

Unit 6 - Civil War and Reconstruction

Content Area: **Social Studies**
Course(s): **Social Studies 7**
Time Period: **April**
Length: **7 Weeks**
Status: **Published**

Transfer

- a) Evaluate the multiple causes of the Civil War, including the role of the institution of slavery as a principal cause of the conflict
- b) Locate and analyze significant battles during the Civil War;
- c) Identifying the roles of key leaders of the Civil War Era, with emphasis on Abraham Lincoln, Jefferson Davis, Ulysses S. Grant, Robert E. Lee, and Frederick Douglass;
- d) Analyze the significance of the Emancipation Proclamation and the principles outlined in Lincoln's Gettysburg Address
- e) Examine the political and economic impact of the war and Reconstruction, including the adoption of the 13th, 14th, and 15th Amendments to the Constitution of the United States
- f) Summarize the social, economic, and political impact of the war on African Americans, the common soldier, and the home front

Enduring Understandings

Cultural, economic, and constitutional differences between the North and the South eventually resulted in the Civil War.

The South feared that the North would take control of Congress, and Southerners began to proclaim states' rights as a means of self-protection.

The North believed that the nation was a union that could not be divided.

While the Civil War did not begin as a war to abolish slavery, issues surrounding slavery deeply divided the nation.

The secession of Southern states triggered a long and costly war that concluded with Northern victory and resulted in the restoration of the Union and emancipation of the slaves.

The Civil War put constitutional government to its most important test as the debate over the power of the

federal government versus states' rights reached a climax. The survival of the United States as one nation was at risk, and the nation's ability to bring to reality the ideals of liberty, equality, and justice depended on the outcome of the war.

Lincoln's Gettysburg Address said the United States was one nation, not a federation of independent states. For Lincoln, the Civil War was about preserving the Union as a nation "of the people, by the people, and for the people."

Lincoln believed the Civil War was fought to fulfill the promise of the Declaration of Independence and was a "Second American Revolution." He described a different vision for the United States from the one that had prevailed from the beginning of the Republic to the Civil War.

The war and Reconstruction resulted in Southern resentment toward the North and Southern African Americans, and ultimately political, economic, and social control of the South returned to whites.

The economic and political gains of former slaves proved to be temporary.

Although slavery ended, African-Americans did not achieve full equality during the next 100 years.

For the common soldier, warfare was brutal and camp life was lonely and boring. Many soldiers returned home wounded or disabled.

On the home front, women were required to assume nontraditional roles.

Enslaved African Americans seized the opportunity presented by the approach of Union troops to achieve freedom.

Essential Questions

What were the causes of the Civil War?

What were the major military and political events of the Civil War?

Who were the key leaders of the Civil War?

What characteristics do you think great military leaders need to have?

Why did Southern states secede?

Did any state have a right to leave the Union?

Was Lincoln right to use military force to keep the Union intact?

How did the ideas expressed in the Emancipation Proclamation and the Gettysburg Address support the North's war aims?

What was Lincoln's vision of the American nation as professed in the Gettysburg Address?

What were the consequences of the war and Reconstruction?

How did the Civil War affect African-Americans and the common soldier?

What are the everyday needs of a soldier serving in the Civil War?

What was the war's impact on the home front?

How can societies learn to be open to new or revolutionary ideas? How can those new ideas apply to current conflicts?

Content

Content

Causes of the Civil War

- Sectional disagreements and debates over tariffs, extension of slavery into the territories, and the nature of the Union (states' rights)
- Northern abolitionists versus Southern defenders of slavery
- United States Supreme Court decision in the Dred Scott case
- Publication of *Uncle Tom's Cabin* by Harriet Beecher Stowe
- Ineffective presidential leadership in the 1850s
- A series of failed compromises over the expansion of slavery in the territories

President Lincoln's call for federal troops in 1861

Major events

- Election of Lincoln (1860), followed by the secession of several Southern states that feared Lincoln would try to abolish slavery
- Fort Sumter: Opening confrontation of the Civil War
- Emancipation Proclamation issued after Battle of Antietam
- Gettysburg: Turning point of the Civil War
- Appomattox: Site of Lee's surrender to Grant

Key leaders and their roles

- Abraham Lincoln: President of the United States during the Civil War, who insisted that the Union be held together, by force if necessary
- Jefferson Davis: U.S. senator who became president of the Confederate States of America
- Ulysses S. Grant: Union military commander, who won victories over the South after several other Union commanders had failed
- Robert E. Lee: Confederate general of the Army of Northern Virginia (Lee opposed secession, but did not believe the Union should be held together by force), who urged Southerners to accept defeat and unite as Americans again, when some Southerners wanted to fight on after Appomattox

Frederick Douglass: Former enslaved African American who became a prominent abolitionist and who urged Lincoln to recruit former enslaved African Americans to fight in the Union army

Emancipation Proclamation

- Freed those slaves located in the “rebellious” states (Southern states that had seceded)
- Made the abolition of slavery a Northern war aim
- Discouraged any interference of foreign governments
- Allowed for the enlistment of African American soldiers in the Union Army

Gettysburg Address

- Lincoln described the Civil War as a struggle to preserve a nation that was dedicated to the proposition that “all men are created equal” and that was ruled by a government “of the people, by the people, and for the people.”

Lincoln believed America was “one nation,” not a collection of sovereign states. Southerners believed that states had freely joined the Union and could freely leave.

Political effects

- Lincoln’s view that the United States was one indivisible nation had prevailed.
- Lincoln believed that since secession was illegal, Confederate governments in the Southern states were illegitimate and the states had never really left the Union. He believed that Reconstruction was a matter of quickly restoring legitimate Southern state governments that were loyal to the Union.
- Lincoln also believed that to reunify the nation, the federal government should not punish the South, but act “with malice towards none, with charity for all... to bind up the nation’s wounds....”
- The assassination of Lincoln just a few days after Lee’s surrender at Appomattox enabled Radical Republicans to influence the process of Reconstruction in a manner much more punitive towards the former Confederate states. The states that seceded were not allowed back into the Union immediately, but were put under military occupation.
- Radical Republicans also believed in aggressively guaranteeing voting and other civil rights to African Americans. They clashed repeatedly with Lincoln’s successor as president, Andrew Johnson, over the issue of civil rights for freed slaves, eventually impeaching him, but failing to remove him from office.
- The three “Civil War Amendments” to the Constitution were added:
 - 13th Amendment: Slavery was abolished permanently in the United States.
 - 14th Amendment: States were prohibited from denying equal rights under the law to any American.
 - 15th Amendment: Voting rights were guaranteed regardless of “race, color, or previous condition of servitude” (former slaves).

The Reconstruction period ended following the extremely close presidential election of 1876. In return for support from Southern Democrats in the electoral college vote, the Republicans agreed to end the military occupation of the South. Known as the Compromise of 1877, this enabled former Confederates who controlled the Democratic Party to regain power. It opened the door to the “Jim Crow Era” and began a long period in which African Americans in the South were denied the full rights of American citizenship.

Economic impact

- The Southern states were left embittered and devastated by the war. Farms, railroads, and factories had been destroyed throughout the South. Confederate money was worthless. Many towns and cities such as Richmond and Atlanta lay in ruins, and the source of labor was greatly changed due to the loss of life during the war and the end of slavery. The South would remain an agriculture-based economy and the poorest section of the nation for many decades afterward.
- The North and Midwest emerged with strong and growing industrial economies, laying the foundation for the sweeping industrialization of the nation (other than the South) in the next half-century and the emergence of the United States as a global economic power by the beginning of the twentieth century.

The completion of the Transcontinental Railroad soon after the war ended intensified the westward movement of settlers into the states between the Mississippi River and the Pacific Ocean.

African Americans

- The Emancipation Proclamation allowed for the enlistment of African American soldiers.

Common soldiers

- Warfare often involved hand-to-hand combat.
- Wartime diaries and letters home record this harsh reality.
- After the war, especially in the South, soldiers returned home to find destroyed homes and poverty. Soldiers on both sides lived with permanent disabilities.

Women

- Managed homes and families with scarce resources
- Often faced poverty and hunger

Assumed new roles in agriculture, nursing, and war industries

Vocabulary

Vocabulary

Union

State's Rights

Confederate States of America

Border States

Free States

Slave States

Abraham Lincoln

Jefferson Davis

Robert E. Lee

Ulysses S. Grant

Frederick Douglas

enlist

greenback

Dred Scott v. Sandford

Uncle Tom's Cabin

Fort Sumter

Battle of Bull Run

Battle of Antietam

Battle of Vicksburg

Battle of Gettysburg

blockade

Sherman's march

assassination

Appamotax Courthouse

Emancipation

secession

abolition

proposition

indivisible

sovereign states

reunify

malice

Reconstruction

Radical Republicans

Southern Democrats

impeach

"Civil War Amendments"

13th Amendment

14th Amendment

15th Amendment

Learning Objectives

- a) Evaluate the multiple causes of the Civil War, including the role of the institution of slavery as a principal cause of the conflict
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Resources

Primary and Secondary Sources

United States History by Holt McDougal 2012

Newsela

History Channel

Brainpop

Maps, photographs, videos, & charts

Google Cultural Institute

PBS Education

Standards

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|-----------------|--|
| LA.RH.6-8 | Reading History and Social Studies |
| LA.WHST.6-8 | Writing History, Science and Technical Subjects |
| SOC.6.1.8.A | Civics, Government, and Human Rights |
| SOC.6.1.8.A.5.a | Explain how and why the Emancipation Proclamation and the Gettysburg Address continue to impact American life. |
| SOC.6.1.8.A.5.b | Compare and contrast the approaches of Congress and Presidents Lincoln and Johnson toward the reconstruction of the South. |
| SOC.6.1.8.B | Geography, People, and the Environment |
| SOC.6.1.8.B.5.a | Assess the role of various factors (i.e., geography, natural resources, demographics, transportation, leadership, and technology) that affected the course and outcome of the Civil War. |
| SOC.6.1.8.C | Economics, Innovation, and Technology |
| SOC.6.1.8.C.5.a | Assess the human and material costs of the Civil War in the North and South. |
| SOC.6.1.8.C.5.b | Analyze the economic impact of Reconstruction on the South from different perspectives. |

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| SOC.6.1.8.D | History, Culture, and Perspectives |
| SOC.6.1.8.D.5.a | Prioritize the causes and events that led to the Civil War from different perspectives. |
| SOC.6.1.8.D.5.b | Analyze critical events and battles of the Civil War and determine how they contributed to the final outcome of the war. |
| SOC.6.1.8.D.5.c | Examine the roles of women, African Americans, and Native Americans in the Civil War. |
| SOC.6.1.8.D.5.d | Analyze the effectiveness of the 13th, 14th, and 15th Amendments to the United States Constitution from multiple perspectives. |

Interdisciplinary Connections

9.2.8.B.7 Evaluate the impact of online activities and social media on employer decisions.

8.1.8.E.1 Effectively use a variety of search tools and filters in professional public databases to find information to solve a real world problem.

6.1.8.A.5.a Explain how and why the Emancipation Proclamation and the Gettysburg Address continue to impact American life.

6.1.8.A.5.b Compare and contrast the approaches of Congress and Presidents Lincoln and Johnson toward the reconstruction of the South.

6.1.8.B.5.a Assess the role of various factors (i.e., geography, natural resources, demographics, transportation, leadership, and technology) that affected the course and outcome of the Civil War.

6.1.8.C.5.a Assess the human and material costs of the Civil War in the North and South.

6.1.8.C.5.b Analyze the economic impact of Reconstruction on the South from different perspectives.

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