

The Civil War Fact-sheet

- 1.) The Civil War was fought between the Union and the Confederacy, also known as the North and the South. The war is also known as “the war between the states” and sometimes, especially in the South, it is known as “the war of Northern aggression.”
- 2.) Abraham Lincoln was President of the United States/the Union at the time of the war. Jefferson Davis was President of the Confederate States of America/the Confederacy.
- 3.) The conflict raged from April 1861 through April 1865 with the first battle of the war occurring at Fort Sumter South Carolina, and the last major battle occurring Appomattox Courthouse (a small town in Virginia).
- 4.) The singular cause of the Civil War was the issue of slavery. All other issues are offshoots of this.
- 5.) The number of deaths in the Civil War is estimated at 620,000, about 2% of the US population at the time, but that number is also increasing with more study. The number of soldiers injured is estimated at approximately 1.3 million.
- 6.) Over 3.2 million soldiers fought in the war with the Union outnumbering the Confederacy almost 2-1, with Union forces numbering approximately 2.1 million and Confederate forces numbering approximately 1.1 million.
- 7.) The Civil War was what is known as a “total war” which is a war where everything is a viable military target; homes, towns, farms, civilians, farms, livestock, etc. as all elements of a society operated in one way or another in support of the war.
- 8.) The North had more advantages than the South but the advantages the South held were very important, dragging the war out much longer than predicted. The North had more troops, a navy, more money, food, industry, people, and supplies. The South had better military leadership, more committed soldiers, and the home field advantage, (they simply had to hold their land, the North had to conquer and occupy it).
- 9.) The major turning point battles in the war that significantly led to Northern/Union victory were the Battle of New Orleans, The Battle of Atlanta, the Battle of Vicksburg, and the Battle of Gettysburg.
- 10.) On January 1, 1863 President Lincoln issued “The Emancipation Proclamation.” This decree had limited effect on freeing the slaves, but it set clear that the war would end in the complete abolition of slavery not just the containment of it. The Emancipation Proclamation did allow for runaway or freed slaves to join the military and fight the South.
- 11.) There were many famous historical figures affiliated with the US Civil War. Please know just a little about each of the following people.
 - a.) President Abraham Lincoln
 - b.) Gen. Ulysses S. Grant
 - c.) Jefferson Davis
 - d.) Gen. Robert E. Lee
 - e.) Gen. “Stonewall” Jackson
 - f.) Clara Barton
 - g.) Walt Whitman
 - h.) John Wilkes Booth
- 12.) On April 14, 1865 (just 6 days after Lee surrendered to Grant at Appomattox Courthouse), President Abraham Lincoln is assassinated by actor and Southern sympathizer John Wilkes Booth. Booth did not act alone as a larger conspiracy was uncovered and 4 others were hanged for the assassination of Lincoln.