

2 The Civil War

TERMS & NAMES

Fort Sumter
Robert E. Lee
Ulysses S. Grant
Emancipation
Proclamation
Battle of
Gettysburg
Appomattox Court
House
Thirteenth
Amendment

MAIN IDEA

The Civil War was destructive but preserved the Union and abolished slavery in the United States.

WHY IT MATTERS NOW

The Civil War brought changes that helped shape modern American life.

ONE AMERICAN'S STORY

Two months before the Civil War broke out, 22-year-old Emma Holmes of Charleston began keeping a detailed diary. From a rooftop, she witnessed the event that started the war. She wrote about South Carolina's attack on Fort Sumter, a federal fort in Charleston's harbor, in her diary.

A VOICE FROM THE PAST

[A]t half past four this morning, the heavy booming of cannons woke the city from its slumbers. . . . Every body seems relieved that what has been so long dreaded has come at last and so confident of victory that they seem not to think of the danger of their friends. . . . I had a splendid view of the harbor with the naked eye. We could distinctly see flames amidst the smoke. All the barracks were on fire. . . . With the telescope I saw the shots as they struck the fort and [saw] the masonry crumbling.

Emma Holmes, *The Diary of Emma Holmes 1861–1866*



This photograph of Emma Holmes was taken in 1900.

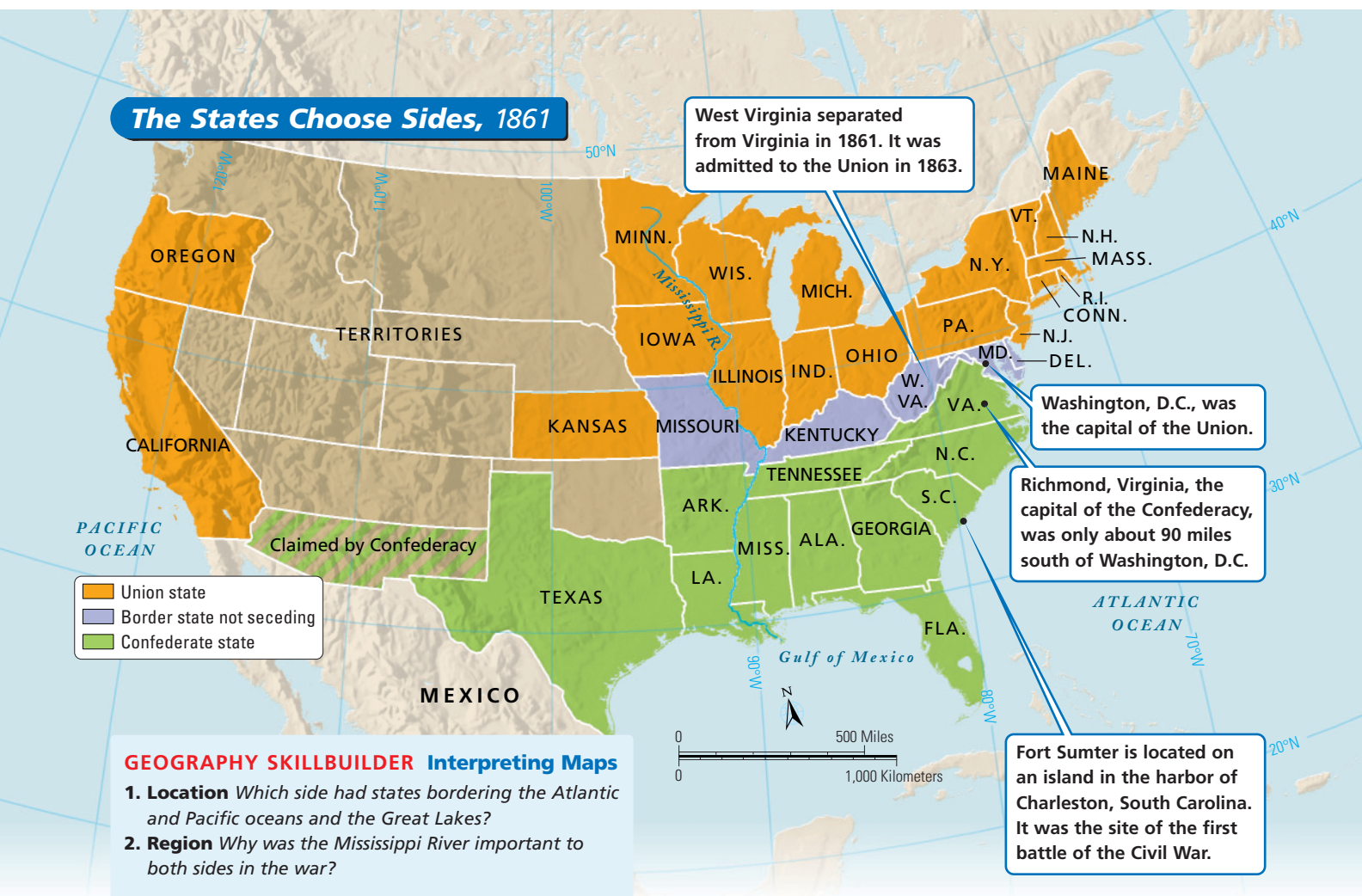
Many Southerners expected a short war that they would easily win. Northerners expected the same. In this section, you'll read about the course and consequences of the war.

War Erupts

The Southern states took over most of the federal forts inside their borders when they seceded from the Union. President Lincoln had to decide what to do about the forts that remained under federal control. One was **Fort Sumter** in the harbor of Charleston, South Carolina. The fort was running out of supplies. If Lincoln supplied the fort, he risked war. If he did not, he would be giving in to the rebels. Lincoln informed South Carolina that he was resupplying Fort Sumter. Confederate leaders decided to take over the fort before the supply ships arrived.

On April 12, 1861, the Confederates opened fire on the fort. The attack continued for 34 hours, until the fort surrendered. The Confederate attack on Fort Sumter was the beginning of the Civil War.

Lincoln asked the Union states to provide 75,000 militiamen for 90 days to put down the uprising in the South. In the upper South, some



state leaders refused to supply troops to subdue neighboring Southern states. In the following weeks, Virginia, North Carolina, Tennessee, and Arkansas joined the Confederacy.

Attention focused on the border states of Delaware, Maryland, Kentucky, and Missouri. These slave states bordered free states. Because of their location and resources, the border states could tip the scales toward one side. All stayed in the Union. In addition, a group of western counties in Virginia formed the state of West Virginia in 1863 and supported the Union. In the end, 24 states remained in the Union and 11 joined the Confederacy.

The Union had huge advantages at the start of the war. It had more people, factories, railroads, ships, and shipyards than the South. The Union also had President Lincoln, who was a remarkable leader. He convinced Northerners that democracy depended on preserving the Union.

The main advantage of the Confederacy was its talented military leaders, such as **Robert E. Lee**, whom Lincoln had tried recruit to head the Union army. Lee became the commanding general of the Army of Northern Virginia. The South also benefited from fighting on its own territory. There it knew the land and received help from local people.

The North suffered early losses despite its advantages. In the summer of 1861, Lincoln ordered an invasion of Virginia in order to take the Confederate capital of Richmond. But the Confederates defeated Union

ReadingHistory

A. Supporting Opinions At the beginning of the Civil War, which side would you have predicted to win? Why?

Background

The state militias were armies of ordinary citizens rather than professional soldiers.

forces in the First Battle of Bull Run north of Manassas, Virginia. This victory thrilled the South and shocked the North. The North realized it had underestimated its opponent. Lincoln sent the 90-day militias home and called for a real army of 500,000 volunteers for three years.

Life in the Army

Volunteers largely made up both armies. In all, about 2 million soldiers served the Union, and less than 1 million served the Confederacy. The majority were between 18 and 30 years of age. Neither the North nor the South accepted African Americans into their armies at the beginning of the war. Later, the North took African Americans into its ranks.

Civil War soldiers faced many hardships. Conditions were often wet, muddy, or cold, and soldiers had inadequate clothing and lived in crude shelters. They sometimes marched over frozen ground in bare feet. After battles, needy soldiers took clothing from the dead.

Many army camps were unsanitary. Soldiers often went weeks without bathing or washing their clothes. Their bodies, clothing, and bedding became infested with lice and fleas. The lack of hygiene—conditions and practices that promote health—resulted in widespread sickness. Most soldiers had chronic diarrhea or other disorders. These disorders were caused by contaminated water or food or by germ-carrying insects. In addition, doctors often failed to wash their hands or their instruments when attending patients.

No End in Sight

In the first two years of the war, neither side gained a decisive victory. In November of 1861, Lincoln made George McClellan general in chief of the entire Union army. But Lincoln grew frustrated with McClellan because he kept training his troops instead of attacking.

While McClellan stalled, **Ulysses S. Grant** won victories for the Union in the West. Early in 1862, General Grant captured two Confederate river forts in Tennessee, opening up a river highway into the heart of the South. On April 6, 1862, Grant won another victory at the Battle of Shiloh, in Tennessee. But the victory came at a staggering cost. Union casualties at Shiloh numbered over 13,000, about one-fourth of those who had fought. Congressmen criticized Grant for the high casualties and urged Lincoln to replace him. But Lincoln replied, “I can’t spare this man—he fights.”

In the East, the story was different. In the summer of 1862, Lee forced McClellan’s troops to withdraw from Virginia. Lee then decided to

STRANGE but True

DEADLIER THAN BULLETS

“Look at our company—21 have died of disease, 18 have become so unhealthy as to be discharged, and only four have been killed in battle.” So a Louisiana officer explained the high death rate in the Civil War.

More than twice as many men died of disease as died of battle wounds. Intestinal disorders, including typhoid fever, diarrhea, and dysentery, killed the most. Pneumonia, tuberculosis, and malaria killed many others. Bad water and food, poor diet, exposure to cold and rain, unsanitary conditions, and disease-carrying insects all contributed to the high rate of disease.

ReadingHistory

B. Making

Inferences What changes could have helped lower the spread of disease among soldiers?



Vocabulary

casualties: number of people killed or injured

invade the North. By chance, McClellan got hold of Lee's battle plans. On September 17, 1862, at Antietam Creek in Maryland, McClellan's army met Lee's. The resulting Battle of Antietam caused the bloodiest day in American history. About 25,000 men died or were wounded. Lee lost nearly one-third of his fighting force and withdrew to Virginia. But McClellan did not pursue him and so missed a chance to finish off Lee's army. Lincoln was so angry he fired McClellan.

ReadingHistory

C. Contrasting

How did Grant differ from McClellan as a military leader?

The Emancipation Proclamation

After Lee's forces were stopped at Antietam, Lincoln decided to emancipate, or free, the slaves in the Confederacy. Abolitionists had been urging Lincoln to do so since the beginning of the war. Lincoln, however, did not believe he had the power under the Constitution to abolish slavery where it already existed. Nor did he want to anger the four slave states that remained in the Union. He also knew that most Northern Democrats opposed emancipation.

Lincoln did not want the issue of slavery to divide the nation further than it already had. Although he disliked slavery, Lincoln's first priority was to preserve the Union. But if freeing the slaves would help weaken the Confederacy, then Lincoln would do it.

On January 1, 1863, Lincoln issued the **Emancipation Proclamation**, which freed all slaves in Confederate territory. The proclamation had a tremendous impact on the public, but it freed very few slaves on that day. Most of the slaves lived in areas far from the Union troops that could enforce emancipation. Nevertheless, the Emancipation Proclamation was an important symbolic measure. For the North, the Civil War was no longer just to preserve the Union. It had become a war of liberation.

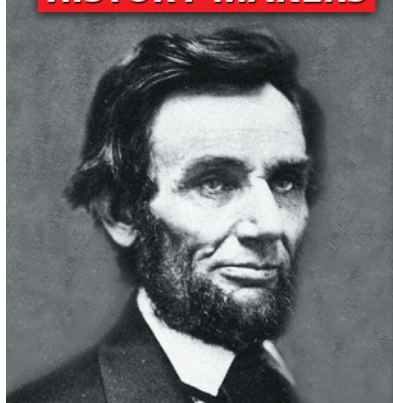
Many African Americans had escaped to Union lines before 1863. Now they had legal freedom and were encouraged even more to join their liberators. These runaways deprived the Confederacy of labor and provided the Union with soldiers. The Emancipation Proclamation also declared that African-American men willing to fight "will be received into the armed service of the United States." By war's end, about 180,000 African-American soldiers had served in the Union army.

ReadingHistory

D. Drawing Conclusions

Why did Lincoln choose to limit his proclamation mostly to rebellious states?

AMERICA'S HISTORY MAKERS



ABRAHAM LINCOLN

1809–1865

Today, Abraham Lincoln is considered one of the great men of all time. Yet early in his presidency, he was widely criticized and ridiculed. Critics labeled him ignorant, incompetent, and socially crude. As Lincoln grew into his job, however, he gained the respect and affection of many Northerners.

Even as a youth, Lincoln had displayed a gift for public speaking. During the Civil War, through his speeches and writings, Lincoln inspired fellow Americans to "dare to do our duty as we understand it."

Why would the ability to inspire people be important in a wartime leader?

War Affects Society

As the Civil War entered its third year, the constant demand for men and resources began to take its toll. Economic hardship was especially severe in the South, where most of the battles were fought. Food shortages were common. Inflation—an increase in prices and decrease in

the value of money—made life hard for working people. Over the course of the war, prices rose 9,000 percent in the South. This increase made goods 90 times more expensive than in 1861. Riots broke out. Mobs broke into shops and stole food, clothing, and other goods.

Inflation was much lower in the North. Overall, war production boosted Northern industry and fueled the economy. This gave the North an even larger economic advantage over the South.

In 1863, Confederate soldiers began to leave the army in increasing numbers. By the end of the year, the Confederate army had lost nearly 40 percent of its men. Some were on leave, but many deserted. Both the Union and the Confederacy instituted a draft, which required men to serve in the army.

With so many men away at war, women had to run farms and take over jobs in offices and factories. Thousands of women also served on the front lines as volunteer workers and nurses.

The North Wins

In 1863, the tide of the war turned in favor of the North with two important victories. One was the **Battle of Gettysburg**, in which Union troops led by General George Meade fought for three days against Confederate troops led by Lee. From July 1 to July 3, about 90,000 Union troops clashed with 75,000 Confederates near Gettysburg, Pennsylvania.

On July 3, some 13,000 rebel troops under General George Pickett charged up a ridge into heavy Union fire. They were torn to pieces, and the Union army won the battle. Lee lost over one-third of his army at the battle and retreated to Virginia.

The day after Pickett's Charge, Grant's Union forces forced the Confederates at Vicksburg, Mississippi, to surrender after a long siege. This victory gave the Union complete control of the Mississippi River.

In March 1864, Lincoln named Grant commander of all the Union armies. Grant then developed a plan to defeat the Confederacy. He would pursue Lee's army in Virginia, while Union forces under General William Tecumseh Sherman pushed through the Deep South to Atlanta and the Atlantic Coast.

Sherman waged total war, or war against everything that supported the enemy. His troops tore up rail lines, destroyed crops, and burned towns. Sherman took Atlanta in September 1864, and then Savannah, Georgia, in December.

In the East, Grant fought savage battles against Lee's forces. In June 1864, Grant's armies settled in for a long siege of Richmond. After ten

ReadingHistory

E. Analyzing

Causes Why were economic problems particularly bad in the South?

Vocabulary

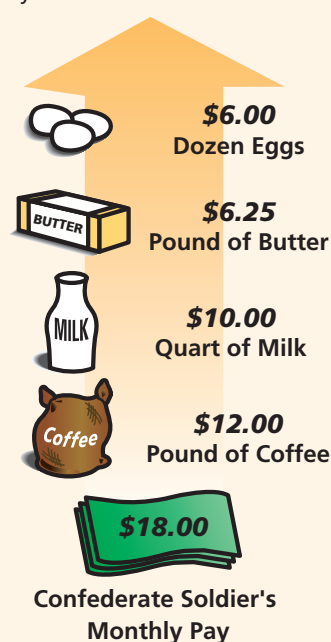
siege: the surrounding of a city, town, or fortress by an army trying to capture it

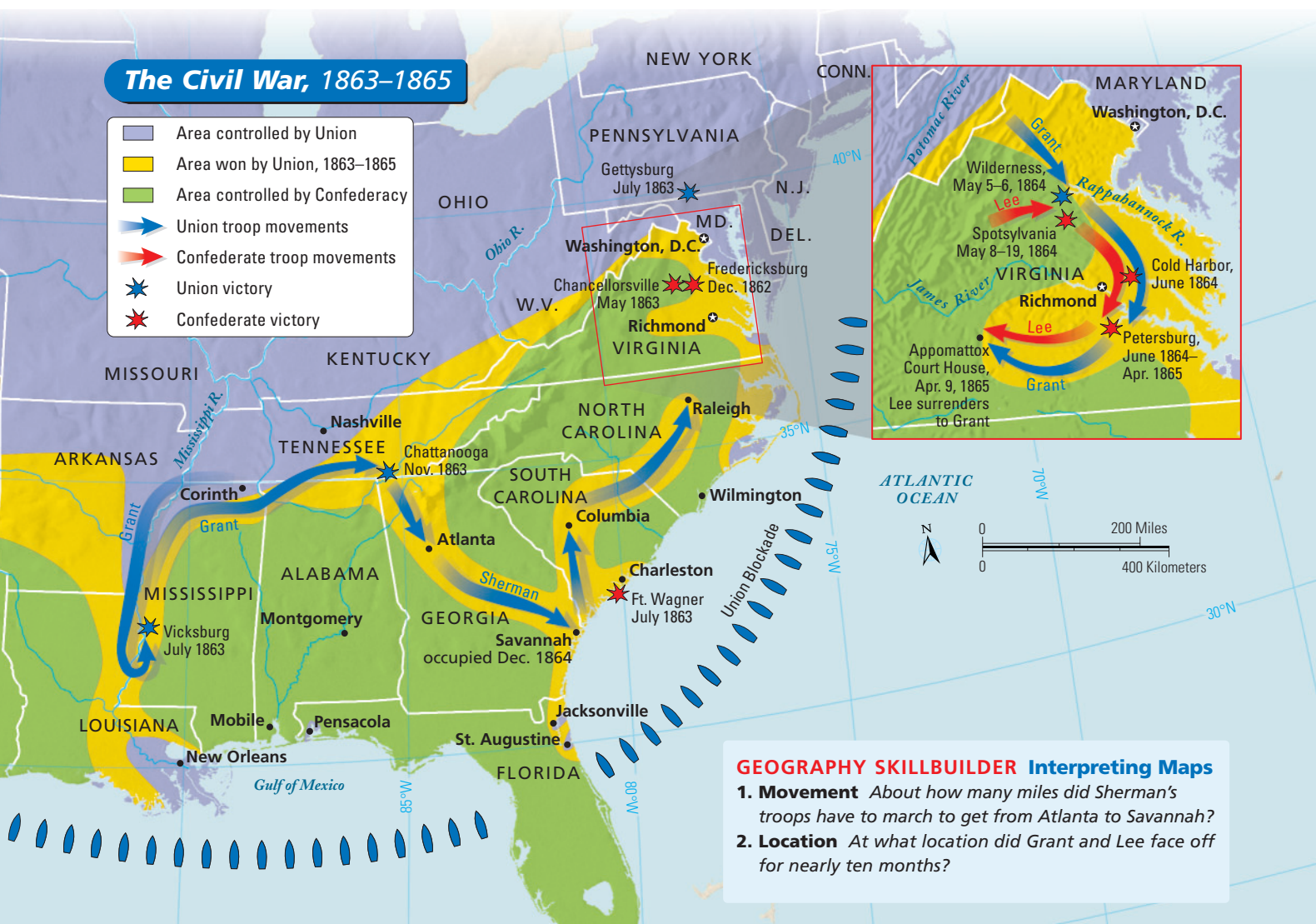
daily life

INFLATION IN THE SOUTH

During the Civil War, inflation caused hardship in the North and the South. But inflation was especially severe in the Confederacy, where prices could become outrageously high.

The food prices shown below are from 1864. Consider how many days it took a Confederate soldier to earn enough money to buy each of these foods.





months, Lee fled Richmond, and Grant pursued. Knowing his situation was hopeless, Lee sent a message to Grant that he was ready to surrender. On April 9, 1865, Lee and Grant met in the small Virginia town of **Appomattox Court House** to arrange the surrender. After four long years, the Civil War had ended.

The Legacy of the War

The Civil War left bitter feelings between the North and the South, in part because its costs were so great. The Civil War was the deadliest war in U.S. history. About 620,000 soldiers died—360,000 for the Union and 260,000 for the Confederacy. Another 275,000 Union soldiers and 260,000 Confederate soldiers were wounded. The war also had great economic costs. Together, the North and the South spent more than five times what the government had spent in the previous eight decades. Years later, the federal government was still paying interest on war loans.

For the South, the war brought economic disaster. Farms, plantations, factories, and thousands of miles of railroad track were destroyed. Before the war, the South accounted for 30 percent of the nation's wealth. After, it accounted for only 12 percent. In the North, on the

Vocabulary

income tax: tax on earnings

ReadingHistory

F. Making

Inferences Why was an amendment needed to free enslaved persons even after the Emancipation Proclamation?

other hand, industry had grown rapidly. These economic differences would last for decades.

To deal with the demands of war, the national government grew larger and more powerful. It instituted an income tax, issued paper currency, and established a new federal banking system. It also funded railroads, gave western land to settlers, and provided for state colleges. This growth of federal power continued long after the war.

One of the greatest effects of the war was the end of slavery. The Emancipation Proclamation applied primarily to slaves in the Confederacy. In 1864, Lincoln had approved of a constitutional amendment to end slavery entirely, but it failed to pass Congress. In January 1865, Lincoln urged Congress to try again. The measure, known as the **Thirteenth Amendment**, passed. By year's end, 27 states had ratified the amendment. From then on, slavery was banned in the United States.

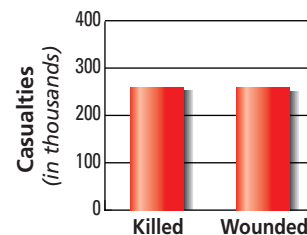
Lincoln did not live to see the end of slavery, however. Five days after Lee's surrender at Appomattox, Lincoln was shot by John Wilkes Booth, a Confederate supporter. Lincoln died the next day—on April 15, 1865. He was the first U.S. president to be assassinated.

The loss of Lincoln's experience and political skills was a terrible tragedy for a people facing the challenges of rebuilding their nation. You will read more about these challenges in the next section.

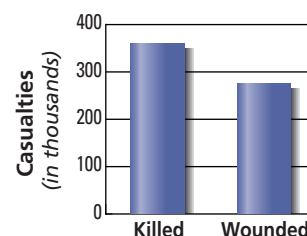
CONNECTIONS TO MATH

Costs of the Civil War

CONFEDERATE CASUALTIES



UNION CASUALTIES



Source: *World Book; Historical Statistics of the United States; The United States Civil War Center*

SKILLBUILDER

Interpreting Graphs

1. About how many Confederate soldiers were killed in the Civil War?
2. Approximately how many soldiers were wounded in the war?

Section 2 Assessment

1. Terms & Names

Explain the significance of:

- Fort Sumter
- Robert E. Lee
- Ulysses S. Grant
- Emancipation Proclamation
- Battle of Gettysburg
- Appomattox Court House
- Thirteenth Amendment

2. Taking Notes

Use a time line like the one below to record key events from Section 2.



Which events mark the turning point of the war?

3. Main Ideas

- a. What was life in the army like for Civil War soldiers?
- b. Why was the immediate impact of the Emancipation Proclamation limited?
- c. What were some of the human and economic costs of the Civil War?

4. Critical Thinking

Comparing How was the South's situation in the Civil War similar to the situation of the Patriots in the Revolutionary War?

THINK ABOUT

- their reasons for fighting
- their opponents' strengths

ACTIVITY OPTIONS

GEOGRAPHY

LANGUAGE ARTS

Research the Siege of Vicksburg. Make a **topographic map** of the area or write an **article** describing the soldiers' hardships during the siege.