

Gettysburg and Vicksburg: the turning points of the Civil War

1. Gettysburg, Pennsylvania took place over 3 days, July 1-July 3rd, 1863 and ended with a Union victory.

Vicksburg, Mississippi was a siege and started May 18th, 1863 and ended with a Union victory on July 4th.

Gettysburg forces were 94,000 Union vs 72,000 Confederate. The casualties were 23,000 Union and 28,000 Confederate: the largest battle casualty total of the war. That 3-day battle had almost as many casualties as the whole Revolutionary War, War of 1812, and Mexican Wars combined (those wars took a total of 12 years).

Vicksburg forces were 77,000 Union vs 33,000 Confederate. The casualties were 5,000 Union and 32,700 Confederate (including 1 camel): 28,000 of the 32,700 Confederates surrendered after the long 47 day siege. Union General Ulysses S. Grant was the victor.

The Confederate army lost control of the Mississippi River after Vicksburg which allowed the Union to cut off Louisiana, Arkansas, and Texas from the rest of the Confederacy. This hurt because of the large amount of food resources being reduced, especially Texas beef, from the Confederate army.

Ulysses S. Grant was summoned to the north to take command of the Union Army and defeat the Confederate Army led by Robert E. Lee.

2. The Fighting 54th: At first neither side would let African Americans fight in the war, but in 1862 President Lincoln decided the Union needed more soldiers. By the end of the war, ten percent of the soldiers in the North were free or runaway African Americans.

One of the regiments was the Fighting 54th of Massachusetts: there is a very good movie about this regiment starring Denzel Washington and Morgan Freeman called Glory.

3. For those of you who like to read there is a good historical fiction novel called Across Five Aprils that can give you a pretty good account of what the war was like.

Please answer these questions, all the answers can be found above or on the assignment from 4/24 in Google classroom.

1. What was the battle fought in Mississippi that was considered the turning point of the war?

2. What was the battle fought in Pennsylvania that was considered the turning point of the war?

3. What kind of animal was killed in Vicksburg that seems out of place?

4. How many days of fighting were there at Gettysburg? _____

5. The Battle of Vicksburg was a special kind of battle because it took place over many days and the idea was to surround the other side and make them surrender. That type of battle is called a _____.

6. How many total casualties were there at the Battle of Gettysburg? _____

7. How many Confederates surrendered at Vicksburg? _____

8. What was the name of the speech given by Abraham Lincoln after the Battle of Gettysburg?

9. In the first sentence of the actual speech he states the same five words as the Declaration of Independence, what are they? _____

10. Although there were many all African American regiments, what was the name of the famous one from Massachusetts? _____

11. What is your opinion of the casualty counts of Gettysburg and the 3 previous American wars mentioned? Please write a couple sentences.

Four score and seven years ago our fathers brought forth on 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 that field, as a final resting place for those who here gave their lives that that nation might live. It is altogether fitting and proper that we should do this.

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 consecrated it, far above our poor power to add or detract. The world will little note, nor long remember what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here. It is for us the living, rather, to be dedicated here to the unfinished work which they who fought here have thus far so nobly advanced. It is rather for us to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us—that from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave the last full measure of devotion—that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain—that this nation, under God, 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.

Translation:

87 years ago, George Washington, Thomas Jefferson and the rest of the Founding Fathers founded a new nation. The nation was founded on the ideals that all people are created equal.

Now we are experiencing a Civil War, which is testing whether a nation that holds those ideals as important can survive. We have gathered at one of the war's most important battlefields. We will dedicate a portion of that field as a cemetery for those that died here for those ideals. It is important that we as a nation honor them.

In a larger sense, we as civilians cannot dedicate this ground. It has already been dedicated by those that died here, and we, as civilians, can only speak of their sacrifices. The world will forget about those words, but not of the sacrifices made by the soldiers who fought here. Our jobs, as civilians still living in this country, is to ensure their work here, which has brought this war closer to an end, continues until the country is brought back together. That we, as civilians, should be inspired by the deaths of soldiers for this cause, to renew our dedication to that cause, and to make sure the deaths of those soldiers did not occur for a lost cause. Finally, that our nation, under God, will re-define its idea of freedom as freedom for all people and that government reflective of the will of its people will not prove possible.

The North's Anaconda plan:

- blockade all southern ports to stop trade
- Gain control of the Mississippi River to stop supplies from reaching the Confederate soldiers
- capture the confederate capital Richmond, Virginia

By July of 1863 the first 2 goals had been met, all that was left was to capture Richmond, Virginia. The United States Navy effectively blockaded the southern ports so the south couldn't trade. General Ulysses S. Grant, and Admirals David Farragut and Andrew Foote gained control of New Orleans and then the whole Mississippi River. Now, the North would be able to cut off Texas, Louisiana, and Arkansas from the rest of the Confederacy—no Texas beef to help feed the southern troops.

Unconditional Surrender: General Ulysses S. Grant (his nickname was Unconditional Surrender Grant because that was what he told the southern generals when they surrendered to him in the west) was moved to the east to take on General Lee and capture Richmond. Northern General William Tecumseh Sherman is given control of the west.

30 Bloody Days: General Grant advances toward Richmond and within 30 days loses 50,000 men in battle, but he had twice as many men going into battle and he has replacements. Lee loses about 30,000 men and he has no replacements. Lee borrowed men from the south and the west to try and hold off Grant. That makes the south and west vulnerable.

Total War: Northern General William Tecumseh Sherman realized he had very little resistance left in the south. He marched about 60,000 men from Nashville, Tennessee to Atlanta Georgia and then on to Savannah, Georgia burning, and scorching the earth in a 50-mile wide path. He burns houses, farms, towns, rail lines, and crops. He leaves nothing behind that is usable. He even takes the rails from the tracks, heats them up, and has them twisted around trees. It is called Total War and it means targeting not only the other army, but its land people too. The idea is to scare and shock the people of Georgia and the south to demand an end to the war. After striking Savannah, he turns north towards Richmond.

Pinned down: Grant has lost tens of thousands of soldiers in the bloody battles of The Wilderness, Spotsylvania, and Cold Harbor during his efforts to take Richmond and end the war. He has southern generals Lee and Longstreet pinned back against Richmond, but the generals and Richmond won't give up. However, by the end of 1864 the Confederate Army is running out of supplies and the number of soldiers is becoming about half of the Union on the battlefield. Then the news that Union General Sherman has turned his advancing army toward Richmond from the south.

Trenches of Petersburg: For several months the Union and Confederate armies dug trenches for defensive purposes (eventually over 30 miles long) around Petersburg, Virginia. The Confederates were able to hold off the Union Army and inflict heavy casualties on them, but the Union Army just kept sending in more soldiers.

The End: After 4 years and over 500,000 wounded or missing, and 620,000 to 750,000 dead the American Civil War ends at Appomattox Courthouse. General Lee surrenders to General Grant on April 9th, 1865.

Use the paragraphs above to answer the questions:

1. What were the 3 goals of the Anaconda Plan?

- 1 _____
- 2 _____
- 3 _____

2. Did the plan work? _____

3. Who did President Lincoln bring to the east to defeat Confederate General Lee? _____

4. What was his nickname? _____

5. Union General William Tecumseh Sherman believed in Total War, what does Total War mean?

6. How do you feel about Total War? Give a reason. _____

7. How many years did the Civil War last? _____

8. Where was the surrender signed at? _____

9. How many dead after the war? _____

10. How do you feel about the Civil War? Use some of the knowledge you have been given in this chapter to explain your answer. 8 points, please include capital, periods and several sentences.

The war ends on April 9th, 1865 at Appomattox Courthouse. Lincoln has kept the United States together. His plan to reunite the country is called the 10% Plan.

1. 10% of the voters in a seceding state must take an oath of loyalty to the United States.
2. The state would then have to adopt a new state constitution which banned slavery.
3. Once those conditions were met that state could send representatives to Congress.

Tragically, Lincoln is assassinated by John Wilkes Booth on April 14th, 1865.

The assassination is part of a conspiracy. There were several targets Booth and his conspirators tried to assassinate that night including Vice President Andrew Johnson and Secretary of State William Seward. The other attempts failed, although Seward nearly died. Booth is eventually cornered and shot, and four other conspirators were hanged for their roles. There are very good movies and documentaries about this event. If we were in class, we would watch at least one of these.

Andrew Johnson is the new president. He is generally considered one of the worst and was the first of 3 to be impeached (although none have been removed from office).

Reconstruction: period of rebuilding the South and readmitting southern states into the Union. Louisiana, Arkansas, and Tennessee wanted back into the Union in 1864, a year before the war was over. Congress refused to allow the representatives to be seated.

The Freedmen's Bureau: set up to help the freed African Americans adjust to life after slavery. They helped with food, clothing, and medical care (all things they had never had to take care of on their own before). It helped set up schools, helped them buy land, and get jobs.

President Andrew Johnson is from Kentucky, a seceding state. The southerners hated him because they felt he betrayed them by not seceding, and the northerners hated him because they didn't trust a southerner who didn't secede. He did not support equal rights for the freed African Americans. He felt white men alone should run the south and the country.

The Black Codes: laws passed in the South after the Civil War aimed at controlling freed men and women, and take allowing plantation owners to take advantage of African American workers.

The law could fine or arrest African Americans who didn't have jobs. They were put in jail and the only way to get free was for a white farmer to pay the bail and then the African American would have to work for the man to pay him back. This sounds like...

The south was divided up into 5 military districts and generals were put in charge. District 1 was Virginia; District 2 was North and South Carolina; District 3 was Georgia, Alabama, and Florida; District 4 was Mississippi and Arkansas; and District 5 was Louisiana and Texas. Tennessee was not included because they had already agreed to the 13th Amendment (slavery prohibited in the United States).

Use the paragraphs above and the Civil War document on Google Classroom to answer these questions: 1-3 are 2 points each

1. What was the 13th Amendment? _____

2. What was the 14th Amendment? _____

3. What was the 15th Amendment? _____

4. The Civil War ended April 9th, 1865 and President Abraham Lincoln was assassinated on April _____. He didn't even live a full week after the war. The man who assassinated him was _____ and it was part of a _____ (more than one person involved in the unlawful plan.)

5. With the war over the United States began a period called _____, a period of rebuilding the South and readmitting southern states into the Union. The southern states had to agree to banning _____ before they would be admitted.

6. One of the good things accomplished after the freeing of the slaves was an organization called the _____. It was there to help the newly freed African Americans with such things as food, clothing, and _____.

7. A bad thing that happened was the _____ which were aimed at controlling the freed African Americans in the South.

8. The new president believed only _____ should rule the country, including the South. He was nearly impeached.

9. 10 of the southern states refused to ban slavery so the United States divided them up into _____ military districts which were controlled by _____ from the North.

Southern ex-military leaders couldn't hold political office, so with the passing of the 13th, 14th, and 15th Amendments 2 new political forces emerged in the South.

One was a group called carpetbaggers, northerners who moved south after the war to take advantage of the economic problems of the defeated southerners-buy land cheap, run for office, buy factories cheap, etc. Many of these people moved down to help, but others were dishonorable and took advantage.

Another group who became a political force was the freed African Americans. They were now free citizens who could vote. Several ex-slaves became politicians and won senate and house of representative seats in the late 1860's and 1870's. This angered many in the southern population who still viewed them racially.

The white southerners fought back in many ways including the Black Codes, not allowing them credit at stores, and not hiring them for jobs. An even more extreme way was the creation of a secret society that used fear and violence to control the freed African Americans called the Ku Klux Klan. The Klan was believed to have killed thousands of African Americans and whites who supported them.

Sharecropping: a type of farming where a farmer works land for an owner who provides equipment and seeds, and is paid by a share of the crop.

General Ulysses S. Grant (the 1st of 7 born in Ohio presidents) becomes the 18th president in 1869 and he had to face the race problems in the South and growing unrest and wars with the Native Americans in the West. Great Native American leaders such as Crazy Horse, Sitting Bull, and Geronimo fought for their way of life during his administration.

The end of Reconstruction: The election of 1876 ended without a clear winner, Rutherford B. Hayes from Ohio vs Samuel Tilden from New York. A deal was made and Hayes ends up the winner by 1 electoral vote. One of the parts of the deal was that the troops must be removed from southern soil.

The New South: build up the economy with industry like the North (they believe they would've won the war if they would've had as much industry as the North). Industry builds in the South (not as big as the North, but bigger than it was) as well as railroad building grows. Agriculture was still the main economic activity. However, the days of the large plantations were over.

The South doesn't allow the African Americans to advance easily:

They create ways to stop them from voting; poll tax (a fee required for voting); literacy tests (must pass a test to vote); grandfather clauses (if your grandfather voted, you can vote).

Jim Crow Laws: laws created to segregate (separate) African Americans from whites in public places such as schools, trains, restrooms, etc.

Many African Americans migrated from the South to the northern factories or to the open west during the late 1800's hoping for a better life.

The 3 Civil War Amendments:

Remember an amendment is something added to a document.

Our first 10 amendments are called the Bill of Rights.

The 13th Amendment: ratified in 1865: 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, or any place subject to their jurisdiction.

*** The end of slavery.

The 14th Amendment: ratified in 1868: granted citizenship to all persons born or naturalized in the United States—including former slaves—and guaranteed all citizens “equal protection of the laws.”

*** Remember slaves were not citizens. They were considered property before this amendment.

The 15th Amendment: ratified in 1870: right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on account of race, color, or previous condition of servitude.

*** All men have the right to vote, regardless of race, color, or previous condition of servitude.

Buffalo soldiers were African American army units who fought bravely in many wars including the Indian Wars and the Spanish-American War. They were supposedly named Buffalo Soldiers out of respect by the Native Americans.

The impact of Reconstruction: For the freed African Americans it gave them a start at building a future, but with the end of Reconstruction in 1877 it was step backward. The southerners and some northerners resented and feared the changes of the 13th, 14th, and 15th Amendments and they fought back and did what they could (including immoral and illegal acts) to control the African Americans.

Use the Civil War Amendments page and the paragraphs above to answer the questions: 1-4 2 pts

1. The first 10 Amendments to the United States Constitution are called the _____

_____.

2. The 13th Amendment is _____.

3. The 14th Amendment is _____.

4. The 15th Amendment is _____.

5. The period after the Civil War where they are trying to rebuild the south and readmit the southern states is called _____.

6. Northerners who moved to the south to help rebuild it or take advantage of it were called _____.

7. A type of farming where the owner gives a farmer tools and seeds to work his land but expects a share of the crops is called _____.

8. Crazy Horse, Sitting Bull, and Geronimo were great _____ American leaders who fought to try to maintain their traditional way of life.

9. Match these terms:

_____ Jim Crow Laws A. A tax in order to vote

_____ poll tax B. if your Grandfather voted, you can vote

_____ literacy test C. separate

_____ segregate D. laws made to control the African Americans

_____ grandfather clause E. a test that shows you are allowed to vote

10. In your words, did reconstruction work? Give examples and use capitals, period and sentences. 10 points _____

Some will be used more than once:

The Declaration of Independence United States Constitution The Bill of Rights
The Northwest Ordinance The Federalist Papers

1. _____ Created the Northwest Territory.
2. _____ A farewell letter to King George III of England that announced we are becoming our own and separate country.
3. _____ Banned slavery in the Northwest Territory.
4. _____ This document is a formal plan of government and explains the roles of each of the 3 branches of government, how territories can become states, 3 other articles.
5. _____ Letters were put in newspapers urging the passing of the United States Constitution.
6. _____ This document announced that “all men are created equal”.
7. Fill in these Amendments: you may use anything to find the answers, notes, online, etc.

- 1st _____
- 2nd _____
- 3rd _____
- 4th _____
- 5th _____
- 6th _____
- 7th _____
- 8th _____
- 9th _____
- 10th _____
- 13th _____
- 14th _____
- 15th _____