

Early Stages of the War

Essential Question

Why did neither the Union nor the Confederacy gain a strong advantage during the early years of the war?

Reading Guide

Content Vocabulary

tributary (p. 482) casualty (p. 483)
ironclad (p. 483)

Academic Vocabulary

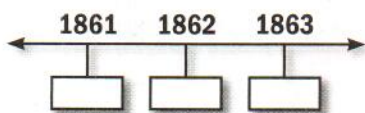
abandon (p. 481) impact (p. 487)

Key People and Events

Stonewall Jackson (p. 481)
Ulysses S. Grant (p. 482)
Battle of Shiloh (p. 483)
Robert E. Lee (p. 485)
Battle of Antietam (p. 486)
Frederick Douglass (p. 487)
Emancipation Proclamation (p. 487)

Reading Strategy

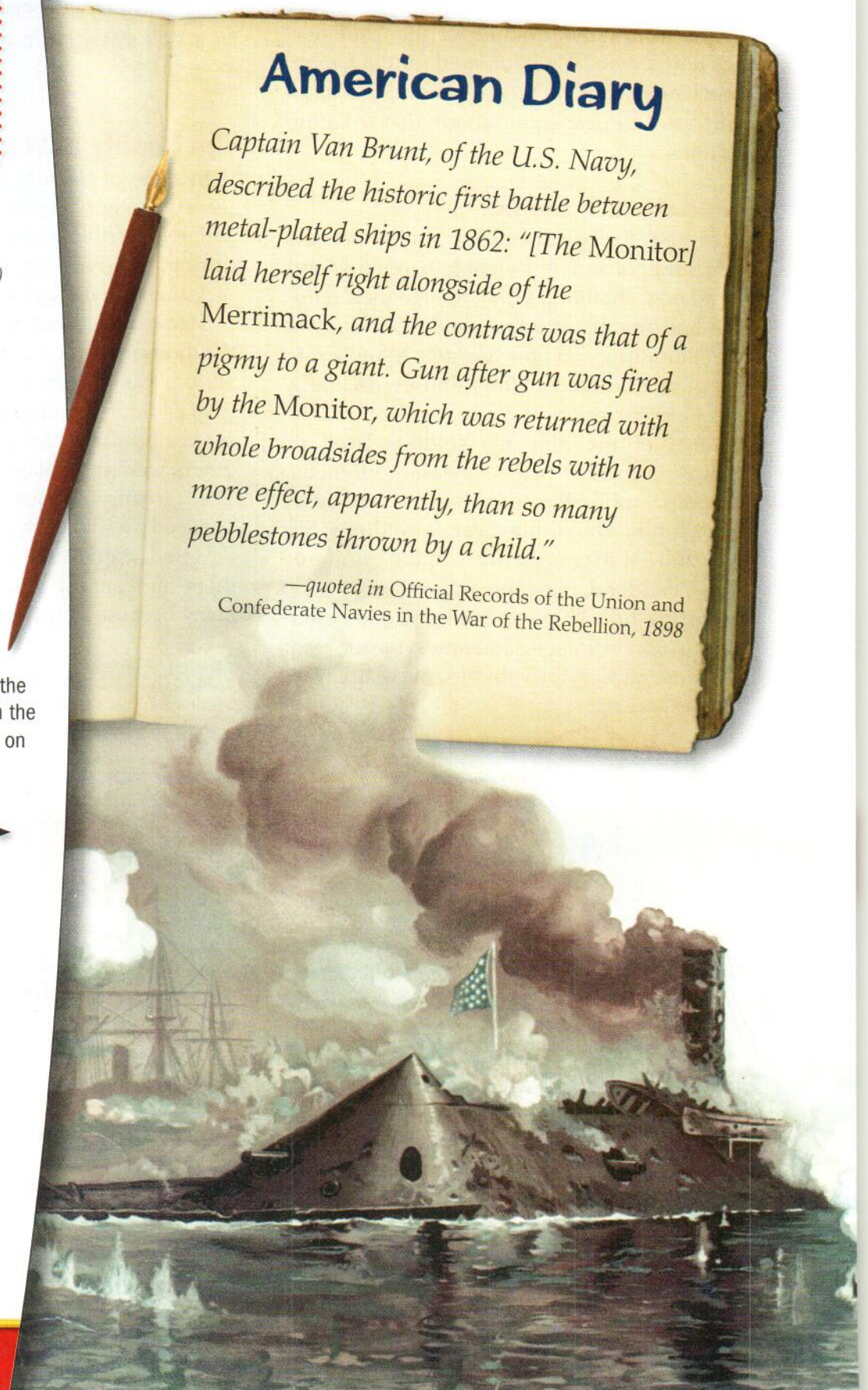
Taking Notes As you read, place the early Civil War battles described in the text on a time line and take notes on what happened during each one.



American Diary

Captain Van Brunt, of the U.S. Navy, described the historic first battle between metal-plated ships in 1862: "[The Monitor] laid herself right alongside of the Merrimack, and the contrast was that of a pigmy to a giant. Gun after gun was fired by the Monitor, which was returned with whole broadsides from the rebels with no more effect, apparently, than so many pebblestones thrown by a child."

—quoted in Official Records of the Union and Confederate Navies in the War of the Rebellion, 1898



War on Land and Sea

Main Idea The Confederates decisively won the First Battle of Bull Run.

History and You Would you eat a picnic lunch while a battle was raging all around you? Read to learn what happened in 1861 when many people did exactly that.

The Civil War was fought on sea as well as on land. While the Union and Confederacy mobilized their armies, the Union navy began operations against the South. In April 1861, President Lincoln proclaimed a blockade of all Confederate ports.

Southerners hoped to break the Union blockade with a secret weapon—the *Merrimack*, an **abandoned** Union warship. The Confederates rebuilt and covered the wooden ship in iron. The armored vessel, renamed the *Virginia*, could withstand Union cannon fire.

First Battle of Bull Run

Pressure mounted in the summer of 1861, leading to the first major battle of the Civil War. On July 21, about 30,000 inexperienced

Union troops commanded by General Irvin McDowell attacked a smaller, equally inexperienced Confederate force led by General P. G. T. Beauregard. The fighting took place in northern Virginia, about 5 miles (8 km) from the town of Manassas Junction near a small river called Bull Run. Hundreds of Washington, D.C., residents went to the battle site to picnic and watch.

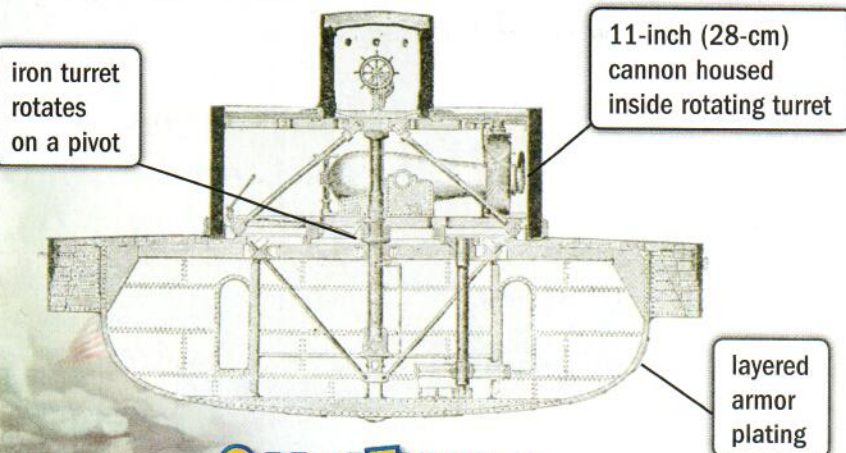
The Yankees drove the Confederates back at first. Then the Rebels rallied, inspired by reinforcements under General Thomas Jackson. Jackson was seen holding out heroically, “like a stone wall,” and became known thereafter as “**Stonewall**” Jackson. The Confederates unleashed a savage counterattack that forced Union lines to break. The Union retreat turned into a mad stampede when retreating Union troops collided with the civilians, fleeing in panic back to Washington, D.C.

The outcome shocked Northerners. They began to understand that the war could be a long, difficult, and costly struggle. President Lincoln appointed a new general, George B. McClellan, to head and organize the Union army of the East—called the Army of the Potomac—and to train the troops.

Primary Source Naval Warfare

The Ironclads The *Monitor* was small for a warship—about 172 feet (52 m) long—and constructed almost entirely of iron. A revolving armored tower called a turret housed the guns.

The Union's *Monitor* (below) battled the ironclad *Merrimack* (left), called the *Virginia* by the Confederates, on March 9, 1862.



Critical Thinking

Making Inferences What advantages would an iron warship have over a wooden ship? Explain.

The loss at Bull Run discouraged Union supporters. Although dismayed by the results, President Lincoln was also determined. Within days he issued a call for more volunteers for the army. He signed two bills requesting a total of 1 million soldiers to serve for three years. Victories in the West raised Northern spirits and also increased enlistment.

The War in the West

In the West, the major Union goal was to control the Mississippi River and its **tributaries**, the smaller rivers that flow into a larger river. With control of the river, Union ships on the Mississippi could prevent the states of Louisiana, Arkansas, and Texas from supplying the rest of the Confederacy. Control would also let Union gunboats and troops move into the heart of the South.

The battle for the rivers began in February 1862 when Union forces captured Fort Henry on the Tennessee River. The assault was led

by naval commander Andrew Foote and army general **Ulysses S. Grant**. Soon afterward, Grant and Foote moved against Fort Donelson on the Cumberland River. The Confederates in Fort Donelson realized that they had no chance of winning the battle, so they asked Grant what terms, or incentives, he would give them to give up the fort. Grant said:

PRIMARY SOURCE

"No terms except an unconditional and immediate surrender can be accepted."

—General Grant to General Buckner, February 1862

"Unconditional Surrender" Grant became the North's new hero.

War of the Ironclads

As conflict was raging on the rivers of the West, ships of the Union and Confederate navies were fighting in the Atlantic Ocean.



On March 8, 1862, the *Merrimack*, renamed the *Virginia*, attacked a group of Union ships off the coast of Virginia. The North's wooden warships could not damage the Confederate ship—shells simply bounced off its iron sides. Some Northern leaders feared the South would use the **ironclad** warship to destroy the Union navy, steam up the Potomac River, and bombard Washington, D.C.

The North, though, had an ironclad ship of its own, the *Monitor*, and this ship rushed toward Virginia. On March 9, the two ironclads met in battle. Neither ship could sink the other. Although the battle was indecisive, it was also historic because it was the first ever between metal-covered ships.

The Battle of Shiloh

Meanwhile, in the West, General Grant and about 40,000 troops headed south along the Tennessee River toward Corinth, Mississippi, an important railroad junction. In early April

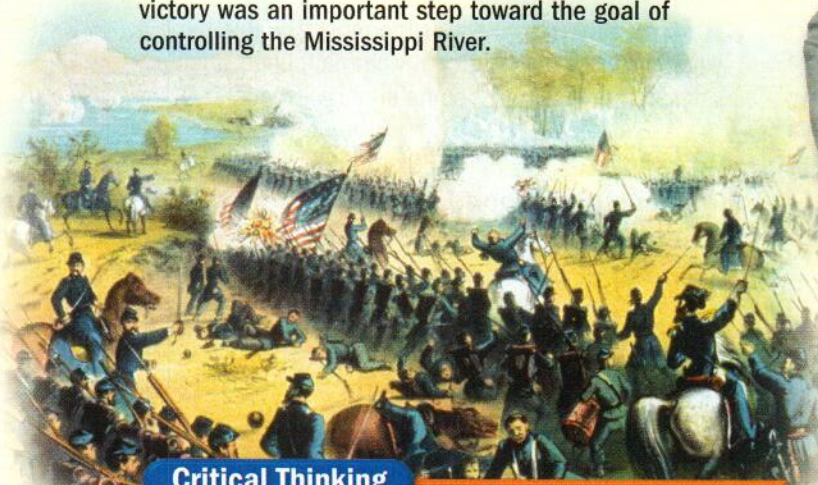
1862, the Union army camped at Pittsburg Landing, 20 miles (32 km) from Corinth. Nearby was a church named Shiloh. Additional Union forces came from Nashville to join Grant.

Confederate leaders decided to strike first, before the reinforcements arrived. Early in the morning of April 6, Confederate forces led by Albert Sidney Johnston and P. G. T. Beauregard launched a surprise attack on the Union troops. The **Battle of Shiloh** lasted two days, with some of the most bitter, bloody fighting of the war. Even though Shiloh was a narrow victory for the Union forces, the losses were enormous. Together the two armies suffered more than 23,000 **casualties**—people killed or wounded.

After Shiloh, Union forces gained control of Corinth on May 30. Memphis, Tennessee, fell to Union armies on June 6. The North seemed well on its way to controlling the Mississippi River.

The Battle of Shiloh

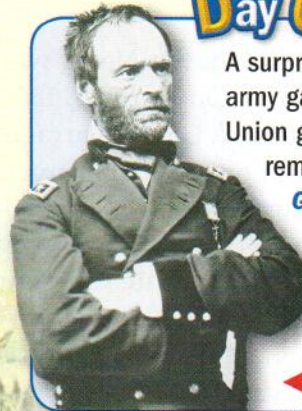
More than 23,000 troops were killed or wounded in the Battle of Shiloh. This was the highest number of casualties of any Civil War battle to date. The Union victory was an important step toward the goal of controlling the Mississippi River.



Critical Thinking

Analyzing Did either Beauregard or Sherman accept the fact that his side might lose the Battle of Shiloh? Do you think their statements reflect what most military leaders would say in this situation? Explain.

Day One



A surprise attack by the Confederate army gave it an early advantage. Union general William T. Sherman remarked to General Grant, "*Well, Grant, we've had the devil's own day of it, haven't we?*" "Yes," Grant replied, "*Lick 'em tomorrow, though.*"

◀ William T. Sherman

Day Two

With Union reinforcements, the battle changed direction, resulting in a Union victory. Confederate general P. G. T. Beauregard lamented, "*I thought I had General Grant just where I wanted him and could finish him up in the morning.*"

P. G. T. Beauregard ▶





Battle Dates

Monitor & Virginia

Mar. 9, 1862

Seven Days

June 25-July 1, 1862

Bull Run

(2nd Battle)

Aug. 29-30, 1862

Antietam

Sept. 17, 1862

Fredericksburg

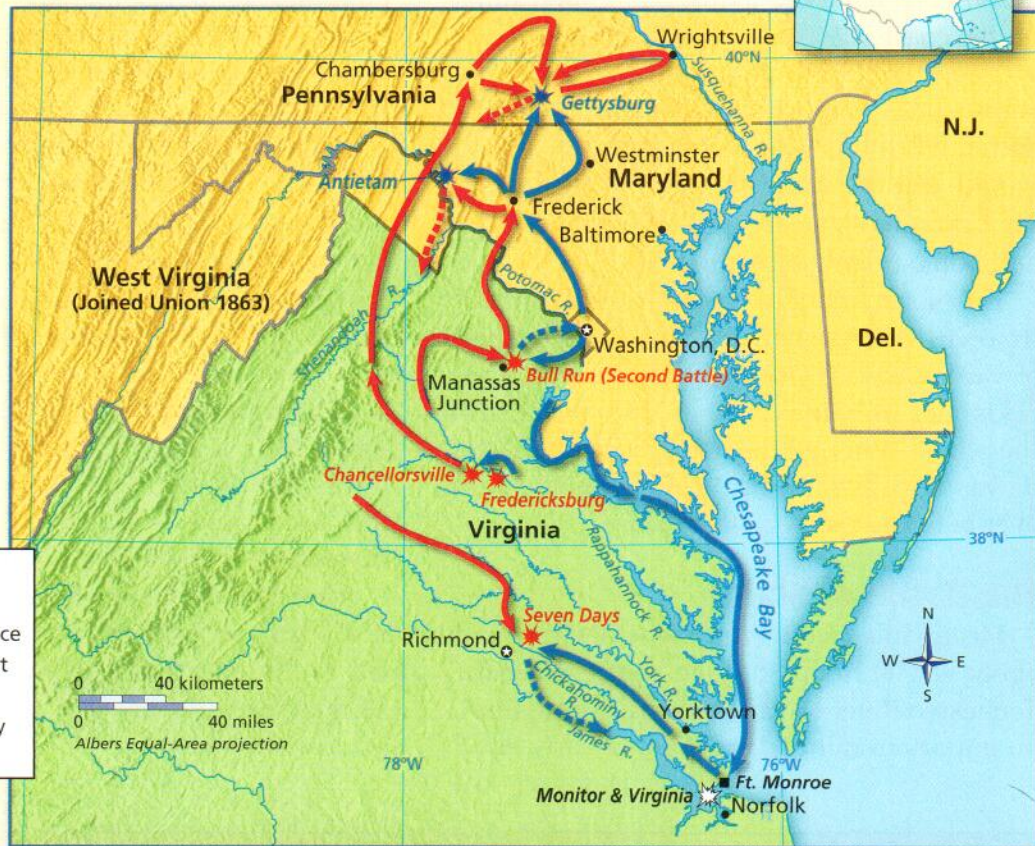
Dec. 13, 1862

Chancellorsville

May 1-4, 1863

Gettysburg

July 1-3, 1863



New Orleans Falls

A few weeks after Shiloh, the North won another important victory. On April 25, 1862, Union naval forces under David Farragut captured New Orleans, Louisiana, the largest city in the South. Farragut, who was of Spanish descent, grew up in the South but remained loyal to the Union. His capture of New Orleans, near the mouth of the Mississippi River, meant that the Confederacy could no longer use the river to carry its goods to sea. Together with Grant's victories to the north, the capture of New Orleans gave the Union control of most of the Mississippi River. Only the city of Vicksburg, Mississippi, blocked Union control of the river and the success of the Union's western strategy.

Reading Check Comparing and Contrasting

How was the Battle of Shiloh like the First Battle of Bull Run? How were the two battles different?

War in the East

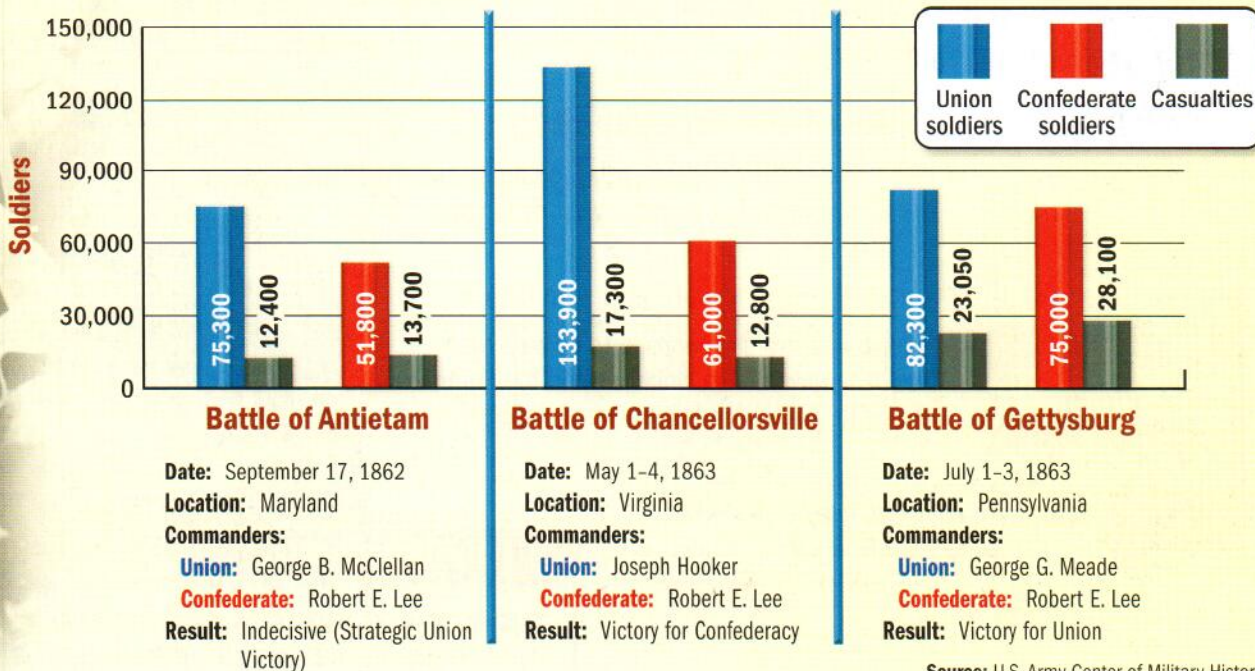
Main Idea The South won several important victories in the East during 1862, but the Union responded with a vital triumph of its own.

History and You What is the most valuable thing you have lost? Read to learn what happened when a Confederate officer lost some important papers.

While Union and Confederate forces were struggling for control of Tennessee and the Mississippi River, another major campaign was being waged in the East to capture Richmond, Virginia. Richmond, the capital of the Confederacy, was close to the northern Confederate border and vulnerable to attack. Yet it was a matter of pride to defend it at all costs. Repelling one Union advance after another, Confederate armies prevented the fall of Richmond until the end of the war.

By the Numbers

The Battle of Antietam was the bloodiest one-day battle in the war and in American history. Several battles in the East were costly in terms of total casualties (killed, wounded, missing, and captured).



Graph Skills

Calculating About how many soldiers fought at Chancellorsville?

Graphs in Motion See StudentWorks™ Plus or glencoe.com.

Victories for the Confederacy

Southern victories in the East were largely the result of the leadership of General **Robert E. Lee** and Stonewall Jackson. Through knowledge of the terrain, speed of movement, and the ability to inspire their troops, Confederate forces managed to defeat Union forces sometimes twice as large as their own.

In 1862 Confederate forces turned back General George B. McClellan at the Seven Days' Battle, General John Pope at the Second Battle of Bull Run, and General Ambrose Burnside at Fredericksburg. In May 1863, at Chancellorsville, Virginia, Lee's army defeated a Union army twice its size. "My God, my God," Lincoln said when he learned of the defeat, "What will the country say!"

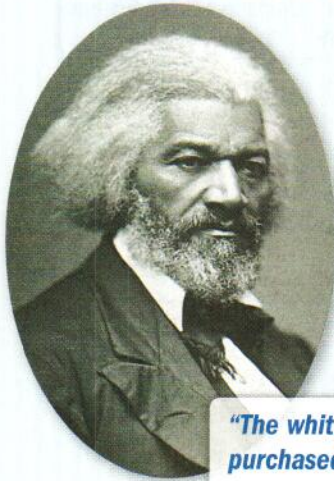
Victories in the East did not include victories outside the Confederacy. Lee's two attempts to invade the North failed. In September 1862,

Lee's army was turned back at the Battle of Antietam. Less than a year later, Confederate forces would face the same fate at Gettysburg. You will read about the Battle of Gettysburg in Section 4.

Invasion of the North

Washington, D.C., presented a tempting target for the Confederates, but the city was too well guarded for Lee to consider an attack. On the urging of Confederate president Jefferson Davis, Lee moved his troops instead into western Maryland—Union territory. His goal now was to sweep into Pennsylvania and carry the war into the Northern states. Lee knew that McClellan was pursuing him with a sizable force, so he concentrated on moving forward. Lee's forces crossed into Maryland and began an invasion of the North.

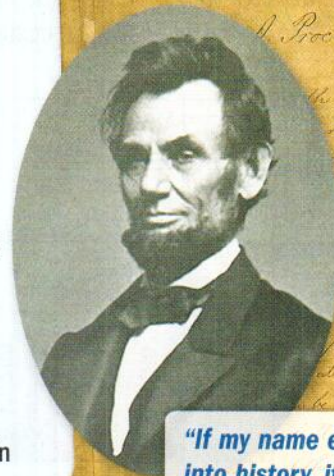
Lincoln declared in the Emancipation Proclamation that:
“all persons held as slaves within any state . . . in rebellion against the United States, shall be then, thenceforward and forever free.”



“The white man’s happiness cannot be purchased by the black man’s misery.”
 —Frederick Douglass, 1849

Results of the Proclamation

- ✓ It sent a clear message to enslaved people and the Confederacy that slavery would no longer be tolerated.
- ✓ African American military units were formed.
- ✓ Europe was strongly opposed to slavery. No European government would defend the South in its war to protect the institution of slavery.



“If my name ever goes into history, it will be for this act.”
 —Abraham Lincoln, 1863

Critical Thinking

Explaining What political reasons did Lincoln have for issuing the Emancipation Proclamation?

The Battle of Antietam

Once in Maryland, Lee split his army in four parts and instructed them to move in different directions. He hoped to confuse McClellan about the size and destination of his army. A Confederate officer, however, lost his copy of Lee’s orders describing this plan. The paper was found by two Union soldiers, who brought it to McClellan.

McClellan did not attack immediately. Lee reassembled his troops, and on September 17, 1862, the two sides met in the **Battle of Antietam** near Sharpsburg, Maryland.

About 6,000 soldiers were killed. About 17,000 more were badly wounded. It was the deadliest single day of fighting during the war. Antietam was an important victory for the Union. Because of the great losses, Lee chose to retreat to Virginia after the fighting. At least for the time being, his strategy of invading the North had failed. The Union could breathe a little more easily.

Reading Check Summarizing What was the outcome of the Battle of Antietam?

The Emancipation Proclamation

Main Idea Lincoln’s Emancipation Proclamation had an enormous effect in America and abroad.

History and You How do you make difficult decisions? Read to learn about the debate over the war’s purpose and how Lincoln eventually settled on a course of action.

At first, Abraham Lincoln cast the Civil War as a battle for the Union rather than as a fight against slavery. As the conflict progressed, however, Lincoln changed the way he thought about slavery and its role in the war.

The Debate

Lincoln hated slavery, yet he was reluctant to make the Civil War a battle to end it. He feared that many Union supporters would strongly oppose such a decision. At the beginning of the war, Lincoln hesitated to move against slavery because of the border states.

Even many Northerners who disapproved of slavery were not eager to risk their lives to end it. Other Americans held a different opinion, however.

From the start of the war, abolitionists, including orator **Frederick Douglass** and newspaper editor Horace Greeley, urged Lincoln to make the war a fight to end slavery. These Northerners made several arguments to support their position. First, they argued, slavery was a moral wrong that needed to be abolished. Second, they pointed out that slavery was the root of the divisions between North and South. Therefore, the nation could never be fully restored if slavery continued.

Finally, Douglass and others brought up the issue of foreign policy. Britain and France each sympathized with the South for economic reasons. Southern leaders were trying to persuade Britain and France to recognize the Confederacy's independence.

Public opinion in England and France was strongly antislavery. By casting the war as a fight for freedom, Douglass pointed out, Lincoln would make Britain and France less willing to support the South. That, in turn, would help the Union cause.


Lincoln Decides

Lincoln knew that the Constitution did not give him the power to end slavery. The Constitution did, however, give him the power to take property from an enemy in wartime—and, by law, enslaved people were property. On September 22, 1862, soon after the North's victory at Antietam, Lincoln announced that he would issue the **Emancipation Proclamation**—a decree freeing all enslaved people in rebel territory on January 1, 1863.

Effects of the Proclamation

The Emancipation Proclamation did not actually free a single enslaved person. The proclamation applied only to enslaved people in areas held by the Confederacy. There Lincoln had no power to enforce the new policy.

The proclamation had an important **impact** in America, however. By issuing the Emancipation Proclamation, the government declared slavery to be wrong. If the Union won the war, slavery would be banned forever.

 **Reading Check** **Summarizing** Why did abolitionists believe that Lincoln should make the end of slavery a goal of the war?

Section 2 Review

History ONLINE
Study Central™ To review this section, go to glencoe.com.

Vocabulary

1. Use each of these terms in a sentence that will help explain its meaning: **abandon**, **tributary**, **ironclad**, **casualty**, **impact**.

Main Ideas

2. **Analyzing** What factors helped the Confederates win the First Battle of Bull Run?
3. **Summarizing** What was the final outcome of the Battle of Shiloh?
4. **Explaining** What did the Emancipation Proclamation state?

Critical Thinking

5. **Analyzing** Why was controlling the Mississippi River vital to the North and the South? Explain your answer in a diagram like the one shown here.



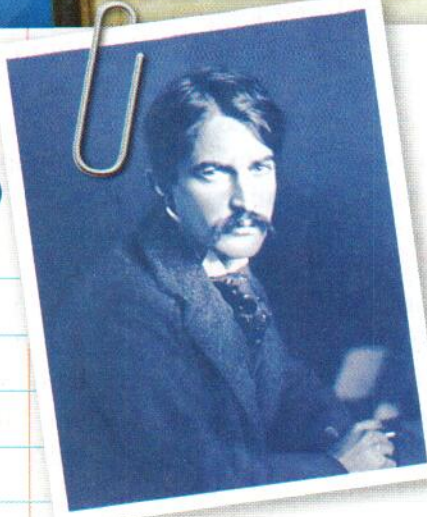
6. **Evaluating** Which of Frederick Douglass's arguments for making the abolition of slavery an aim of the war do you find most convincing? Why?

7. **Expository Writing** You read about General Lee's lost battle orders. Write a short paragraph explaining the role of chance and error in this discovery, as well as General McClellan's use of the information.

8. Answer the Essential Question

Why did neither the Union nor the Confederacy gain a strong advantage during the early years of the war?

America's LITERATURE



Meet the Author

Stephen Crane (1871–1900) had never seen a battlefield when he wrote *The Red Badge of Courage*, which he based on accounts of the Confederate victory at Chancellorsville. Even so, he described the experience of war so realistically that even combat veterans admired his work.

Building Background

The American novelist Stephen Crane, who created the most famous depiction of Civil War combat in his 1895 novel *The Red Badge of Courage*, did not describe warfare in traditional, heroic terms. Instead, he tried to present an objective, almost scientific examination of the effect of battle on individuals. As you read this excerpt from *The Red Badge of Courage*, be aware of how Crane creates an effect of realism.

Vocabulary

careering speeding

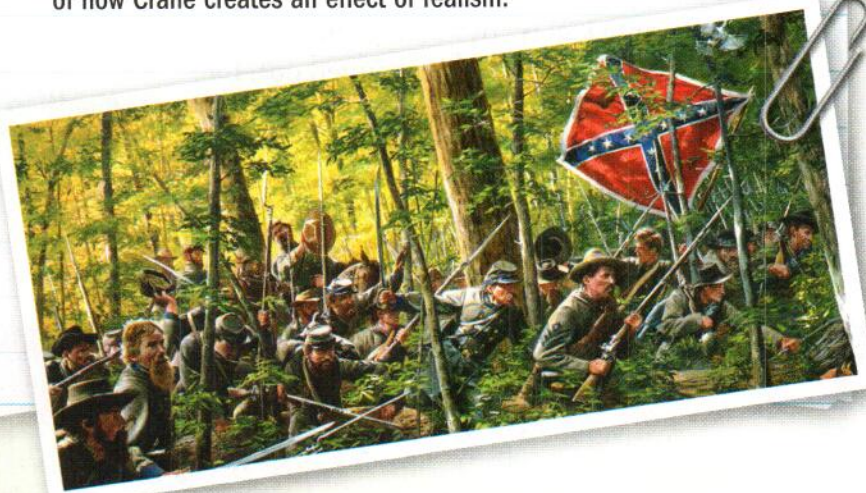
exasperation extreme irritation

impotency powerlessness

imprecations curses

pummeling beating

exultant very joyful



THE RED BADGE OF COURAGE

Stephen Crane

He was at a task. He was like a carpenter who has made many boxes, making still another box, only there was furious haste in his movements. He, in his thought, was **careering** off in other places, even as the carpenter who as he works whistles and thinks of his

friend or his enemy, his home or a saloon. And these jolted dreams were never perfect to him afterward, but remained a mass of blurred shapes.

Presently he began to feel the effects of the war atmosphere—a blistering sweat, a sensation that his eyeballs were about to crack like hot stones. A burning roar filled his ears.

Following this came a red rage. He developed the acute **exasperation** of a pestered animal, a well-meaning cow worried by dogs. He had a mad feeling against his rifle, which could only be used against one life at a time. He wished to rush forward and strangle with his fingers. He craved a power that would enable him to make a world-sweeping gesture and brush all back. His **impotency** appeared to him, and made his rage into that of a driven beast.

A burning roar filled his ears.

Buried in the smoke of many rifles his anger was directed not so much against the men whom he knew were rushing toward him as against the swirling battle phantoms which were choking him, stuffing their smoke robes down his parched throat. He fought frantically for respite for his senses, for air, as a babe being smothered attacks the deadly blankets.

There was a blare of heated rage mingled with a certain expression of intentness on all faces. Many of the men were making low-toned noises with their mouths, and these subdued cheers, snarls, **imprecations**, prayers, made a wild, barbaric song that went as an undercurrent of sound, strange and chantlike with the resounding chords of the war march. The man at the youth's elbow was babbling. In it there was something soft and tender like the monologue of a babe. . . .

The lieutenant of the youth's company had encountered a soldier who had fled screaming at the

first volley of his comrades. Behind the lines these two were acting a little isolated scene. The man was blubbering and staring with sheeplike eyes at the lieutenant, who had seized him by the collar and was **pummeling** him. He drove him back into the ranks with many blows. The soldier went mechanically, dully, with his animal-like eyes upon the officer. Perhaps there was to him a divinity expressed in the voice of the other—stern, hard, with no reflection of fear in it. He tried to reload his gun, but his shaking hands prevented. The lieutenant was obliged to assist him.

The men dropped here and there like bundles. The captain of the youth's company had been killed in an early part of the action. His body lay stretched out in the position of a tired man resting, but upon his face there was an astonished and sorrowful look, as if he thought some friend had done him an ill turn. . . .

At last an **exultant** yell went along the quivering line. The firing dwindled from an uproar to a last vindictive popping. As the smoke slowly eddied away, the youth saw that the charge had been repulsed. The enemy were scattered into reluctant groups. He saw a man climb to the top of the fence, straddle the rail, and fire a parting shot. The waves had receded, leaving bits of dark *débris* upon the ground.

Analyzing Literature

- 1. Respond** What surprised you most about Stephen Crane's description of combat?
- 2. Recall and Interpret**
 - (a) What is the "dark *débris*" left on the battlefield?
 - (b) What is the effect of using this phrase?
- 3. Evaluate and Connect**
 - (a) In your opinion, which details in this passage contribute most powerfully to the effect of realism Crane was striving to create?
 - (b) What conclusions can you draw from Crane's depiction of battle?