

# THE Civil War Curriculum

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GOAL 7 | LESSON PLAN | ELEMENTARY

## 1864-1865: Bringing the War to an End

**GRADES:** Elementary

**APPROXIMATE LENGTH OF TIME:** 50 minutes

**GOAL:** Students will be able to list the sequence of events leading to the end of the Civil War, paying special attention to the election of 1864.

**OBJECTIVES:**

1. Students will list the sequence of events leading to the end of the war and place each event on a map.
2. Students will engage in group and class debates over the issues of the 1864 election and write a paragraph explaining both Lincoln's and McClellan's views on the war prior to the election of 1864.
3. After reading a portion of The Last Salute of the Army of Northern Virginia, students will discuss U.S. soldier's feelings toward Confederate soldiers.

**MATERIALS:**

1. Bringing the War to an End PowerPoint
2. Timeline and Map Worksheet
3. Lincoln & McClellan Cards
4. The Chicago Platform
5. The Baltimore Platform
6. What Do You Think?
7. The Last Salute of the Army of Northern Virginia

**ANTICIPATORY SET/HOOK:**

By 1864 the situation is looking up for the United States, with victories at Vicksburg and Gettysburg; however, some people are tired of war and are looking for a way to end it soon.

Lincoln will soon complete one four-year term as president. How do you think the election is going to go? Do you think Lincoln will be reelected or will someone else become president? While Lincoln believes that it is important to keep fighting to bring the Southern states back into the Union, what do you think his opponent believes?

**PROCEDURE:**

Print out the PowerPoint with notes prior to class. There are notes included with the slides that can be on the printed slides, but won't be seen by your students during the presentation.

## Activity 1

1. Throughout the lesson, follow the *Bringing the War to an End PowerPoint*.
2. Hand out *Timeline and Map Worksheet*, copied back to back.
3. Have students fill in the Timeline.
4. As you go through the events in the PowerPoint, have students place the events on the map and write in the dates.

## Activity 2

5. Hand out the *Lincoln & McClellan Cards* to students; there should be roughly the same number of Lincolns and McClellans.
6. Hand out the *Baltimore Platform* to all of the Lincolns and the *Chicago Platform* to all of the McClellans.
7. Begin the *Bringing the War to an End PowerPoint* presentation.
8. Read the bolded information of each platform together as a class.
9. Put all of the Lincolns in one group and all of the McClellan in another.
10. Hand out the *What Do You Think? Worksheet*, and have students work together to gather their ideas for a debate, filling out the note sheet as they go.

**CLOSURE:**

As a class, read the excerpt from U.S. brigadier general Joshua Lawrence Chamberlain's *Last Salute of the Army of Northern Virginia* and discuss.

**ASSESSMENT IN THIS LESSON:**

1. Completed timeline
2. Completed map

3. Informal evaluation during the Lincoln/McClellan debate.
4. Notes on the *What Do You Think?* worksheet.
5. Informal evaluation through the discussion questions on the *Last Salute of the Army of Northern Virginia*.

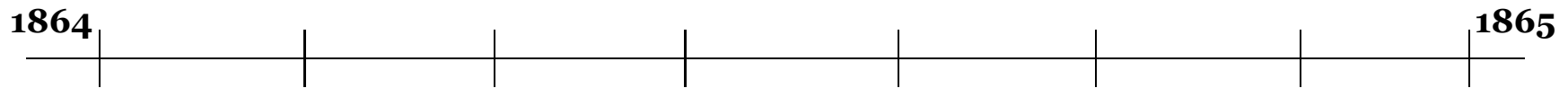


# Timeline and Map Worksheet

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Put these events in chronological order along the following timeline.

Date	Battle Name	Location
May-Sept, 1864	Atlanta Campaign	From Chattanooga, Tennessee, to Atlanta, Georgia
April 26, 1865	Joseph Johnston's army surrenders	Durham, North Carolina
April 9, 1865	Lee's army surrenders	Appomattox, Virginia
April 14, 1865	Lincoln is assassinated	Washington, DC
Sept-Dec 1864	March to the Sea	From Atlanta, Georgia, to Savannah, Georgia
May-June 1864	Overland Virginia Campaign	Wilderness, Virginia, to Petersburg, Virginia
Nov. 1864	Reelection of Lincoln	Washington, DC
July 1864-April 1865	Siege of Petersburg	Petersburg, Virginia





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Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Lincoln & McClellan Cards

Cut out the cards and hand one to each student as they enter the room. Each Lincoln will pair with a McClellan for the partner activity.

<b>Lincoln</b>	<b>Lincoln</b>	<b>Lincoln</b>	<b>McClellan</b>	<b>McClellan</b>	<b>McClellan</b>
<b>Lincoln</b>	<b>Lincoln</b>	<b>Lincoln</b>	<b>McClellan</b>	<b>McClellan</b>	<b>McClellan</b>
<b>Lincoln</b>	<b>Lincoln</b>	<b>Lincoln</b>	<b>McClellan</b>	<b>McClellan</b>	<b>McClellan</b>
<b>Lincoln</b>	<b>Lincoln</b>	<b>Lincoln</b>	<b>McClellan</b>	<b>McClellan</b>	<b>McClellan</b>
<b>Lincoln</b>	<b>Lincoln</b>	<b>Lincoln</b>	<b>McClellan</b>	<b>McClellan</b>	<b>McClellan</b>



## The Chicago Platform

**Created/Published: 1864**

The Democratic National Convention which gathered at Chicago on the 29th of August, and presented the names of GEORGE B. McCLELLAN for President, and GEORGE H. PENDLETON for Vice-President, agreed on and adopted the following platform.

*Resolved*, That in the future, as in the past, we will adhere with unswerving fidelity to the **Union under the Constitution, as the only solid foundation of our strength, security, and happiness as a people, and as a frame-work of government** equally conducive to the welfare and prosperity of all the States, both Northern, and Southern.

*Resolved*, That this Convention does explicitly declare, as 'the sense of the American People, that, after four years of failure to restore the Union by the experiment of war, during which, under the pretense of a military necessity of a war power higher than the Constitution, **the Constitution itself has been disregarded in every part**, and public liberty and private right alike trodden down, and the material prosperity of the country essentially impaired, justice, humanity, liberty, and the public welfare, demand **that immediate efforts be made for a cessation of hostilities**, with a view to an ultimate Convention of all the States, or other **peaceable means to the end that at the earliest practicable moment peace may be restored on the basis of the Federal Union of the States**.

*Resolved*, That the direct interference of the military authority of the United States in the recent elections held in Kentucky, Maryland, Missouri and Delaware; was a shameful violation of the Constitution, and the repetition of such acts in the approaching election will be held as revolutionary, and resisted with all the means and power under our control.

*Resolved*, **That the aim and object of the Democratic party is to preserve the federal Union and the rights of the States unimpaired**; and they hereby declare that they consider the Administrative usurpation of extraordinary and dangerous powers not granted by the Constitution, the subversion of the civil by military law in States not in insurrection, the arbitrary military arrest, imprisonment, trial and sentence of American citizens in States where civil law exists in full force, the suppression of freedom of speech and of the press, the denial of the right of asylum, the open and avowed disregard of State rights, the employment of unusual test-oaths, and the interference with and denial of the right of the people to bear arms, as calculated to prevent a restoration of the Union and the perpetuation of a government deriving its just powers from the consent of the governed.

*Resolved*, that the shameful disregard of the Administration to its duty in respect to our fellow citizens who now and long have been prisoners of war in a suffering condition, deserves the severest reprobation, on the score alike of public interest and common humanity.

*Resolved*, **That the sympathy of the Democratic party is heartily and earnestly extended to the soldiery of our army**, who are and have been in the field under, the flag of

our country; and, in the event of our attaining power, they will receive all the care and protection, regard and kindness, that the brave soldiers of the Republic have so nobly earned.





## The Baltimore Platform

The National Convention which assembled at Baltimore on the 7th of last June and there nominated ABRAHAM LINCOLN for re-election as President, with ANDREW JOHNSON as Vice-President, adopted and presented to the American People the following platform.

*Resolved*, That it is the highest duty of every American citizen to maintain against all their enemies the integrity of the Union, and the paramount authority of the Constitution and laws of the United States; and that, laying aside all differences of political opinion, we pledge ourselves as Union men, animated by a common sentiment, and aiming at a common object, to do everything in our power to aid the Government in quelling by force of arms the rebellion now raging against its authority, and in **bringing to the punishment due to their crimes the rebels and traitors arrayed against it.**

*Resolved*, That we approve the determination of the Government of the United States **not to compromise with rebels, nor to offer any terms of peace except such as may be based upon an "unconditional surrender"** of their hostility and a return to their just allegiance to the Constitution and laws of the United States, and that we call upon the Government to maintain this position and to prosecute the war with the utmost possible vigor to the complete, suppression of the Rebellion, in full reliance upon, the self-sacrifice, the patriotism, the heroic valor, and the undying devotion of the American people to their country and its free institutions.

*Resolved*, That, as **Slavery was the cause, and now constitutes the strength, of this rebellion**, and as it must be always and everywhere hostile to the principles of republican government, justice and the **national safety demand its utter and complete extirpation from the soil of the republic**; and that we uphold and maintain the acts and proclamations by which the Government, in its own defense, has aimed a death-blow at this gigantic evil. - We are in favor, furthermore, of such an **amendment to the Constitution, to be made by the people in conformity with its provisions, as shall terminate and forever prohibit the existence of Slavery** within the limits of the jurisdiction of the United States.

*Resolved*, That the **thanks of the American People are due to the soldiers and sailors of the Army and Navy, who have periled their lives in defense of their country**, and in vindication of the honor of the flag; that the nation owes to them sonic permanent recognition of their patriotism and valor, and ample and permanent provision for those of their survivors who have received disabling and honorable wounds in the service of the country; and that the memories of those who have fallen in its defense shall be held in grateful and everlasting remembrance.

*Resolved*, **That we approve and applaud the practical wisdom, the unselfish patriotism, and unswerving fidelity to the Constitution and the principles of American liberty, with which Abraham Lincoln has discharged, under circumstances**

of unparalleled difficulty, the great duties and responsibilities of the presidential office; that we approve and indorse, as demanded by the emergency and essential to the preservation of the nation, and as within the Constitution, the measures and acts which he has adopted to defend the nation against its open and secret foes; that **we approve especially the Proclamation of Emancipation, and the employment as Union soldiers of men heretofore held in Slavery**; and that we have full confidence in his determination to carry these and all other constitutional measures essential to the salvation of the country into full and complete effect.

*Resolved*, That we deem it essential to the general welfare that harmony should prevail in the National councils, and we regard as worthy of public confidence and official trust those only who cordially indorse the principles proclaimed in these resolutions, and which should characterize the administration of the Government.

*Resolved*, That the Government owes to all men employed in its armies, without regard to distinction of color, the full protection of the laws of war; and that any violation of these laws or of the usages of civilized nations in the time of war by the Rebels now in arms, should be made the subject of full and prompt redress.

*Resolved*, That the foreign migration, which in the past has added so much to the wealth and development of resources and increase of power to this nation, the asylum of the oppressed of all nations, should be fostered and encouraged by a liberal and just policy.

*Resolved*, That we are in favor of the speedy construction of a Railroad to the Pacific.

*Resolved*, That the National faith, pledged for the redemption of the Public Debt, must be kept inviolate; and that for this purpose we recommend economy and rigid responsibility in the public expenditures, and a vigorous and just system of taxation; that it is the duty of every loyal State to sustain the credit and promote the use of the National Currency.

*Resolved*, That we approve the position taken by the Government that the people of the United States never regarded with indifference the attempt of any European power to overthrow by force, or to supplant by fraud, the institutions of any republican government on the western continent, and that they view with extreme jealousy, as menacing to the peace and independence of this our country, the efforts of any such power to obtain new footholds for monarchical governments, sustained by a foreign military force, in near proximity to the United States.



## What Do You Think?

With your partner, debate whether the United States should continue fighting the Confederacy in an effort to save the Union. Complete the note sheet as you address each question.

Depending on the name you received at the beginning of class, you will either consider the question from the perspective of Abraham Lincoln or George B. McClellan, making sure to think about the military, political, and economic factors involved in your decision.

### **If you choose to continue fighting the war...**

How will you win?

Will you continue to try and spare non-combatants as the war wages around them?

Will you punish all of the people of the Confederacy or just those who took up arms against the United States?

How will you persuade the Northern public to support the effort?

How will you persuade Congress to financially support the war effort?

### **If you choose NOT to continue fighting the war...**

How will you defend your new southern border?

How will you address the issue of runaway slaves from the South?

Will you enact a law similar to the Fugitive Slave Act to appease the new southern Confederacy?



## The Last Salute of the Army of Northern Virginia

### Excerpt:

"Bayonets were affixed to muskets, arms stacked, and cartridge boxes unslung and hung upon the stacks. Then, slowly and with a reluctance that was appealingly pathetic, the torn and tattered battleflags were either leaned against the stacks or laid upon the ground. The emotion of the conquered soldiery was really sad to witness. Some of the men who had carried and followed those ragged standards through the four long years of strife, rushed, regardless of all discipline, from the ranks, bent about their old flags, and pressed them to their lips with burning tears.

"And it can well be imagined, too, that there was no lack of emotion on our side, but the Union men were held steady in their lines, without the least show of demonstration by word or by motion. There was, though, a twitching of the muscles of their faces, and, be it said, their battle-bronzed cheeks were not altogether dry. Our men felt the import of the occasion, and realized fully how they would have been affected if defeat and surrender had been their lot after such a fearful struggle.

"But, as I was saying, every token of armed hostility having been laid aside, and the men having given their words of honor that they would never serve again against the flag, they were free to go whither they would and as best they could. In the meantime our army had been supplying them with rations. On the next morning, however, the morning of the 13th, we could see the men, singly or in squads, making their way slowly into the distance, in whichever direction was nearest home, and by nightfall we were left there at Appomattox Courthouse lonesome and alone."

-Joshua Lawrence Chamberlain

### Discussion Questions:

Does this scene seem to be full of hatred or kindness?

How do the Union soldiers feel as they watch the Confederate soldiers put down their weapons and walk away?