Fitzgerald

Topics for Civil War

**Topic 1 - How fighting began - Shots fired at Fort Sumter**

* Lincoln masterfully refuses to choose between
  + allowing U.S. army forts in South to be taken and thus looking weak, or
  + fighting to control forts and thus looking like the aggressor
* Forces Confederacy to choose instead
  + Chooses one for as a symbol - Fort Sumter because it is in the main harbor of the most aggressive state, the first to secede, South Carolina
  + Informs South will resupply the fort on a certain day at a certain time
  + South will look weak if it lets him or will have to be the aggressor and stop him
* South fires on the Fort
* Lincoln sells this as the South firing on the U.S. Flag - treason - firing up the North
  + calls for troops
  + sets up blockade

**Topic 2 - Order of Secession**

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| --- | --- |
| Order of Secession.JPG | **Slave states that seceded when Lincoln was elected**  South Carolina, Georgia, Florida  Alabama, Mississippi , Louisiana, Texas  **Slave states that seceded when Lincoln called for troops to suppress rebellion**  Virginia, North Carolina, Tennessee, Arkansas  **Border States - Slave states that did not secede**  Delaware, Maryland, Kentucky, Missouri  West Virginia forms – breaks away from Virginia |

**Topic 3 - The Border States - slaves states that remain in the Union**

**Delaware** - very few slaves, economically tied to North - overwhelmingly vote to stay

**Kentucky** -

* **Importance** - Control Ohio River flows into ***Misssissippi***, ***not need deadly river crossing*** to invade South, ***control the many rail lines*** that start there and lead into South
* ***Chooses* to stay in Union** - neutral – will not secede but will not send troops,
  + Lincoln doesn’t invade – get news to write pro-Union stories, arm pro-Union militias
  + Confederates invade - proves that Confederates do not believe a state’s right to choose whether to be part of the Union or not

**Missouri** -

* **Importance** – Control Missouri River flows into ***Mississippi***, has one of the largest ***arsenals*** in the Union
* ***Legislature votes to stay in Union*** - but ***Governor helping Confederates take a U.S. military arsenal*** there
* Union troops able ***to invade to protect arsenal***

**Maryland** - forced to stay

* **Importance** - ***would cut off Washington***, D.C. , if lost
* Southern sympathizers were ***secretly working to destroy rail and telegraph lines***
* Lincoln puts under ***martial law*** - controlled by army (like a dictatorship), ***Suspends writ of habeas corpus*** - jails those suspected of disloyalty without charges of a crime or a trial

**Topic 4 - Key Advantages of North and South**

**North’s Advantages – *People*** - twice as many people as South =more soldiers,  ***Factories***, **Farm** - twice as much farmland in North, and all crops are food crops ***Railroads*** and ***Telegraph, Federal Government System*** – strong national government, all states cooperate with each other, ***Lincoln***

**South’s Advantages - *Defensive*** – do not have to invade or control the North, ***Military leaders*** , ***Cotton*** needed by Britain , will bring ***British help*** – ex. Navy to break blockade

**Topic 5 – The Sides**

The North = the Union, Yankees, The Blue (v. the Grey), Grant

   

South, Confederacy, Rebels (Johnny Rebs), the Grey (v. the Blue), Lee

**Topic 6 - Strategies of the Union and Confederacy**

**Union Strategy – to accomplish goal of invading and controlling the South**

* ***Blockade***– can’t export cotton or import manufactured goods
* ***Gain Control of Mississippi*** - South surrounded - Blockade Ocean + Mississippi +Border States,
* cut South in two, destroy main transportation route
* ***Hit points of Southern pride (Richmond, Virginia, Lee), keep Lee busy in Va. Can’t go to Mississippi***

**Strategy of South – to accomplish goal of defending its right to be a separate nation**

* Just ***defend*** until ***North tires of war***
* Rely on ***Military Heritage*** (Leaders, Skill, Discipline)
* Expect ***aid from Britain*** - as Britain needs ***cotton***

**Topic 7 - Battles of the First Half of the War and the Emancipation Proclamation**

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| ***War in the West - Control Mississippi***  **Ulysses S. Grant** – Union General - Moving south from Kentucky along river   * Attack river forts, using ironclads * **Shiloh** – First Bloody Battle of War * Confederates try to draw Grant away from supply and reinforcement, but Grant doesn’t follow - must quickly return before reinforced * Generals - U- Sherman – 3 horses shot out from under him, C – Johnston – killed * Union holds, is reinforced, attacks, wins * SHOCKING CASUALTY – 13,000/11,000   **Fall of New Orleans**  taken by Union navy under David Farragut  **Only 150 miles and Vicksburg left!!!** | ***War in East - Attack Lee and Richmond***  **Robert E. Lee** – Confederate General –***continuous victory***  **First Bull Run -**   * **Confederates prove** - ***can hold - Stonewall*** ***Jackson***, are aggressive –***Rebel Yell*** * **Union *poorly trained*** - ***panic and run*** when Confederates charge   **George McClellan -** Union General - ***Hired to train but then is too cautious to attack***  **Antietam** – ***Confederate invasion of Maryland***   * Why Invade? – ***N. at low pt. might give up***, Convince Br. Fr. to help, Off S. farms, On N. farms * ***Lee’s plans found*** so McClellan attacks * Bloodiest Day in U.S. History - Lee loses 1/3 of men, retreats but ***McClellan doesn’t pursue*** |

**Public Opinion turning against War – causalities too high, embarrassed by losses to Lee, war lasting too long**

* ***McClellan*** is fired after Antietam and ***runs for President against Lincoln on a platform of peace***
* ***Desertion*** a Problem - Still 1/3 - 1/2 gone at any given time
* Men no longer volunteering - ***Draft needed*** to meet needs for troops
* Anger leads to ***riots*** in North - ***could pay $300 for substitute*** - many claim war a "poor man's fight,' ***African Americans not drafted*** – not allowed to serve in Union Army
  + In NYC - Factory workers and day laborers attack African Americans and wealthy men

**The Emancipation Proclamation** – ***a strategic military move done as Commander-in-Chief to weaken the enemy*** and to ***reinvigorate the North***

* issued after Antietam, a moment of Victory over Lee - so don't look weak
* declared "all persons held as slaves" within the rebellious states "are, and henceforward shall be free."
  + ***Did not apply to any slaves in the Border States or on any territory already under control of Union*** - as only done with power to weaken the enemy
* ***changed the war in two ways***
  + ***Added the goal of ending slavery*** to the goal of preserving the Union
  + Announced the ***acceptance of African American soldiers into the Union Army - b***y the end of the war, almost 200,000 black soldiers and sailors had fought for the Union

**African American Soldiers and The 54th Massachusetts**

* ***189,000 eventually serve, +1/2 were former slaves***
* faced ***extra risks*** if captured - ***returned to slavery, killed***
* *treated unfairly* - all Black regiments under ***White officers***, received ***less pay***, only allowed to be in ***non-combat roles*** - cooks, wagon drivers, hospital aides
* Most famous regiment ***54th Massachusetts*** – has two sons on Frederick Douglas, refuse to accept lower pay - go without pay, ***volunteered for extremely dangerous mission*** ***in order to show Black men wanted to fight*** - charge across an open beach leading an attack on Fort Wagner - suffered terrible losses - nearly 1/2 dead

**Topic 8 - Battles of the 2nd half of the War , the Gettysburg Address and Lincoln’s Reelection**

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| **Anaconda Plan Completed – Vicksburg** falls due to siege  **Sherman’s March** – Done to speed effect of being completely surrounded   * Total war against everything that supports enemy, cut across middle of South to sea * ***pumps up North winning Lincoln reelection against antiwar McClellan*** | **Gettysburg – Lee invades a second time and again loses** hopes to get North to end war   * 1st day - ***Union cavalry unseat*** and ***hold*** the incoming Confederates off the ***high ground*** * 2nd day - ***Confederates try to flank*** the Union lines on the high ground but are ***held off*** (amazing final bayonet charge when out of ammunition) * 3rd day - Lee orders a deadly mistake - Pickett’s ***Charge - across a mile wide field - failed horribly*** * Union does ***not pursue*** and finish off retreating ***Confederate army that had lost 1/3 of its men***!   **Grant** comes East and **chases Lee around Richmond**   * attacks and attacks again, never retreating **- *Lee losing irreplaceable men and supplies***   **Sherman heads North to join Grant**  **Lee Surrenders** in town of Appomattox Court house – Terms of surrender very gentle, leave guns, take horses, fed |

**The Gettysburg Address** **We can't give up now!** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CHAyepp7ypY>

* ***Lincoln***uses ***opportunity*** of the ***victory but great losses at Gettysburg*** to deliver a ***public statement*** on ***the significance of the war and the struggle against slavery***.
  + ***most famous speech in American history***
  + ***dedication of the cemetery at Gettysburg***,
* ***Reminded the assembled crowd of the Founding Fathers’ vision***,
  + Begins ***“Four score and seven years ago,”***
  + established a nation that was ***“dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal.”***
  + The Civil War tests ***whether that nation or any nation so conceived and so dedicated can long endure***
* Encourages ***not to give up*** on the goal of the nation or the work of those who have already died –
  + “ we here highly resolve that ***these dead shall not have died in vain”***
  + ***that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth.”***

**Reelection of Lincoln** - after ***Sherman's March*** voters believe North could win, with ***Johnson as VP*** – a slave-holder from Tennessee who never seceded – in order to get votes in Border States

**Topic 9 - Life for People During the War**

**A Soldier's Life**

***Raising Civil War Units from Same Geographic Area - The Consequences***

* **neighbors, friends and family would hear** if panicked and ran from battle,
* **horrendous casualties** could **wipe out the male population of a small town**

***Camp Life - 3/4ths of the time a soldier is in camp***

* **10 hours a day of training, guard duty, gathering firewood, digging latrines, writing home**
* **basic food -** light bread, coffee, fresh meat when available, salt meat, beans, rice, onions, Irish and sweet potatoes and hardtack
* **Camps could be miserable – wet, no clean water , disease** - 1/2 men too sick to fight

***Disease - the biggest killers during the war***

* reasons – **lack of sanitation and hygiene**, **overcrowded** camps, **contaminated water**, contaminated food
* **Dysentery** (kill 45,000 Union and 50,000 Confederate), Typhoid, Pneumonia, Measles, TB, and Malaria

***Civil War Medicine***

* **Huge number of casualties** - greatly improved **weapon technology** used with **old style battle tactics**
* **Medicine primitive** - years behind the military technology
* **Sanitation non-existent**
* **Chloroform** was available as an anesthetic
* Wounds to the head and truck were not treated, Wounds to the limbs led to amputation

***Prison Camps* -** overcrowded deathtraps

* **1/10 soldiers who died in the war died in the camps**

**The Home Front –** Being a Civilian

* **Waited anxiously for word of soldiers** – wrote letters hoping for response, struggled to get information about fate of their loved ones, got news of death in letter sent by an officer, comrade, or relative
* InUpper South and in Coastal areas of **Confederacy – families have to relocate for safety**
* In rural areas of Upper South, **Guerillas fighters (both Union and Confederate) attacked civilians**
* **Soldiers** from both sides **stripped the countryside** when marching through
  + took food, livestock, forage for the few remaining horses, and wood for fires
* People **near battles must** **care for all the wounded** or **bury all the dead**
* In Confederacy **- food shortages** (even leading to bread riots) and **inflation**
* **Women do jobs once filled by men –** factories, farms, plantations
* **New jobs for women - nurses and teachers**
* **Runaway slaves gave the Union valuable information** ontroop movements**,** local geography, and roads
* **Slaves sabotaged Southern plantations -** performed tasks incorrectly, broke equipment
* **Soldiers’ aid societies** made bandages and clothing and handed out food and water to passing troops
* **When the war ended, welcomed home soldiers still suffering** from disease, amputation, PTSD
* Estimates between **620,000 and 750,000 men killed - leave widows and orphans**

**Women in the War - nurses, spies, and soldiers**

## Nurses

* **Between 2,000 to 5,000 volunteered as nurses**
* A **gruesome job** - cared for wounds, bathed soldiers, dispensed medication, assisted surgeons
* **Most** **famous nurse** - **Clara Barton** – just showed up on battlefields with medical supplies
  + **later started American Red Cross**
* All Union hospitals organized by Dorothea Dix - reformer who got states to open mental hospitals

## Women Spies

* **hundreds of**[**women served as spies**](http://civilwarsaga.com/women-spies-in-the-civil-war/) - **gathered military information** by flirting with male soldiers
  + also smuggled supplies, ammunition and medicine across enemy lines
* **Most famous Confederate spy was Belle Boyd**

## Women Soldiers - Forbidden to join the military - over 400 [women served](http://civilwarsaga.com/women-soldiers-in-the-civil-war/) disguised as men

**Topic 10 Civil War - Reconstruction**

With Lincoln assassinated**led by** first **President Andrew Johnson** then by **Radical Republicans in** **Congress**

***Must decide two things – How to help freedmen?*** and **How to bring South back into Union?**

To reenter the Union***, Johnson only required*** that

* **Southern states** **ratified the 13th amendment** that ended slavery,
* **Southerners take a vow of loyalty to the Nation** before serving in the national government.

**To Help Freedmen** –

* ***The 13 Amendment* - ended slavery**
* ***The Freedman's Bureau*** created to help the newly freed slaves
* provided **food** and **medical** **care** and established **schools** for the freedmen
* protect right of freedmen to **choose own employer and receive fair pay**
* created **special courts to settle disputes between freedmen and whites**

**Hurting Freedmen**

* ***"Black Code" laws*** created in South - ***to maintain the social structure even without slavery.*** 
  + **separate set of laws and punishments for black and mixed race people**
  + **required to work for a white man** **or face punishment for vagrancy (not having a job)**
  + If **convicted of vagrancy - sentenced to forced labor then his labor was sold to the highest bidder**
  + If *the job*, could be **rearrested and sentenced to a longer term**.
* Blacks forced into ***Sharecropping*** agreements with White farmers, which trapped them on the land.
  + ***Received land, seed, equipment from white landowner*** to plant crop in exchange **for landowner getting half the crop**
  + ***Could buy from landowner’s store*** while waiting to harvest crop
  + When harvest crop, ***give half crop to landowner and paying debt*** – ***nothing left and owes more***
  + To pay debt, ***must stay on land and do it all again*** BUT ***DEBT ONLY GROWS!!!!!***
* ***Southern states were also denying blacks the right to vote***
  + say13th amendment freeing the slaves did not give right to vote
  + ***Many Confederate officers reelected to Congress and arrived to take their seats***

**To Help Freedmen**

* **Radical Republicans take over Reconstruction -** did three key things
* Refused **to accept the newly elected Southern legislators**
* Established **military rule in the South –**
  + **Divided South into 5 military districts with generals and army in charge**
* Passed the **14th amendment** and later the **15th amendment**
* **14th Amendment – all citizens have equal rights and equal protection under the law**
  + If state violates rights and fails to protect citizens – its representation in Congress will be cut
* **15th amendment** - [**right to vote**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Suffrage) can’t be denied **based on "**[**race**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Race_(human_classification))**,**[**color**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Colored)**, or previous condition of servitude*"***
* **New elections** were held **with the voting of black men protected by the military** - caused
  + **Black men to be elected to public office** in both the state and national governments
  + **Ulysses S. Grant elected president**

**Hurting Freedmen**

* ***Ku Klux Klan*** **restored**[**white supremacy**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/White_supremacy)**by threats, violence, and murder** - burning crosses, beatings, lynchings **of both black men and those who help them** 
  + done in secret - wore **cloaks and hoods** , attacked at **night**

**Reconstruction Ends -** no clear winner of 50% majority **in presidential election in 1876**

* **Republicans in Congress promise if they get the presidency, they will pull troops out of South**

**With no troops, freedmen in the South were without any protection.**