

★ Chapter 22 ★

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ The ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ CIVIL WAR

FORT SUMTER

Soon after his inauguration, President Lincoln learned that supplies for federal troops at **FORT SUMTER**, which was located in the harbor of Charleston, South Carolina, were running out. Sending more supplies could provoke war. After alerting the CSA, Lincoln sent unarmed supply ships. In response, on April 12, 1861, the Confederacy attacked Fort Sumter. The fort surrendered two days later. The **CIVIL WAR** had begun.

CIVIL WAR

a war within one country, rather than between two different nations

BORDER STATES

Lincoln called on state militias to supply troops for what he estimated would be three months of fighting. In response, North Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, and Arkansas seceded—they refused to bear arms against their fellow Southerners and saw Lincoln's actions as unjust. Border states where

slavery was legal but not such a big part of the economy— Delaware, Kentucky, Maryland, and Missouri—stayed in the Union. In 1863, the part of Virginia loyal to the Union—**WEST VIRGINIA**—became the USA's thirty-fifth state.

NORTH VERSUS **SOUTH**

The North (the **YANKEES**, or the **UNION**, who wore blue uniforms) had a bigger population, more transport options (especially railroads), more factories and production capacity, and more money.

The South (the **REBELS**, or the **CONFEDERATES**, who wore gray uniforms) had better officers and influence on the world's cotton market.

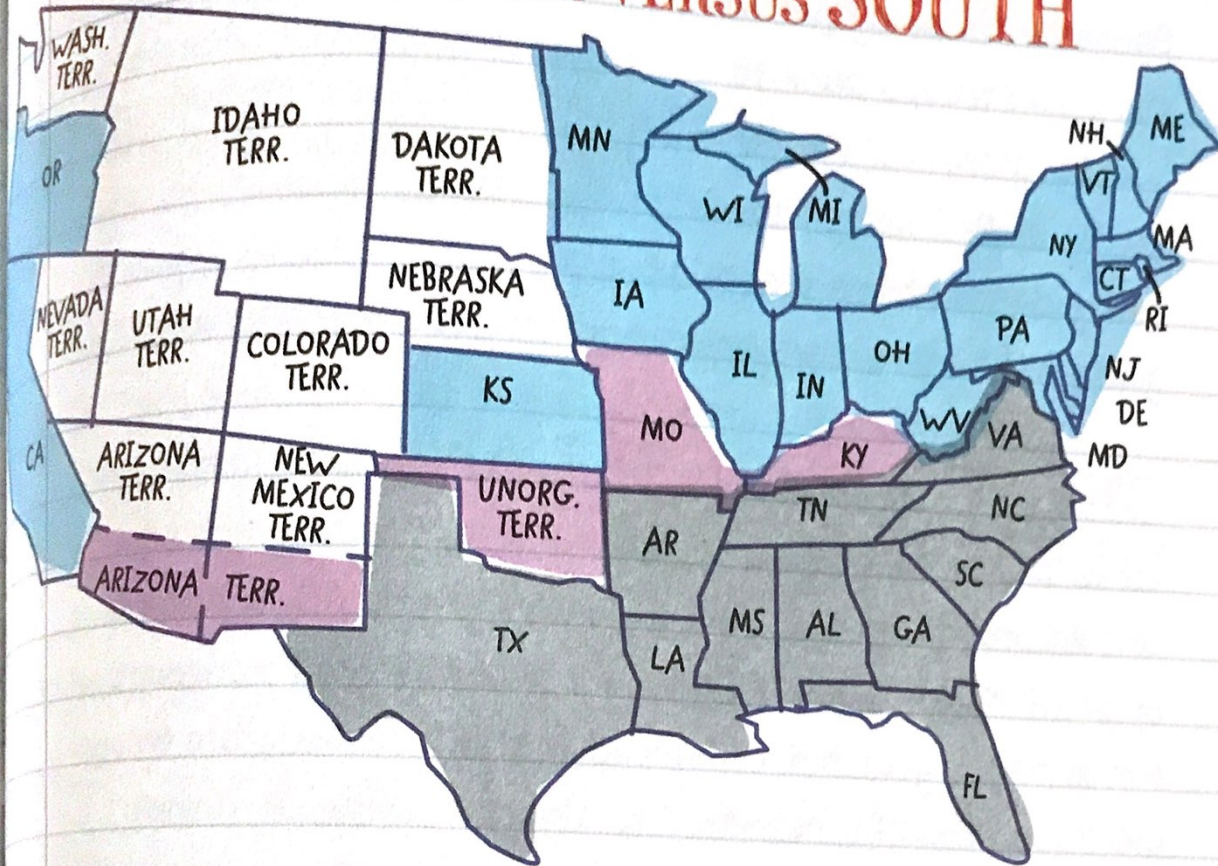
The South needed to fight a defensive war. They hoped for foreign intervention and planned to hold out until the North got weary of the war.

The North needed to fight a more active war and subdue the Rebels.

Both armies consisted mostly of inexperienced volunteers who signed up for only 90 days of fighting.

Together, North and South faced the scary reality of a war that put brother against brother.

NORTH VERSUS SOUTH



STATES
(UNION)

CONFEDERACY
(CSA)

CLAIMED BY CSA

The FIRST BATTLE of BULL RUN

In July of 1861, the Union army tried to take Richmond, Virginia, which had become the CSA capital. The Confederate troops met the Union army at **MANASSAS**, Virginia, which was a key railroad junction near **BULL RUN CREEK**. Neither side was ready. On July 21, the Union forces crossed the creek and pushed back all of the Rebels, except for the unit led by General Thomas Jackson, who received the nickname "Stonewall" for refusing to move. Under **STONEWALL JACKSON**, the



Confederate army pushed the Union troops back to Washington, D.C. The First Battle of Bull Run showed both sides that this war was

going to be more dangerous and difficult than expected.

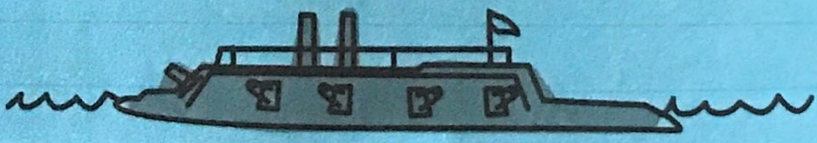
REBEL YELL
The Confederate army was known for screaming loudly when they were on the attack, so their battle cry was known as the "rebel yell."

GEORGE McCLELLAN and ULYSSES S. GRANT

Lincoln brought in **GENERAL GEORGE McCLELLAN** to lead the Union **ARMY OF THE POTOMAC**. McClellan trained his troops for almost a year but, convinced that the Confederate troops were too powerful, hesitated to attack. Meanwhile, Union forces in the West, led by **ULYSSES S. GRANT**, were taking forts, gaining ground, and taking over trade and supply routes. **ADMIRAL DAVID FARRAGUT** led navy troops to take New Orleans, wrapping his wooden ships in heavy chains to protect them like **IRONCLADS**.

NEW MILITARY TECHNOLOGY

One of the most significant new inventions of the Civil War was the **IRONCLAD** warship, a ship that was armored with iron. Other major innovations were the **REPEATING RIFLE** (which could fire more than one bullet before it had to be reloaded) and the **MINIÉ BALL BULLET**; soldiers could shoot farther and more accurately. War became a whole lot deadlier.



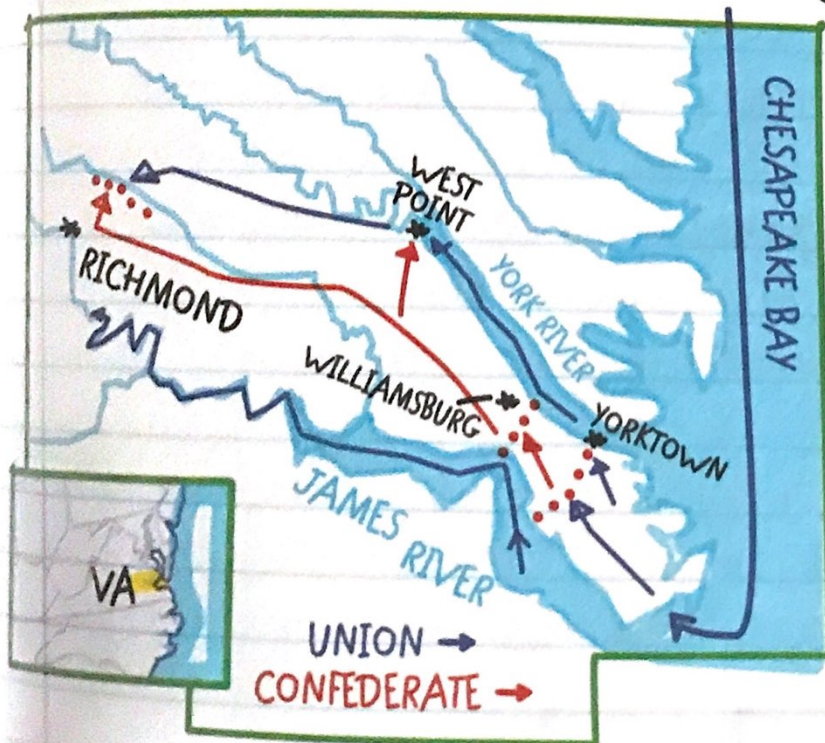
THE BIG BATTLES:

The BATTLE of SHILOH

The Confederacy's western troops retreated to Corinth, Mississippi. Grant's army followed closely behind, stopping near SHILOH CHURCH, in Tennessee, to wait for reinforcements. On April 6, 1862, Albert Sidney Johnston, leader of the Confederacy's western troops, and his soldiers ambushed Grant's camp. Over two days, the Union forces were able to push the Confederates back into Mississippi, but both sides lost huge numbers of soldiers in the BATTLE OF SHILOH.

The PENINSULA CAMPAIGN

As Lincoln was frustrated with McClellan's hesitations, McClellan finally announced a plan to move the entire army by boat to Virginia's Lower Peninsula—a huge and slow



operation. He wanted to enter the James River Peninsula to attack Richmond from the south. By the time he got there, the Confederates were ready to attack.

McClellan's army suffered heavy losses and was forced to retreat by the CONFEDERATE ARMY OF NORTHERN VIRGINIA, led by ROBERT E. LEE.

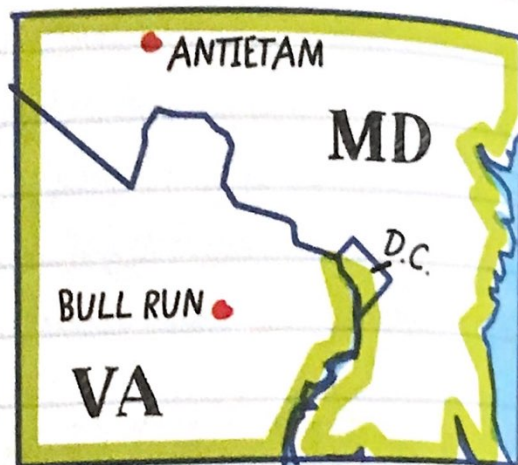
The SECOND BATTLE of BULL RUN

In August 1862, in the SECOND BATTLE OF BULL RUN, the Rebels gained another victory.

ANTIETAM

Lee decided to attack the North. A victory there would take the war to Northern soil, encouraging Britain to join the war. (It was

also designed to help Virginia farmers harvest their crops by moving the battle north.) In September 1862, the Confederate army crossed the Potomac into Frederick, Maryland.



Lee planned to divide his army into three units, which made him vulnerable to attack. A Union soldier found a copy of Lee's marching orders in an abandoned Rebel camp. When McClellan learned of the plan, he was slow to act when he could have used this secret information to get an advantage.

Two days later, on September 17, the two armies met near Sharpsburg, Maryland, at the BATTLE OF ANTIETAM, which became the single deadliest one-day battle in all of U.S. history.

After Lee retreated, McClellan didn't follow with an attack. Lincoln fired McClellan.

COMBINED CASUALTIES WERE 23,000 KILLED, WOUNDED, OR MISSING.

The EMANCIPATION PROCLAMATION

EMANCIPATION
setting free

According to Lincoln, the Civil War wasn't being fought to end slavery. It was to preserve the Union. At first he didn't want to upset the border states.

The Union victory at Antietam gave him more confidence.

On January 1, 1863, Lincoln issued the **EMANCIPATION**

PROCLAMATION. He did not have the constitutional power to end slavery, but he had the authority to seize enemy property—including slaves. So this military order could free all slaves in any area that was in rebellion. The Emancipation Proclamation transformed the Civil War into a moral crusade against slavery and it encouraged some slaves to escape. However, the Union army could not actively ensure that slaves were freed. Nonetheless, it also prevented foreign intervention because no European power would fight to restore or preserve slavery.

Although many whites doubted black soldiers' courage and ability to fight, they—most famously the **54TH MASSACHUSETTS VOLUNTEERS** regiment—proved their bravery after Congress allowed them to fight. There were **175 UNITED STATES COLORED TROOPS (USCT)** regiments by the end of the Civil War, which constituted 10 percent of the entire Union army.

The HOME FRONT

Because so many men were away fighting, women took on more responsibility in farming, business, and manufacturing. Women also supported the war effort as nurses; nurse CLARA BARTON later founded the AMERICAN RED CROSS.

High demand for supplies bolstered the Northern economy. Shortages and inflation damaged the Southern economy and hurt Southern morale.

Both the Union and Confederate governments imposed an INCOME TAX and issued new currency; in the North, this money was called GREENBACK money.

The need for soldiers led to the institution of a draft on both sides. Because rich men could buy their way out of it, riots ensued in New York City, and over one hundred people died in the July 1863 draft riots.

HABEAS CORPUS

Concerned about the damage the opposition at home could do to Union morale, Lincoln suspended the WRIT OF HABEAS CORPUS. That is, he allowed people to be arrested without a specified cause.

According to the Constitution, the president can ask Congress to suspend the writ of habeas corpus in an emergency but cannot act on his own. Lincoln's decision stirred controversy, but Congress validated it when it began its next session.

In Latin, "habeas corpus" means to "have the body." Literally, it means that a person can't be charged with murder unless a body is presented to prove that the crime took place. In law, the "writ" (or legal order) of habeas corpus means that a person can't be kept in jail unless those detaining him have the legal authority to do so.

FREDERICKSBURG and CHANCELLORSVILLE

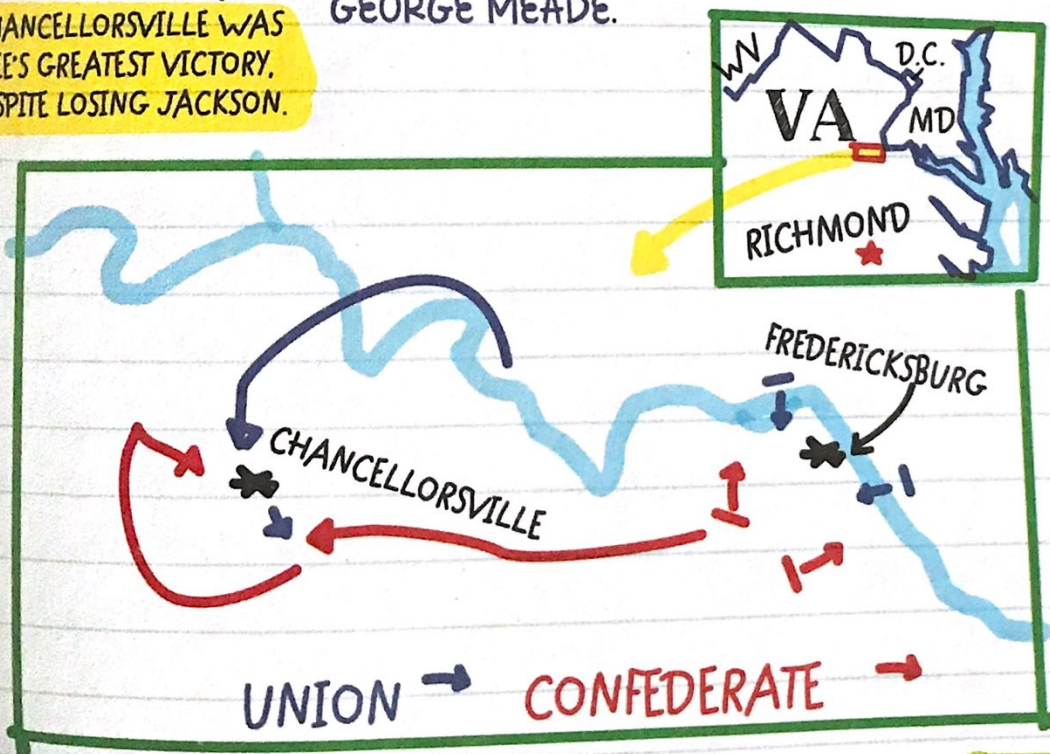
After firing McClellan, Lincoln put AMBROSE BURNSIDE in charge. The Rebels and General Lee forced the Union to retreat in the December 1862 BATTLE OF FREDERICKSBURG. It was one of the worst defeats of the Union army, who lost more than 12,500 men. Burnside resigned. GENERAL JOSEPH HOOKER took his place.

Remember the not-so-great Union generals McClellan, Burnside, and Hooker with this mnemonic device:

**MAKE
BETTER
HEROES.**

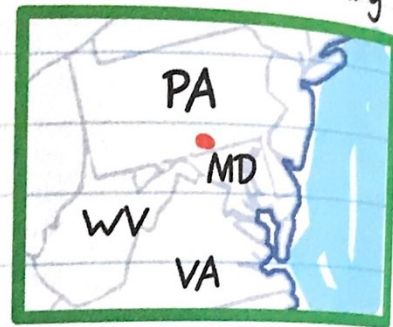
CHANCELLORSVILLE WAS LEE'S GREATEST VICTORY, DESPITE LOSING JACKSON.

In May of 1863, Hooker led the Union army in an attack on Chancellorsville, but they were again forced to retreat, even though Stonewall Jackson died of wounds from the battle. Hooker resigned. He was replaced by GEORGE MEADE.



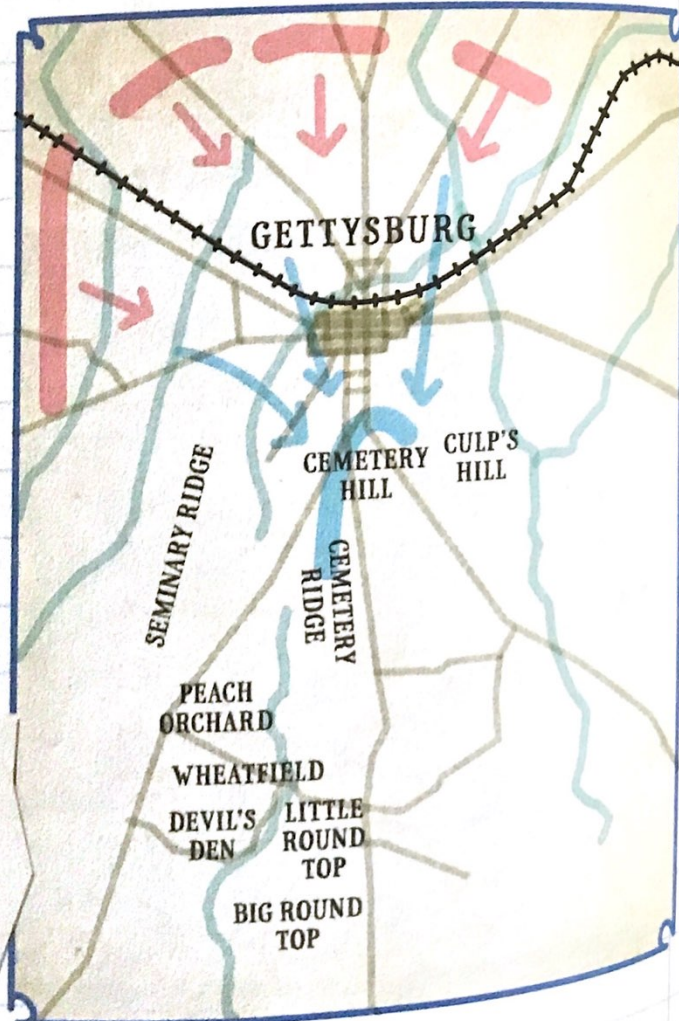
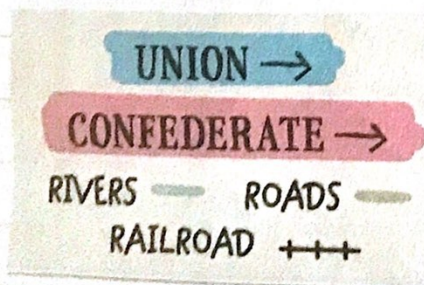
THE BIG ONE: THE BATTLE OF GETTYSBURG

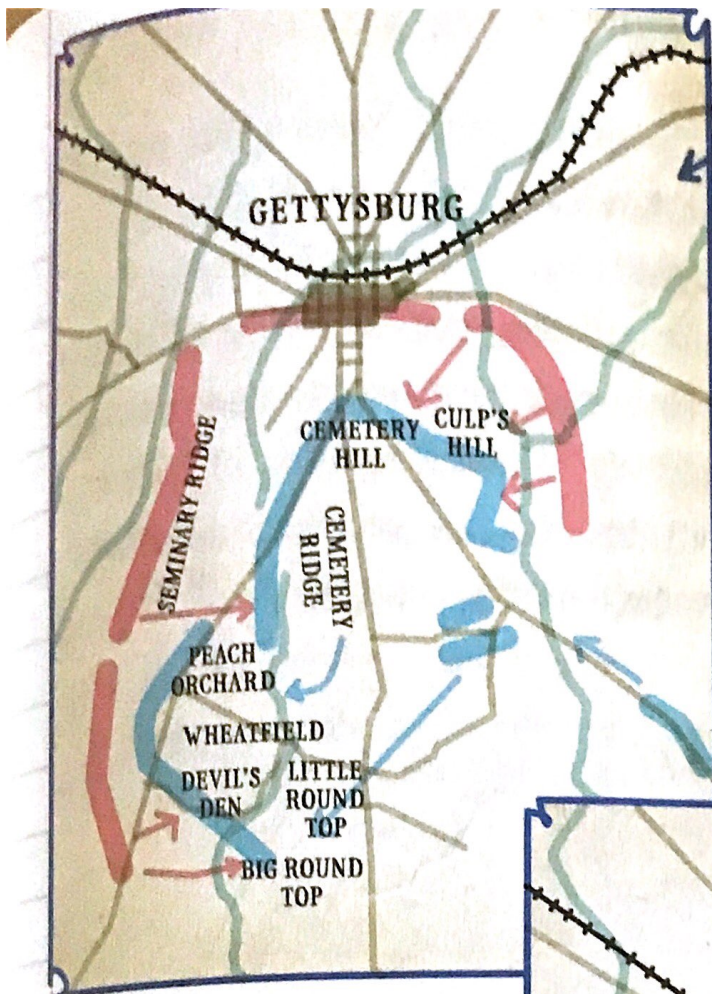
Lee took another chance on invading the North. In June of 1863, Lee's army entered Pennsylvania and searched for supplies in the town of Gettysburg, unaware that Union cavalry was there as well. It was an accidental encounter that blew up into the most famous battle of the Civil War.



TIMELINE:

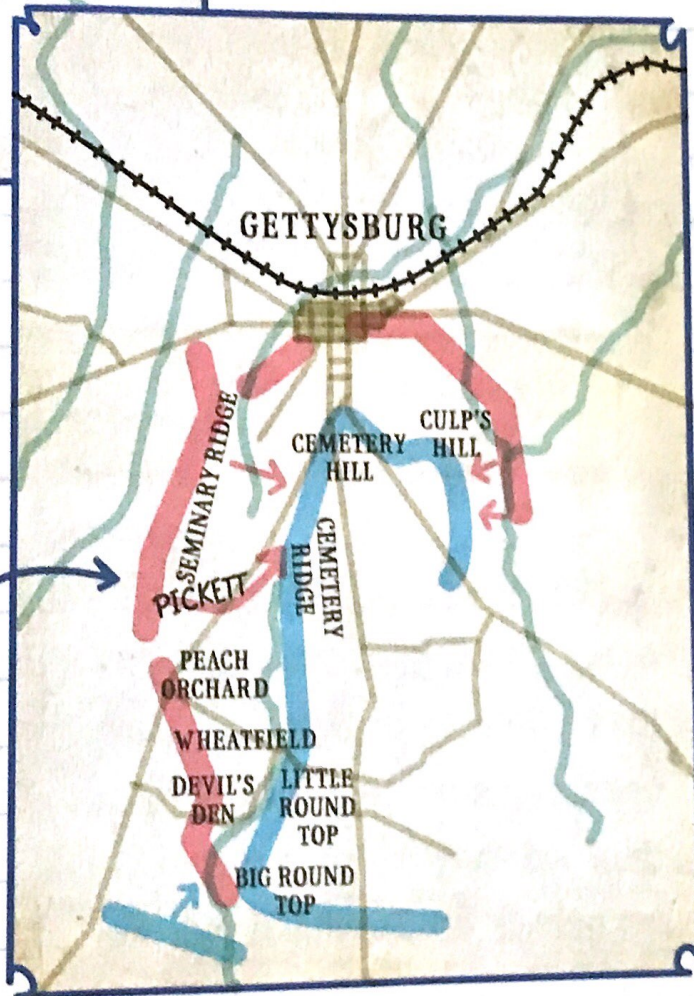
July 1: After the Rebels pushed the outnumbered Union forces back into the town, the Union troops regrouped on **CEMETERY RIDGE** and **CULP'S HILL**, strategic positions on high ground. Both sides called for reinforcements.





July 2: Lee ordered the Confederate army to gain the high ground on the hills **BIG ROUND TOP** and **LITTLE ROUND TOP**, but the Union held on to these positions after heavy fighting.

July 3: When the Union line appeared to be weakened, Lee ordered **GENERAL GEORGE PICKETT** to attack the center of the Union line. In **PICKETT'S CHARGE**, the Confederates marched directly into heavy Union fire.



July 4: Lee and his army began to retreat back to Virginia.

The **BATTLE OF GETTYSBURG** was a major victory for the Yankees and a turning point in the Civil War. Pickett's Charge became known as the "high-water mark of the Confederacy" because victory would never again be so close for the Confederates. Gettysburg is also famous as the site of Lincoln's **GETTYSBURG ADDRESS**. On November 19, 1863, during the dedication of a soldiers' cemetery there, Lincoln gave a two-minute-long speech on the importance of the Union's cause.

The first line of the **GETTYSBURG ADDRESS**, "Four score and seven years ago, our fathers brought forth, upon this continent..." is a clue to the year in which it was delivered. A "score" is 20, so four score and seven = $4 \times 20 + 7 = 87$ years. $1863 - 87 = 1776$.

Vicksburg also fell to the Union on July 4, 1863, which meant that the North controlled the entire Mississippi River.

The **VIRGINIA CAMPAIGN**

After all the disappointing Union commanders, in early 1864, Lincoln put Ulysses S. Grant in charge of all military operations so the Union armies could act as one. Grant decided that the war would be an attack on Southern morale and resources. That is, the Union would practice **TOTAL WAR**.

TOTAL WAR
war that also uses/attacks
civilians and nonmilitary
resources

In the **BATTLE OF THE WILDERNESS** on May 5 and 6, 1864, Grant pushed into Virginia despite heavy losses, knowing that his army was larger than Lee's. He pushed on no matter how many casualties his army suffered. From June 9, 1864, to March 25, 1865, Lee was forced to defend Richmond and was vastly outnumbered in the **SIEGE OF PETERSBURG**. Grant broke through the Confederates' lines and forced Lee to abandon his fortifications. Lee's army had dwindled down to just 27,000 men, compared to Grant's force of 120,000.

SHERMAN in the **DEEP SOUTH**

In September 1864, **GENERAL WILLIAM TECUMSEH SHERMAN** marched with Union forces to Atlanta and destroyed the city. He continued on his **MARCH TO THE SEA**, capturing the city of Savannah, then moving north into the Carolinas. In this terrifying campaign, Sherman's army destroyed plantations and burned fields. He wanted to destroy the economy and morale of the South. He did—and he stirred up long-lasting resentment.

William Tecumseh Sherman was named after the Native American Shawnee chief Tecumseh. He wasn't proud of it; he became famous for stating later that "the only good Indian is a dead Indian."

The ELECTION of 1864

Until mid-1864, Lincoln had been in a bad position for reelection. After victories in Gettysburg and the South in the summer and fall of 1864, Lincoln won in a landslide against George McClellan. It was seen as a mandate (command) for emancipation. On January 31, 1865, Congress passed the THIRTEENTH AMENDMENT, banning slavery and making the Emancipation Proclamation a reality. It was quickly ratified by the states.

APPOMATTOX and the END of the WAR

On April 2, the government of the CSA fled, burning the city of Richmond behind them so that it wouldn't be any use to the Union army. Lee reluctantly decided he had no choice but to surrender.

On April 9, 1865, Lee and Grant met at APPOMATTOX COURT HOUSE. Grant offered the following terms of surrender: The Confederate soldiers would be fed and allowed to return home with their property and horses. Lee accepted. The last Confederate army surrendered on May 26. The Civil War was over with a victory for the Union—and now it was time to rebuild the country.



CHECK YOUR KNOWLEDGE

1. Which side did each border state take during the Civil War?
2. What did the North and South learn from the First Battle of Bull Run?
3. Why didn't President Lincoln like General McClellan?
4. Whom did the Emancipation Proclamation actually emancipate?
5. What is the writ of habeas corpus?
6. What is total war?
7. What does the Thirteenth Amendment signify?