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# Brother Against Brother

(1819–1877)

## Time Line

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<td>Mexico gained freedom from Spain</td>
<td>1820</td>
<td>Missouri Compromise</td>
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<td></td>
<td>1823</td>
<td>Monroe Doctrine</td>
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<td></td>
<td>1846</td>
<td>Mexican War began</td>
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<td></td>
<td>1847</td>
<td>Mormons settled Utah</td>
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<td></td>
<td>1848</td>
<td>Mexican Cession; Mexican War ended</td>
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<td>1854</td>
<td>Republican Party formed</td>
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<td>1863</td>
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<td>Red Cross established in Switzerland</td>
<td>1864</td>
<td>Sherman’s march to the sea</td>
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<td>1865</td>
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<td>1867</td>
<td>Reconstruction Act</td>
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<td>Suez Canal completed</td>
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<td>1876</td>
<td>Battle of the Little Bighorn</td>
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## Activating Prior Knowledge

Watch for answers to these questions as you read.

- What laws and events dealing with slavery separated the North and the South?
- How was the North able to defeat the South in the Civil War?
- What things both good and bad happened after the Civil War ended?
- What encouraged people to move west?
INTRODUCTION

During the 1800s, Northerners and Southerners found they disagreed about many things. They lived and thought differently. The two parts of the country seemed to be more like two different countries. Slavery was a big part of the problem. Northerners wanted to stop the spread of slavery; Southerners wanted new states to allow slaveholding.

Slavery was not the only problem. Foreign trade and taxes also caused hard feelings between the two sections of the nation.

Finally, the people of the United States went to war. Rarely in human history has war really settled a problem. The Civil War made as many problems as it solved. It divided the nation so completely that some problems left over from the Civil War are still around today.

WHAT LED TO THE CIVIL WAR

When slave owners moved west, they took their slaves with them. Problems often arose when Northerners and Southerners lived together in new territories. This was shown when Missouri asked to become a state in 1819. Slave owners asked that the new state be admitted, or let into the Union, as a slave state. Northerners demanded it be a free state. An argument followed. The nation had a problem.

ABOLITIONISTS

Those people who believed slavery was completely wrong were called abolitionists, since they wanted to abolish the use of slaves. Thirty years before the Civil War, William Lloyd Garrison printed a newspaper called The Liberator that opposed slavery.

Abolitionists went on speaking tours, formed antislavery societies, and published books, pamphlets, and newspapers opposing slavery. They called on Congress to free the slaves and end the practice of allowing one person to own another human being.

Some abolitionists wanted to end slavery gradually. Others, such as Garrison, wanted the end brought at once. So strong was the demand of those who agreed with Garrison that in 1850, trading in slaves was no longer allowed in Washington, D.C.

Former slaves who had escaped to the North often worked as abolitionists. They knew from their own experience how terrible it was to be a slave.

One of the most famous African American abolitionists was Frederick Douglass. It was Garrison who first got Douglass to speak at abolitionist meetings. Douglass always said one thing concerning slavery. He said, “The Negro must be a free man in the United States.” His words summed up the feeling of all abolitionists.
Then a solution was seen. Maine asked to join the nation as a free state. Congress agreed to admit Maine as a free state and Missouri as a slave state. In addition, it was agreed that any states made from the Louisiana Purchase would be free states if they were north of the southern edge of Missouri; any states south of the southern edge of Missouri would be slave states. This was called the Missouri Compromise or the Compromise of 1820.

Then another problem appeared. The new problem was whether or not the national government had the right to manage the affairs of individual states. John C. Calhoun of South Carolina became the leader of those people in favor of states’ rights. This group of Southerners felt the states had more rights than they were often given. Daniel Webster, who was from Massachusetts, led the Northerners, who believed the federal government had to have control of the states or else the Union would fall apart.

The great amount of land acquired from Mexico only stirred up the situation more. Should slavery be allowed in the new lands? Neither part of the nation wanted the other part to have more members of Congress. Each side wanted to be able to control the nation.

Then, in 1850, California asked to join the Union as a free state. Congress finally agreed to the Compromise of 1850. This compromise let California join the nation as a free state. It also set up the territories of New Mexico and Utah out of land taken from Mexico. When these areas became states, the people living in them could decide whether to allow slavery. A Fugitive Slave Law was also passed ordering people in free states to help capture escaped slaves. And, finally, slaves could not be bought or sold in Washington, D.C.

Instead of improving, things rapidly got worse. Many Northerners refused to capture escaping slaves. The Underground Railroad was set up.

This was not a railroad at all but a group of people who helped slaves reach freedom in the North.
Canada and freedom. Members of the Underground Railroad guided escaped slaves from house to house at night until they reached Canada. This was against the law and made the Southerners angry.

Harriet Tubman had the courage to take great risks in an effort to escape life as a slave. After she gained her freedom, she helped other slaves to escape and become free. Around 1820, she was born a slave in Maryland. As a child, she saw the overseer beat many slaves. Harriet was also beaten.

When Harriet was fourteen, she tried to help a young boy who was about to be beaten. She shouted at the overseer to stop, and the boy escaped. The overseer threw a heavy object at the boy and hit Harriet instead. Her head was so badly injured, it was months before she could work again. As a result of her head injury, Harriet at times would fall unconscious for a while.

Harriet’s master died a few years later. She and her brothers were to be sold. She decided to run away, knowing that if she were captured she could be branded with a hot iron or killed. She and her brothers decided to take the chance and left one night.

At dawn, her brothers were overcome with fear of the slave catchers and returned to the plantation and slavery. Harriet moved on. With the North Star as her guide, she traveled toward freedom, over 200 miles away.

After a long and dangerous journey, Tubman reached Pennsylvania and freedom. Soon after she found a job, she decided to try to bring her family to freedom.

The Society of Friends, or Quakers, opposed slavery. They helped Tubman return to free her family. Harriet set out to walk to Maryland. She now knew which houses were safe and which friends would help her.

When she reached her family, she convinced them to escape. She led them to houses that were part of the Underground Railroad. There, escaping slaves stayed in safety.

Tubman’s family hid during the day and walked at night. Harriet’s old injury caused her to become unconscious many times. Each time the family waited until she revived to lead them north.

After reaching safety, Tubman again made trips to lead other slaves to freedom. She made 19 trips and rescued 300 people. Eventually, slave owners offered a reward of $40,000 for her capture.

When the Civil War began in 1860, Tubman became a nurse for Union troops. Later she worked as a military scout and agent. She traveled deep into the South on some missions.

In 1913, almost fifty years after the Civil War, when slaves were free, Harriet died. She is remembered for her courage and desire for freedom.
In 1852, Harriet Beecher Stowe wrote the book *Uncle Tom’s Cabin*. This book described all that was wrong with slavery. Northern readers read the book and became furious at the terrible way slaves were treated. Southerners read it and became furious because they felt the book was not all true.

In 1854, the Kansas-Nebraska Act was passed. It said that people in the territories of Kansas and Nebraska would decide for themselves about slavery. This act took the place of the Missouri Compromise. Almost at once, Kansas earned the nickname of “Bleeding Kansas.” People fought and killed one another over the slavery question. The worst tragedy started at Lawrence, Kansas. People in favor of slavery attacked the antislave town and killed one person. To get even, John Brown and his abolitionist friends killed five men. This fighting went on until 1857. When Kansas finally became a state in 1861, it was a free state.

In 1854, a new political party was formed. This was called the Republican Party. One of the new party’s main ideas was to stop slavery in the new territories of the United States.

In 1857, a slave named Dred Scott came to public attention. He was a slave who had been taken by his owner north of the Missouri Compromise line. Therefore, Scott said, he was free. The Supreme Court, however, decided that slaves were property and could be moved anywhere. The idea of new territories voting for or against slavery was unconstitutional. Slaves could be taken anywhere. The people of the North were terribly upset. Southerners were delighted.

The next year, the famous Lincoln-Douglas debates were held. Stephen A. Douglas and Abraham Lincoln both wanted to be elected United States senator from Illinois. Douglas, who wrote the Kansas-Nebraska Act, argued that people of an area should decide on slavery. Lincoln said that slavery was completely wrong and should not be allowed in the territories. He did not, however, say that slave states had to change. The two men discussed this issue in public in several Illinois towns. Douglas won the election, even though Illinois was a free state.

In 1859, John Brown led an attack on the United States armory at Harper’s Ferry, Virginia. He and his men captured the armory, in which weapons were stored. They were going to give the guns to African American slaves so the slaves could fight and become free. Brown’s raid failed, and he was tried and hanged by the United States Army.

**Critical Thinking**

Northerners who helped escaped slaves were breaking the law. Were their feelings about slavery a good excuse for breaking the federal law? Why or why not?
Then in 1860, the presidential election was held. The Republican candidate was Abraham Lincoln. The Democratic candidate was Stephen A. Douglas. Two other men, named Breckinridge and Bell, also ran for president, but they were not as popular as Lincoln and Douglas. When the votes were counted, Abraham Lincoln became the new president.

**Critical Thinking**

What reasons might cause people to vote against Lincoln even if they felt slavery was wrong?

**Map Activity: The United States in 1820**

The map on page 90 shows how our country looked in 1820. The division between slave and free states was not permanent then. Read the statements below, then look at the map to see if the statements are true or false. If a statement is true, write “true” before it; if it is false, write “false” before it. Write your answers on the lines provided.

1. There were as many slave states as free states in 1820.  
2. The North had more land that could become free states than the South had for future slave states.  
3. Mexico had become independent from Spain.  
4. Florida had enough people to become a state and had already done so.  
5. The British had sold the Oregon Territory to the United States.  
6. All of the Louisiana Purchase land was closed to slavery.  
7. In the Compromise of 1820, Maine was allowed as a free state and Missouri as a slave state.  
8. There were slave states west of the Mississippi River.  
9. There were free states west of the Mississippi River.  
10. All the free states in 1820 bordered a body of water.
The United States: 1820

Slavery allowed

Slavery not allowed

Claimed by England, United States, Russia, and Spain

Spanish territory

Slavery allowed

Slavery not allowed

Claimed by England, United States, Russia, and Spain

Spanish territory

Slavery allowed

Slavery not allowed

Claimed by England, United States, Russia, and Spain

Spanish territory
MAP ACTIVITY: THE UNITED STATES IN 1850

Now look at the map on page 92, the United States in 1850. The division between slave and free states still had not become permanent. Answer the questions with “true” or “false.” You may need to check the map of 1820 for some answers to see what had happened in 30 years. Write your answers on the lines provided.

1. Some states that were slave states in 1820 were no longer slave states by 1850.
2. Some of the free states in 1820 had changed their minds and were slave states by 1850.
3. Except for the state of California, which entered in 1850, there were still the same number of slave states as there were free states.
4. Mexico had become independent from Spain.
5. The war between Mexico and the United States had occurred by 1850.
6. The United States had made the Gadsden Purchase by 1850.
7. There were still no free states in the Louisiana Purchase area.
8. Oregon still belonged to the British in 1850.
9. The Spanish had lost all of their empire in North America by 1850.
10. The British had no possessions in North America.
11. Starting in 1850, areas were allowed to vote whether they would be a slave or a free state.
12. California was farther south than any other free state.
13. In 1850, more land was closed to slavery than was open to slavery.
The United States: 1850

- Slavery allowed
- Slavery not allowed
- People to vote on slavery
- Independent country of Mexico
WAR!

Several Southern states declared they would secede from the Union if Abraham Lincoln became president. By February 1, 1861, seven states had withdrawn from the United States. They were South Carolina, Mississippi, Florida, Alabama, Georgia, Louisiana, and Texas. These seven states now formed the **Confederate States of America**. Jefferson Davis was elected president of the Confederacy.

Lincoln became president of the United States on March 4, 1861. He asked the seven states to come back into the United States. He promised to allow them to stay slave states.

Instead, Confederate leaders ordered Fort Sumter, in the harbor of Charleston, South Carolina, to surrender. On the morning of April 12, 1861, the Confederates opened fire on Fort Sumter, which had not agreed to give up. The Civil War had started.

When Lincoln asked the states for men to fight for Fort Sumter, four more states quickly joined the Confederacy. They were North Carolina, Tennessee, Arkansas, and Virginia. The mountainous part of Virginia did not like slavery, so it broke away and became West Virginia. West Virginia stayed with the Union and became a separate state in 1863. The slave states of Missouri, Kentucky, Maryland, and Delaware stayed in the Union. Already the South was outnumbered, twenty-three states to eleven.

The North had about 22 million people living in its territory. The South had only about 9 million. Over 3 million of these were slaves who would not be allowed to have a gun or to fight. The North had more factories, better transportation, an army, a navy, and the federal government. The North did not have military leaders as fine as the South’s leaders, however. Also, since the South was fighting for its life and on its own land most of the time, its armies often did a better job than did the Northern soldiers.

Parts of families ended up fighting the rest of their own family. Often one brother lived in the North, another in the South. When a soldier fired at the other army, he never knew for sure whether or not he was firing at a relative or friend.

When the Civil War began, President Lincoln called for 75,000 volunteers to fight the South. The Northerners were sure the war would be over in a few months. Soon, the new Northern army marched toward the Confederate capital at...
Richmond, Virginia. Richmond was only about 100 miles from Washington, D.C. This seemed a good place from which to launch the North’s response to the confederacy.

What a surprise the Union army had! The Confederates met them at Manassas Junction along a little river called Bull Run. People from Washington had packed picnic baskets and followed the Union soldiers to see the fun. They wanted to see the battle that would end the war. The well-trained Confederates defeated the Union soldiers, who turned and ran toward Washington. The sightseers scattered before them, their picnics forgotten in their panic. The North then realized the war might last longer than a few months after all.

The North had two main plans to help win the war. One was to use its navy to blockade Southern ports. This would keep supplies from coming in and cotton from going out to be sold. Second, the North planned to cut off one chunk of the Confederacy at a time and conquer it. This tactic is called divide and conquer.

The South wanted to hold out until the Union became tired of fighting. Then, Southerners hoped, they would be left alone. Meanwhile, they counted on receiving help from nations in Europe. They were sure England would help them in order to keep getting cotton. Southerners planned to attack the North to win a big victory. One great victory might cause the Northerners to give up the war.
Both sides settled down to a war that lasted four terrible years. The war was fought in three areas: in the West, on the ocean, and in the East.

One of the quickest ways to divide the South was to take control of the Mississippi River. David Farragut took a fleet of Union ships to New Orleans in 1862. His fleet defeated the Confederate ships guarding the city, and he captured New Orleans.

Meanwhile, Union General Ulysses S. Grant had captured several forts in Tennessee. Then his armies moved south toward Mississippi. Confederate forces met Grant at Shiloh, Tennessee. Grant had not expected the attack and, for a time, seemed to be losing. Then more Northern troops arrived, and Grant defeated the Southerners.

Union ships had already captured Memphis, Tennessee, so Grant marched there before going on to Mississippi. After resting, the army marched to Vicksburg, Mississippi, where a strong fort overlooked the river. Grant surrounded the fort and began a long siege. On July 4, 1863, Vicksburg surrendered. This gave the North control of the Mississippi River and cut off Arkansas, Texas, and Louisiana from the rest of the South.

At the beginning of the war, the North used ships to set up a blockade around the Southern ports. Southern ship captains became blockade runners. They sneaked past Union ships and sailed to Europe for supplies. The Southerners also used such powerful warships as the Alabama to raid, or attack, the Northern merchant ships. The Alabama and several other raiders sank 257 Union ships during the war. This was a terrible blow to Northern shipowners.

In March 1862, the Southerners’ ironclad ship, the Merrimac, attacked Union blockade ships at Hampton Roads, Virginia. The Merrimac was protected by its armor plate while it sank one wooden ship and captured another. The next day things changed. The Monitor appeared from the north and then attacked the Merrimac. The Monitor was also ironclad. It had two guns in an iron turret that turned, so one gun fired while the other loaded. Even though the Merrimac had five guns on each side, it could not defeat the Monitor. Both ships finally gave up and sailed away, but navy warfare had changed; no longer were wooden ships suitable for war.

The Union built more ships like the Monitor, but the South built only one Merrimac. The Merrimac was built around the hull of a ship the South had captured from the North. Later in the war, the Southerners burned the Merrimac instead of letting the North capture it. The first Monitor sank in a storm and still lies on the bottom of the ocean.

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In the East, the Union army tried to capture Richmond, Virginia, and failed. General Robert E. Lee of the South was a far better leader than Union General George B. McClellan. McClellan was always afraid the South had more men. For this reason, he often held off attacks, waiting for more soldiers. He was so slow going toward Richmond that the Confederates got tired of waiting and attacked him instead.

**Critical Thinking**

If the North had captured Richmond, the South’s capital, would the war have ended? Why or why not?

During the summer of 1862, the Seven Days’ Battle was fought between Lee and McClellan. When the fighting stopped, a total of 16,000 Union soldiers were killed, wounded, or missing. The figures for the South were over 20,000.

The war continued with battles every few days. On September 17, the Battle of Antietam was fought in Maryland. This was the bloodiest day of the war. Nearly 5,000 men died and over 18,000 were wounded. The war was not kind to either side.

**Casualties of War**

At Gettysburg, casualties averaged 560 per hour. At Antietam, casualties averaged 974 per hour.

On January 1, 1863, President Lincoln issued the *Emancipation* Proclamation. This declared that the slaves owned in the states fighting the Union were now free. Of course, it did not free any slaves at the time. This could be done only if the North won the war.

By now both sides were tired of the war. In order to have a large enough army, the North started to *draft* men to fight. From the middle of 1863 until the end of 1864 nearly 1 million men entered the Northern army.
In early May 1863, General Lee fought against General Joseph Hooker at Chancellorsville. Although outnumbered two to one, Lee won the battle. Both sides lost over 10,000 men each.

Then came the great battle at Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. General Lee had marched north into Pennsylvania. General George G. Meade met him for a four-day battle. For the first time, General J. E. B. Stuart and his Confederate cavalry were late to a battle. General Stuart was the finest horse soldier on either side during the Civil War. On several occasions, he and his men had ridden completely around an entire Union army, capturing men and equipment as they went. Once, Stuart had actually gotten into the tent of a commanding Union general and stolen his coat. When Stuart found that the same general had his hat, which Stuart had lost a short time before in a narrow escape, he asked for a truce, or cease-fire. Under a white flag, the coat was traded for the hat. Then the fighting went on again!

However, Stuart was late at Gettysburg because he and his men were out capturing a Union supply train. Whether or not his being on time could have saved Lee is just a guess. When the fighting ended, Lee had lost the battle and

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had to escape with his army into Virginia. There were 50,000 killed or missing in the two armies.

President Lincoln came to Gettysburg the next November and opened a large military cemetery there.

As a result of the battle at Gettysburg, both England and France decided not to deliver ships they were building for the South. This ended any chance the South had of winning the battle on the sea.

In the year following Gettysburg, terrible battles were fought at places such as Chickamauga, Chattanooga, and the Wilderness. General Grant was given command of all the Union armies. He began making plans to capture Richmond and defeat Lee.

In May 1864, Union General William T. Sherman left Tennessee with 100,000 troops. He marched to Atlanta, Georgia, and again divided the Confederacy. He then marched from Atlanta to the Atlantic Ocean. This last 300-mile march caused terrible destruction. For a width of 60 miles, Sherman’s men burned and destroyed everything in sight.

**CRITICAL THINKING**

Sherman’s march to the sea caused great suffering. How might his march actually have saved lives?

When 1865 arrived, the war was nearing an end. On April 9, General Lee surrendered to General Grant at Appomattox Court House in Virginia. The Civil War was over at last.

It had been a terrible war. It had also been a war of new ideas. Railroads had been used for the first time to move entire armies quickly from place to place. The telegraph had been used to send messages in seconds. Balloons had been sent high into the air so soldiers in them could see what the enemy was doing. Pinkerton detectives had been used to guard the president and to find out valuable information for Northern generals. The American Red Cross had been started by Clara Barton to help the wounded on both sides.

By the end of the war, 359,528 Union men and 258,000 Confederates were dead. Nearly 400,000 more had been wounded.
MAP ACTIVITY: THE CIVIL WAR

The map on page 100 shows some of the sites mentioned in this chapter. On the lines provided, write the correct answers. Check the map or the material in the chapter if you are not sure of your answers.

1. Name the four states that had slaves but did not leave the Union.

________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

2. Sherman marched through the South destroying towns and crops. Most of the destruction occurred in this state.

________________________________________________________________________

3. This city in the middle of Georgia was burned by General Sherman.

________________________________________________________________________

4. The Chesapeake Bay splits this slaveholding Union state into two parts.

________________________________________________________________________

5. The capital of the United States, Washington, D.C., is nearly surrounded by this state.

________________________________________________________________________

6. The capital of the Confederacy, Richmond, is in this state.

________________________________________________________________________

7. General Lee invaded the North only once. He was stopped at this battle.

________________________________________________________________________

8. This state, which is located between Kentucky and Maryland, split from Virginia when Virginia left the Union.

________________________________________________________________________

9. The first important battle of the Civil War happened in Virginia about halfway between Richmond and Washington, D.C. Name this battle.

________________________________________________________________________

10. This important battle in Tennessee took place before General Grant started down the Mississippi River.

________________________________________________________________________

11. This was a stronghold on the Mississippi River that General Grant captured. It gave the Union forces complete control of the Mississippi.

________________________________________________________________________

12. Fort Sumter is located in the first state to leave the Union. Name this state.

________________________________________________________________________

13. Name the Union plan to keep Southern ships from arriving at or leaving their harbors.

________________________________________________________________________

14. The Battle of Gettysburg was fought in this state.

________________________________________________________________________

15. The end of the Civil War came at Appomattox Court House in which state?

________________________________________________________________________
The Civil War: 1860–1865

- Union states
- Slaveholding Union states
- Confederate states
- Battle sites

Map showing the Union Blockade, Union states, Slaveholding Union states, Confederate states, and battle sites.