and the South was highly motivated – why not give it a shot? Too, Lee believed that once his army crossed into the border state of Maryland that the people there would rise up and support the Confederate cause. Lee crossed the Potomac River with 55,000 men, however there was no popular uprising.

On September 13 something very unique happened. In a field near Frederick, Maryland, two Union troops found a copy of Lee's orders to invade the North. These orders included his battle plan. Shockingly, Union General McClellan did not act upon this advantage. After the battle, Lincoln removed McClellan because, as he stated, "McClellan has a case for the slows."

McClellan waited almost eighteen hours to begin to move his troops to attack Lee. Meanwhile, Lee used this time to reorganize his men since he learned from a Maryland citizen about the Union's discovery of his orders. McClellan squandered any hope of taking the Confederate army by surprise.

On September 17, the two forces finally met at Antietam Creek, near Sharpsburg, Maryland. By the time they fought the armies were relatively well-matched. The fighting was horrible, by the end of the day over 6,000 troops had died and roughly 17,000 more were wounded.

Lee was forced to retreat. Again, McClellan did not take advantage. He did not pursue Lee into Virginia despite being urged by President Lincoln. Finally, Lincoln had enough. He removed McClellan from command and replaced him with Ambrose Burnside. However, the Union victory did present one major positive: following the battle. Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation, which freed slaves in the Confederate states. This forced many European countries – all who relied on Southern cotton and had outlawed slavery many years earlier – to rethink their plans to help the south. The Confederacy, low on men, supplied, and morale, knew that if they were going to win they needed foreign help.



Because of the horrific casualties in Antietam, many soldiers were hastily buried in mass graves.

## The Emancipation Proclamation

President Abraham Lincoln issued the [Emancipation Proclamation](#) on January 1, 1863, as the nation approached its third year of bloody civil war. The proclamation declared "that all persons held as slaves" within the rebellious states "are, and henceforward shall be free."

Despite this expansive wording, the Emancipation Proclamation was limited in many ways. It applied only to states that had seceded from the Union, leaving slavery untouched in the loyal border states. It also expressly exempted parts of the Confederacy that had already come under Northern control. Most important, the freedom it promised depended upon Union military victory.

Although the Emancipation Proclamation did not end slavery in the nation, it captured the hearts and imagination of millions of Americans and fundamentally transformed the character of the war. After January 1, 1863, every advance of federal troops expanded the domain of freedom. Moreover, the Proclamation announced the acceptance of black men into the Union Army and Navy, enabling the liberated to become liberators. By the end of the war, almost 200,000 black soldiers and sailors had fought for the Union and freedom.

From the first days of the Civil War, slaves had acted to secure their own liberty. The Emancipation Proclamation confirmed their insistence that the war for the Union must become a war for freedom. It added moral force to the Union cause and strengthened the Union both militarily and politically. As a milestone along the road to slavery's final destruction, the Emancipation Proclamation has assumed a place among the great documents of human freedom.

The original of the Emancipation Proclamation of January 1, 1863, is in the National Archives in Washington, DC. With the text covering five pages the document was originally tied with narrow red and blue ribbons, which were attached to the signature page by a wafered impression of the seal of the United States. Most of the ribbon remains; parts of the seal are still decipherable, but other parts have worn off.

The document was bound with other proclamations in a large volume preserved for many years by the Department of State. When it was prepared for binding, it was reinforced with strips along the center folds and then mounted on a still larger sheet of heavy paper. Written in red ink on the upper right-hand corner of this large sheet is the number of the Proclamation, 95, given to it by the Department of State long after it was signed. With other records, the volume containing the Emancipation Proclamation was transferred in 1936 from the Department of State to the National Archives of the United States.



Teacher Notes: The Emancipation Proclamation After the Battle of Antietam, Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation on September 22, 1862. Though often understood as the document that "freed the slaves," the Proclamation actually said that all slaves in the rebellious states would be freed on January 1, 1863. At that point, all slaves in states that fought with the Union were not freed. Hypothetically, according to this document, if the South had surrendered before January 1, they would have been allowed to keep their slaves. However, Lincoln knew the CSA would not give up, and this document would end slavery once the war was over. It would also be the moral issue that kept other European powers out of the conflict.



## The Battle of Chickamauga

For the first three years of the Civil War, Georgia was virtually left untouched. There were a few skirmishes, though the Battle of Fort Pulaski in 1862 led to the North's control of the Georgia coast and expansion of the Union Blockade of Southern ports. However, the major impact of war arrived on Georgia's doorstep in 1863, during the Battle of Chickamauga. The town of Chickamauga is located in Walker County just 10 miles south of the Tennessee/Georgia line. The battle lasted three days from September 18-20 and was the second bloodiest battle of the Civil War with over 34,000 casualties.

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The battle was the largest ever fought in the state of Georgia. The Generals that led this battle were William S. Rosecrans of the U.S. and Braxton Bragg of the CSA. This battle was part of a larger Northern objective to capture the city of Chattanooga, itself an important rail center, and to use its capture as a stepping stone to capture a more important rail road hub: Atlanta. While Rosecrans captured Chattanooga earlier that September, he wanted to circle around Bragg's army and cut the Southern supply lines in Western Tennessee and Northwest Georgia. However, the CSA discovered Rosecrans army in the area and attacked. This battle is significant for two reasons. First it was the largest Union defeat in the Western theater of the Civil War. Second, due to the South's victory, General Bragg focused on recapturing Chattanooga. The attack on Chattanooga was a southern defeat that brought General Ulysses S. Grant more attention and led to his promotion to the Commanding General of the U.S. Army. Once Chattanooga was defended and securely in Union hands, it was used as a launching point for Sherman's Atlanta Campaign.

Chickamauga was an extremely costly battle for both armies. Rosecrans lost more than 16,000 men killed, wounded, and missing, while Bragg's army of roughly 68,000 men sustained more than 18,000 casualties. While the battle was considered a Confederate victory because it pushed the Union army back to Chattanooga rather than letting it proceed into Georgia (it would be the next year before the Union army tried again), Rosecrans achieved his objective for the campaign, the capture of Chattanooga. Union troops did have to be pulled from Virginia and Mississippi to reinforce Rosecrans's besieged army in Chattanooga, but otherwise the staggering losses sustained in both field armies produced few immediate tangible results.





# Gettysburg

## (July 1-3, 1863)

In May 1863, both sides met at Chancellorsville, Virginia, which many argue was the Union's greatest defeat of the war. The South's win at Chancellorsville led to overconfidence among the Confederate – they believed that they couldn't lose. Lee took advantage of this increased morale among his men.

Confederate General Robert E. Lee led his troops north, hoping to get to a major northern city to “bring the war out of the South and to the Northern people.” The goal was to get to Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. He brought together 75,000 men who were well-fed and had high morale. Lee planned to follow Grant's practice of living off the land (taking food and whatever supplies were needed from farms and houses). Lee hoped that a victory in the North would demoralize the Union by defeating them in their own territory.

As the Confederate troops marched north toward Harrisburg, a small division commanded by General A.P. Hill heard that there was a supply of shoes in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. When the Confederates arrived they found the shoes, as well as two larger Union brigades led by General John Buford.

By the afternoon of July 1, reinforcements from both sides made the small skirmish erupt into a major battle. There were 24,000 Confederate soldiers fighting 20,000 Union troops. Reinforcements continued to arrive from both the Northern and Southern armies.

At first the battle was a stalemate. Even though the Confederacy had more men, the Union held the higher ground which was a much better position. However, things slowly began to take shape.

On July 3<sup>rd</sup>, 15,000 Confederate troops launched a massive attack across open ground toward the Union defenses. Known forever as “Picket's Charge,” General George Pickett was ordered by Lee to lead his men across the open field to storm the Union defenses. It was a courageous and ultimately doomed effort; the Union's territorial advantage (holding the high ground) made the southerners easy targets. Almost half of the southern force was killed in this advance. Then, many decided to retreat, which still left them as wide-open targets. This was an avoidable mistake that the South never fully recovered from.

Lee took the loss hard, blaming himself and offering his resignation to the Confederate President Jefferson Davis (Davis refused to accept it). Again, the Union let the Confederacy off the hook. What was left of the Confederate forces retreated south without chase from Union troops.

More than 23,000 Union troops died at Gettysburg. The South lost 28,000 men, more than a third of Lee's army. In addition, the South lost the confidence they had gained at Chancellorsville. Gettysburg, along with Vicksburg, is often seen as the turning point of the war – the beginning of the end for the South.



# Transcript of Gettysburg Address (1863)

Executive Mansion, 5

Washington, , 186 .

Four score and seven years ago our fathers brought forth, upon this continent, a new nation, conceived in liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that "all men are created equal"

Now we are engaged in a great civil war, testing whether that nation, or any nation so conceived, and so dedicated, can long endure. We are met on a great battle field of that war. We have come to dedicate a portion of it, as a final resting place for those who died here, that the nation might live. This we may, in all propriety do. But, in a larger sense, we can not dedicate -- we can not consecrate -- we can not hallow, this ground-- The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here, have hallowed it, far above our poor power to add or detract. The world will little note, nor long remember what we say here; while it can never forget what they did here.

It is rather for us, the living, ~~to stand here,~~ we here be dedicated to the great task remaining before us -- that, from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they here, gave the last full measure of devotion -- that we here highly resolve these dead shall not have died in vain; that the nation, shall have a new birth of freedom, and that government of the people by the people for the people, shall not perish from the earth.

Abraham Lincoln, Draft of the Gettysburg Address: Nicolay Copy. Transcribed and annotated by the Lincoln Studies Center, Knox College, Galesburg, Illinois. Available at Abraham Lincoln Papers at the Library of Congress, Manuscript Division (Washington, D.C.: American Memory Project, [2000-02]),

**1. Read the Gettysburg Address above. Define what each word below means based on the speech above:**

**Conceive**

**Endure**

**Consecrate**

**Hallow**

**Detract**

**Devotion**

**Vain**

**Perish**

**2. Why is The Gettysburg Address still relevant today?**

**3.. Complete you own version of the Gettysburg Address.**

## The Union Blockade of Georgia's Coast

One of the United States' most important strategies during the Civil War is often called the Union Blockade. Basically, the North's objective was to use its superior navy to prevent the South from shipping its cotton to England and France in return for weapons and other supplies. The mastermind behind this strategy was General Winfield Scott and was often called the "Anaconda Plan" due to its intention of "squeezing" the CSA to death, though the press dubbed it the "Anaconda Plan" as a critique. Despite the initial criticism, this strategy proved to be a major factor in the US victory. Note: Use the primary source "Scott's Great Snake," as a visual to describe the Union blockade.

At first, the Union blockade was not successful and almost 9 out of 10 "blockade runners," private citizens who took the risk of evading the Union blockade for the chance at huge profits, were able to make it to Europe and back. However, things changed dramatically in Georgia when the North destroyed the brick Fort Pulaski with rifled cannon. Once this fort was obliterated the North was able to effectively "bottle up" the important port of Savannah. Though Georgians continued to attempt to sneak past the Union blockade, and build several gun boats, including three "ironclads," Georgia was unable to deal with the power of the Union navy.

The US also made several attacks on Georgia, including occupying St. Simons Island and attacking the port town of Darien. Savannah was finally captured by General William T. Sherman, in 1864, with assistance from the U.S. Navy which was operating in the port.



## William T. Sherman

7 To many Georgians, General William T. Sherman's actions during the Civil War makes him the most hated figure in the state's history. However, as time has gone by, many historians are re-examining Sherman's military campaigns and are developing varying view points about the purposes and rationales behind his treatment of the South. No matter if Sherman was a truly a tyrant who reveled in his "mistreatment" of Georgia, or simply a military commander doing his job to swiftly end the war, Sherman's military campaigns through Georgia left an enormous impact on the history of the state.



### Sherman's Atlanta Campaign

Though often called "Sherman's March through Georgia" or simply "Sherman's March," Sherman actually led two separate military campaigns in the state. The first was called the Atlanta Campaign. Beginning in the spring of 1864, Sherman set out to capture Atlanta. Due to Atlanta's role as the major railroad hub of the South, along with its industrial capabilities, the capture of the city would bring a mortal blow to the Confederacy. The campaign took almost 4 ½ months and several major engagements took place between the two armies including the Battles of Dalton, Resaca, and Kennesaw Mountain.

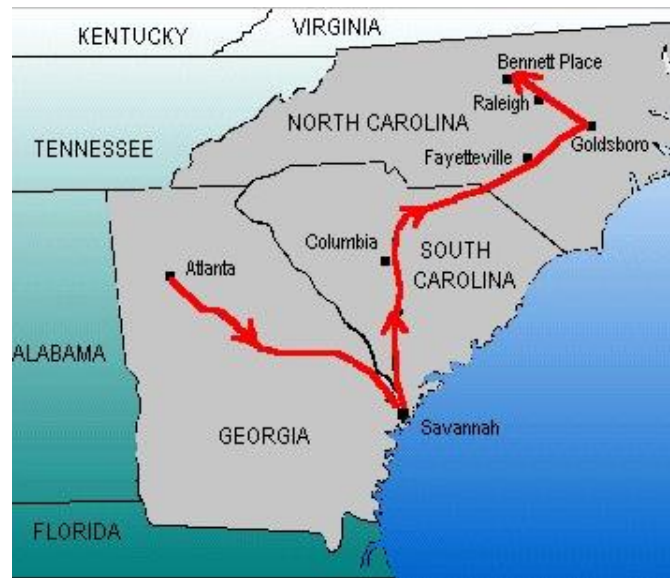
The southern army was led by General Joseph Johnston who believed that with his army being out numbered almost two to one, he should use defensive tactics to slow down Sherman's campaign. He primarily hoped to have his army dig in to defensive positions and lure Sherman into costly head on attacks. However, with the exception of the Battle of Kennesaw Mountain, where the North lost over 2000 men, Sherman chose to simply go around ("out-flank") the CSA's positions and continue to move toward Atlanta forcing the CSA to withdraw from their defensive strongholds. As Sherman pushed his army closer and closer to the city, CSA President, Jefferson Davis, removed Johnston from command and replaced him with John B. Hood, a general that would attack Sherman's larger army head-on to protect the city. Though Hood did as ordered, his attacks were unsuccessful and did not deter Sherman and his movements toward the city.

It should be pointed out that there was not one major battle to take Atlanta but rather several small battles that eventually allowed Sherman the opportunity to move close enough to the city to bombard it with cannon fire. These battles include the Battle of Peachtree Creek (July 20, 1864), the Battle of Atlanta (July 22, 1864), and The Battle of Ezra Church (July 24, 1864). On September 2, 1864, General Hood was forced to withdraw from Atlanta leaving the city open for Union occupation. Sherman held the city for more than two months planning for what was to be called The March to the Sea. On Nov 15, 1864, Sherman's army left Atlanta. Whether or not he was solely to blame for the fire that spread through the city as he was withdrawing, or if some of the fires were started by Confederate soldiers or civilians, is a topic that has been debated from almost as soon as it happened. Regardless, as Sherman started his new campaign, the city of Atlanta was left smoldering and in ruins.



## Sherman's March to the Sea

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After leaving the city of Atlanta utterly destroyed, Sherman set his sights on the rest of Georgia. Hoping to end the war as quickly as possible, while punishing the South for starting the war, Sherman began his infamous March to the Sea. The march began on November 15, 1864, and ended on December 21, 1864, with Sherman's capture of Savannah. Due to the losses the CSA sustained during the battles of the Atlanta campaign, and Hood's attempt to lure Sherman out of Georgia by marching toward Tennessee, Union troops had an unobstructed path to the Atlantic Ocean. During the march, Sherman's army created a path of destruction that was 300 miles long and 60 miles wide. Though it is disputed about how Union soldiers were ordered to behave during the march, many lived off civilian food supplies and took anything of value. Sherman burned buildings and factories, and in some cases destroyed towns. The city of Griswoldville, which produced a replica of the Colt Navy Revolver, serves as one such example. In the end, Savannah, not wanting to receive the same bombardment that happened to Atlanta, surrendered to Sherman without a fight on December 22, 1864. Sherman wrote to Abraham Lincoln that Savannah was his Christmas present. Note: There were only two battles during Sherman's March to the Sea and the battle of Griswoldville was the most tragic. Sherman's battle-hardened army was attacked by a force of Georgia militia made up of men too old and boys too young to fight in the regular army. In this battle over 650 of the Georgians were killed in comparison to 62 Union soldiers.

### Consequences of the March

Sherman's march frightened and appalled Southerners. It hurt morale, for civilians had believed the Confederacy could protect the home front.

Sherman had terrorized the countryside; his men had destroyed all sources of food and forage and had left behind a hungry and demoralized people. Although he did not level any towns, he did destroy buildings in places where there was resistance. His men had shown little sympathy for [Millen](#), the site of Camp Lawton, where Union prisoners of war were held. Physical attacks on white civilians were few, although it is not known how [slave women](#) fared at the hands of the invaders. Often male slaves posted guards outside the cabins of their female friends and relatives.





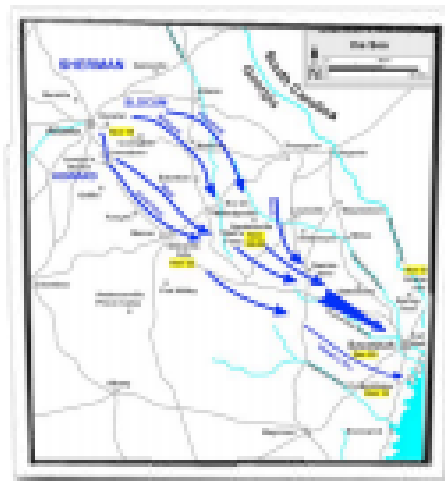
# Sherman's March To The Sea

**(November 15, 1864 - December 21, 1864)**

With the Confederate losses at Gettysburg and Vicksburg a year earlier, the South was barely hanging onto their war effort. Their defeat was inevitable, and Union General William Tecumseh Sherman wanted to make sure of it. Sherman's troops set fire to Atlanta and severely torched most of the city. Next, Sherman set out with 60,000 troops for Savannah - this was Georgia's best port. Along the way, Sherman's men looted the countryside, taking or destroying everything of potential value as they travelled to the sea. They tore up railroad tracks, vandalized homes, and destroyed farms. The goal? To destroy any last hope the Confederate army had of winning the war.

After taking Savannah, Sherman continued to destroy the South. Union troops burned the city of Columbia, South Carolina, to the ground. Again, homes and farms were decimated, valuable items taken, horses stolen, and hope destroyed.

Sherman's tactics are often referred to as "total war." Total war is a military strategy where there are no restrictions on the measures taken to ensure a victory. Total war was designed to break the spirit of the Confederacy - to take the war to the average southerner in the hopes that they would no longer be willing to fight.



## Andersonville

Andersonville Prison is the most notorious prisoner of war camp from the Civil War era. Located in Macon County, the prison's official name was "Fort Sumter" but became known as Andersonville after a nearby railroad station. Built to hold only 10,000 Union prisoners of war in 1864, the camp's population tripled to over 30,000 at the peak of its occupancy. Once the prison began to reach its occupancy limits, the main water source, a small creek that followed through the camp, began to back up with human waste and other sewage. Once this occurred, disease started running rampant throughout the prison. In addition, due to the success of the Union blockade, the south was running low on food and other supplies for the prisoners.

**Prison Life:** The Union prisoners themselves began to turn on each other and a group of soldiers known as "the raiders" terrorized the fellow prisoners by robbing and beating them. Six of these raiders were later hanged for their crimes. Prisoners did little to improve the miserable conditions under which they lived. Firewood details were curtailed when prisoners seized the opportunity to escape. The small stream that served as the camp's primary water supply, both for drinking and bathing, was polluted by the unsanitary habits of some inmates and by sewage and other garbage dumped into the swampy area that fed the stream. Wells were covered over and made inaccessible after prisoners used them to hide escape tunnels. With these horrible conditions, more men died (over 13,000) at Andersonville than any other Civil War prison.

Due to the awful conditions, Captain Henry Wirz, the commander of the camp, was executed by the North for war crimes. He was the only CSA official to meet this fate. Note: While some support Wirz's execution due to the harsh treatment of the Andersonville prisoners and the high death rate, others believed that Wirz did what he could to run the prison with the South's lack of resources and the decision by his superiors to continue sending prisoners to the already overcrowded camp. The Wirz trial offers teachers a great opportunity to use discussion and debate in the classroom. For example, one strategy that could be used for discussing Wirz's guilt or innocence is to use a "line of contention."



# Appomattox Courthouse

**(April 9, 1865)**

By early 1865 the war was essentially over. All that was needed was for both sides to sit down, "shake hands", and agree to end the war.

Robert E. Lee's army only had 35,000 troops by the Spring of 1865. He was well aware of the size of the Union's army at the time too - around 120,000 soldiers. He knew the war was over too.

The Confederate forces were tired, hungry, and demoralized. Sherman's "March to the Sea" was successful; the South was giving up. One week earlier, Abraham Lincoln and Ulysses S. Grant had even walked through the streets of the Richmond, the captured Confederate capital.

On the April 9th, Lee and his troops tried to escape from Union forces near Appomattox Courthouse in Virginia, but were unable to do so. Lee surrendered to Grant at the home of Wilmer McLain, a former resident of Manassas. McLain had previously moved his family from Manassas because the battle was "too close to his home." It is certainly ironic that the war ended here too.

Grant agreed to let Lee and his men go home. In return, Lee's men agreed to "put down their

guns for the remainder of the war." Grant also agreed that Confederate soldiers would not, as many feared, be tried for treason. They were allowed to go home and return to their pre-war lives. They also were allowed to keep their horses.



# Breaking Down Major Evens In The Civil War

[illegible]

# Breaking Down Major Evens In The Civil War

Event Name	Event Date	Event Location	Which side won?	How did they win? What happened?	Impact on war's outcome
Fort Sumter	April 12, 1861	Charleston Harbor, SC	Confederacy	Confederacy attached fort, claiming it was theirs, when Union wanted to resupply it	Thousands of northerners joined the Union Army and were prepared to fight. This sparks the Start of War.
Antietam	September 17, 1862	Antietam Creek, Sharpsburg, VA	Union	Despite not taking advantage of knowing the Confederates plan, the Union forced the confederates to retreat	Union let Confederates off the hook – they again had a chance to finish them but let them escape. War continues for a few more years.
Gettysburg	July 1-3, 1863	Gettysburg, PA	Union	Union maintained the high ground which gave them the advantages	Gettysburg is seen as the beginning of the end for the South.
March to the Sea	Nov/Dec 1864	Atlanta & Savannah, GA; Columbia, SC	Union	General William Tecumseh Sherman marched his troop destroying everything of Confederate Value, burning homes and farms, looting villages	The tactic of "Total war" was meant to make the confederacy completely useless and to break their spirit.
Appomattox Courthouse	April 3, 1865	Virginia	Union	Lee's men were tired, hungry and demoralized; they were also outnumbered 6 to 1.	Lee and Grant agree to end the war; Confederacy surrenders; Confederate soldiers are allowed to keep their homes and horses and won't be tried for treason.
Andersonville					
Emancipation Proclamation					
Sherman's Atlanta Campaign					
Union Blockade of GA's Coast					



Gettysburg Address					
Battle of Chickamauga					