Standard 8.80 Lesson

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8.80 Trace the critical developments and events in the war, including geographical advantages and economic advantages of both sides, technological advances and the location and significance of the following battles: Anaconda Plan, First Battle of Bull Run, Fort Henry and Fort Donelson, Shiloh, Antietam, Stones River, Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville, Gettysburg, Vicksburg, Chickamauga, Lookout Mountain, Franklin, Nashville, Sherman’s “March to the Sea”, Appomattox Court House.
In which John Green ACTUALLY teaches about the Civil War. In part one of our two part look at the US Civil War, John looks into the causes of the war, and the motivations of the individuals who went to war. The overarching causes and the individual motivations were not always the same, you see. John also looks into why the North won, and whether that outcome was inevitable. The North’s industrial and population advantages are examined, as are the problems of the Confederacy, including its need to build a nation at the same time it was fighting a war. As usual, John doesn’t get much into the actual battle by battle breakdown. He does talk a little about the overarching strategy that won the war, and Grant’s plan to just overwhelm the South with numbers. Grant took a lot of losses in the latter days of the war, but in the end, it did lead to the surrender of the South.

Battles of the Civil War

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=25HHVDOaGeE

A House Divided

Pictured Above: This portrait of a solitary African-American soldier brings the personal suffering and the deeper meaning of the Civil War into focus.

The most destructive war in America’s history was fought among its own people. The CIVIL WAR was a tragedy of unimaginable proportions. For four long and bloody years, Americans were killed at the hands of other Americans.
One of every 25 American men perished in the war. Over 640,000 soldiers were killed. Many civilians also died — in numbers often unrecorded.

At the battle of Antietam, more Americans were killed than on any other single day in all of American history. On that day, 22,719 soldiers fell to their deaths — four times the number of Americans lost during the D-Day assault on Normandy in WWII. In fact, more American soldiers died in the Civil War than in all other American wars combined.

**Pictured Above:** The naval battle between the Monitor and the Virginia (also known as the Merrimac) was one of the most famous of the Civil War, even though it was not a decisive victory for either side.

The war was fought in American fields, on American roads, and in American cities with a ferocity that could be evoked only in terrible nightmares. Nearly every family in the nation was touched by this war. Scarcely a family in the South did not lose a son, brother, or father.

Four long years of battle changed everything. No other event since the Revolutionary War altered the political, social, economic, and cultural fabric of the United States. In the end, a predominantly industrial society triumphed over an agricultural one. The Old South was forever changed. The blemish of slavery was finally removed from American life, though its legacy would long linger.

**Fort Sumter**

**Pictured Above:** Confederate forces shelled Fort Sumter for three and a half days before Northern commander Major Robert Anderson surrendered. This image depicts Fort Sumter as it appeared in 1861.

**It all began at Fort Sumter ...**

On December 20, 1860, South Carolina seceded from the Union. Five days later, 68 federal troops stationed in Charleston, South Carolina, withdrew to FORT SUMTER, an island in CHARLESTON HARBOR. The North considered the fort to be the property of the United States government. The people of South Carolina believed it belonged to the new Confederacy. Four months later, the first engagement of the Civil War took place on this disputed soil.

The commander at Fort Sumter, Major Robert Anderson, was a former slave owner who was nevertheless unquestionably loyal to the Union. With 6,000 South Carolina militia ringing the harbor, Anderson and his soldiers were cut off from reinforcements and the ability to get supplies. In January 1861, as one the last acts of his administration, President James Buchanan sent 200 soldiers and supplies on an unarmed merchant vessel, STAR OF THE WEST, to reinforce Anderson. It quickly departed when South Carolina artillery started firing on it.
Pictured Above: Fort Sumter lies in the center of Charleston Harbor.

In February 1861, Jefferson Davis was inaugurated as the provisional president of the Confederate States of America, in Montgomery, Alabama. On March 4, 1861, Abraham Lincoln took his oath of office as president of the Union in Washington, DC. The fate of Fort Sumter lay in the hands of these two leaders.

As weeks passed, pressure grew for Lincoln to take some action on Fort Sumter and to reunite the states. Lincoln thought of the Southern secession as "artificial." When Jefferson Davis sent a group of commissioners to Washington to negotiate for the transfer of Fort Sumter to South Carolina, they were promptly rebuffed.

Lincoln had a dilemma. Fort Sumter was running out of supplies, but an attack on the fort would appear as Northern aggression. States that still remained part of the Union (such as Virginia and North Carolina) might be driven into the secessionist camp. People at home and abroad might become sympathetic to the South. Yet Lincoln could not allow his troops to starve or surrender and risk showing considerable weakness.

Pictured Above: Jefferson Davis was inaugurated provisional president of the Confederate States of America on February 18, 1861, and elected president of the CSA later that year.

At last he developed a plan. On April 6, Lincoln told the governor of South Carolina that he was going to send provisions to Fort Sumter. He would send no arms, troops, or ammunition — unless, of course, South Carolina attacked.

Now the dilemma sat with Jefferson Davis. Attacking Lincoln’s resupply brigade would make the South the aggressive party. But he simply could not allow the fort to be resupplied. J.G. Gilchrist, a Southern newspaper writer, warned, "Unless you sprinkle the blood in the face of the people of Alabama, they will be back in the old Union in less than ten days."

Davis decided he had no choice but to order Anderson to surrender Sumter. Anderson refused.

The Civil War began at 4:30 a.m. on April 12, 1861, when Confederate artillery, under the command of General Pierre Gustave T. Beauregard, opened fire on Fort Sumter. Confederate batteries showered the fort with over 3,000 shells in a three-and-a-half day period. Anderson surrendered. Ironically, Beauregard had developed his military skills under Anderson’s instruction at West Point. This was the first of countless relationships and families devastated in the Civil War. The fight was on.

Strengths and Weaknesses: North vs. South

Pictured Above: As early as September 1861, the CSA began issuing national currency, promising to pay the bearer the face amount — six months after the ratification of a peace treaty.
Within days of the fall of Fort Sumter, four more states joined the Confederacy: Virginia, North Carolina, Tennessee, and Arkansas. The battle lines were now drawn.

On paper, the Union outweighed the Confederacy in almost every way. Nearly 21 million people lived in 23 Northern states. The South claimed just 9 million people — including 3.5 million slaves — in 11 CONFEDERATE STATES. Despite the North’s greater population, however, the South had an army almost equal in size during the first year of the war.

The North had an enormous industrial advantage as well. At the beginning of the war, the Confederacy had only one-ninth the industrial capacity of the Union. But that statistic was misleading. In 1860, the North manufactured 97 percent of the country’s firearms, 96 percent of its railroad locomotives, 94 percent of its cloth, 93 percent of its pig iron, and over 90 percent of its boots and shoes. The North had twice the density of railroads per square mile. There was not even one rifleworks in the entire South.

Pictured Above: The South was at a severe disadvantage when it came to manufacturing, but the Confederacy managed to keep its guns firing by creating ammunition from melted-down bells from churches and town squares. All of the principal ingredients of gunpowder were imported. Since the North controlled the navy, the seas were in the hands of the Union. A blockade could suffocate the South. Still, the Confederacy was not without resources and willpower.

The South could produce all the food it needed, though transporting it to soldiers and civilians was a major problem. The South also had a great nucleus of trained officers. Seven of the eight military colleges in the country were in the South.

The South also proved to be very resourceful. By the end of the war, it had established armories and foundries in several states. They built huge gunpowder mills and melted down thousands of church and plantation bells for bronze to build cannons.

The South’s greatest strength lay in the fact that it was fighting on the defensive in its own territory. Familiar with the landscape, Southerners could harass Northern invaders.

The military and political objectives of the Union were much more difficult to accomplish. The Union had to invade, conquer, and occupy the South. It had to destroy the South’s capacity and will to resist — a formidable challenge in any war.

Pictured Above: "We had the poorest commissary arrangements, and all I could get for my men was salt and hard crackers. I made the convalescents shoot squirrels, groundhogs, pheasants, and turkeys with which to make soup for the men." -from the memoirs of Archibald Atkinson Jr., a Confederate surgeon

Southerners enjoyed the initial advantage of morale: The South was fighting to maintain its way of life, whereas the North was fighting to maintain a union. Slavery did not become a moral cause of the Union effort until Lincoln announced the EMANCIPATION PROCLAMATION IN 1863.
When the war began, many key questions were still unanswered. What if the slave states of Maryland, Kentucky, Missouri, and Delaware had joined the Confederacy? What if Britain or France had come to the aid of the South? What if a few decisive early Confederate victories had turned Northern public opinion against the war?

Indeed, the North looked much better on paper. But many factors undetermined at the outbreak of war could have tilted the balance sheet toward a different outcome.

Southern states began to leave the Union beginning with South Carolina in late 1860. The secession ceased when Virginia, Arkansas, Tennessee, and North Carolina joined the C.S.A. following the skirmish at Fort Sumter. In 1861, everyone predicted a short war. Most believed that one battle of enormous proportion would settle a dispute at least 90 years in the making. But history dictated a far more destructive course.

Anaconda Plan

Explanation of the Anaconda Plan

http://www2.vcdh.virginia.edu/civilwar/index.php?section=Exhibits&page=War50_60&media=trailer_andwar_came.mov
First Battle of Bull Run - July 21, 1861 First Blood and Its Aftermath

Pictured Above: This map shows the situation at Bull Run in July 1861. When viewing the enlargement, note how close the fighting was to the Northern capital of Washington, DC.

Eye witness account to the First Battle of Bull Run

http://www.eyewitnesstohistory.com/bullrun.htm

When the war began in April 1861, most Americans expected the conflict to be brief. When President Lincoln called upon the governors and states of the Union to furnish him with 75,000 soldiers, he asked for an enlistment of only 90 days. When the Confederacy moved its capital to Richmond, Virginia, 100 miles from Washington, everyone expected a decisive battle to take place on the ground between the two cities.

In the spring of 1861, 35,000 Confederate troops led by General Pierre Beauregard moved north to protect Richmond against invasion. Lincoln’s army had almost completed its 90-day enlistment requirement and still its field commander, General Irvin McDowell, did not want to fight. Pressured to act, on July 18 (three months after the war had begun) McDowell marched his army of 37,000 into Virginia.

Hundreds of reporters, congressional representatives, and other civilians had traveled from Washington in carriages and on horses to see a real battle. It took the Northern troops two and a half days to march 25 miles. Beauregard was warned of McDowell’s troop movement by a Southern belle who concealed the message in her hair. He consolidated his forces along the south bank of Bull Run, a river a few miles north of MANASSAS JUNCTION, and waited for the Union troops to arrive.

Early on July 21, the FIRST BATTLE OF BULL RUN began. During the first two hours of battle, 4,500 Confederates gave ground grudgingly to 10,000 Union soldiers. But as the Confederates were retreating, they found a brigade of fresh troops led by Thomas Jackson waiting just over the crest of the hill.

Naming Battles

The Battle of Bull Run was also known as the Battle of Manassas Junction. Frequently, major battles had two names. The South named battles after the nearby cities. The North named them after the nearby waterways.

Pictured Above: Unlike modern-day photojournalists who often find themselves in the thick of battle, photographers hoping to get a shot of the battlefield at Bull Run waited until Southern forces left Manassas in March of 1862.
Trying to rally his infantry, General Bernard Bee of South Carolina shouted, "Look, there is Jackson with his Virginians, standing like a stone wall!" The Southern troops held firm, and Jackson’s nickname, "Stonewall," was born.

During the afternoon, thousands of additional Confederate troops arrived by horse and by train. The Union troops had been fighting in intense heat — many for 14 hours. By late in the day, they were feeling the effects of their efforts. At about 4 p.m., when Beauregard ordered a massive counterattack, Stonewall Jackson urged his soldiers to "yell like furies." The rebel yell became a hallmark of the Confederate Army. A retreat by the Union became a rout.

Pictured Above: Four children watch the federal cavalry at the Battle of Bull Run. Curious onlookers made the journey from nearby Washington, DC to observe the skirmish.

Over 4,800 soldiers were killed, wounded, or listed as missing from both armies in the battle. The next day, Lincoln named MAJOR GENERAL GEORGE B. MCCLELLAN to command the new ARMY OF THE POTOMAC and signed legislation for the enlistment of one million troops to last three years.

The high esprit de corps of the Confederates was elevated by their victory. For the North, which had supremacy in numbers, it increased their caution. Seven long months passed before McClellan agreed to fight. Meanwhile, Lincoln was growing impatient at the timidity of his generals.

In many ways, the Civil War represented a transition from the old style of fighting to the new style. During Bull Run and other early engagements, traditional uniformed lines of troops faced off, each trying to outflank the other. As the war progressed, new weapons and tactics changed warfare forever. There were no civilian spectators during the destructive battles to come.

Fort Henry and Fort Donelson - 1862
Fort Henry and Fort Donelson were located on the Cumberland River. These forts were built to prevent invasion of the Union navy by the river. In February of 1862, Fort Henry fell first to the Union and Fort Donelson fell 10 days later. The Tennessee River and Mississippi River were also protected by forts. Gaining control of these rivers would cut off supply lines. The defeat at Fort Donelson was the first big defeat for the Confederacy, and opened up the Columbia and Tennessee rivers to the Union. The Confederates would not have access to these two rivers for the rest of the war. Many Nashvillians left the city after hearing of the defeat. General Ulysses S. Grant now would occupy the state capital and fly the American flag. Nashville never went back to the Confederacy for the rest of the war after this occupation by the Union. This battle earned General Grant the nickname “Unconditional Surrender”.

This link will take you to a virtual tour of Ft. Donelson

http://www.tnhistoryforkids.org/places/fort_donelson

Shiloh - April 6-7, 1862

The Battle of Shiloh is also known as The Battle of Pittsburg Landing and the bloodiest battle of the Civil War. The Confederates surprised General Grant on the Tennessee River. Initially, the Confederates were able to push the Union back. The Union army crouched along a sunken road, giving them a geographical advantage. Confederates were unable to hold their position and the Union pushed the Confederates back, which gave the Union the victory. Both the North and South were shocked by the casualties. The Union suffered more than 13,000 casualties and the Confederates 11,000.

http://www.eyewitnesstohistory.com/shiloh.htm  The Battle of Shiloh - 1862
Antietam - Bloody Antietam

Pictured Above: On November 7, 1862, Lincoln sacked General McClellan and replaced him with General Burnside.

The South was on the move ...

In August 1862, a Confederate Army invaded Kentucky from Tennessee. They seized Frankfort and seated a Confederate governor. During that same month, Robert E. Lee’s ARMY OF NORTHERN VIRGINIA had defeated the Union Army again at the SECOND BATTLE OF BULL RUN.

Lee and Jefferson Davis believed that one more successful campaign might bring British and French recognition of the Confederacy. Foreign powers are reluctant to enter a conflict on the losing side. Although Britain and France both saw advantages of a split United States, neither country was willing to support the Confederacy without being convinced the South could win. Lee and Davis were desperately seeking that decisive victory.

Lee wanted to attack the North on its own territory. His target was the federal rail center at Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, but the Union General George McClellan was pursuing him. Lee decided to stop and confront the Union Army at SHARPSBURG, Maryland. In front of the town ran a little creek called Antietam.

On September 15, Lee deployed his 30,000 soldiers on some four miles of rising ground behind ANTIETAM CREEK. He utilized the cover of rock outcroppings, rolling farmland, stone walls, fields of standing corn, and a sunken road in the center of his line.

Two days earlier, a Union corporal had found a copy of Lee’s special orders wrapped around three cigars. But McClellan refused to act because he thought Lee’s troops outnumbered his own. When McClellan started deploying his troops on September 16, he had 60,000 active soldiers and 15,000 in reserve. Had he thrust his complete force against the Confederates on September 15 or 16, he might have smashed Lee’s army.
Pictured Above: This map shows troop movements during the Battle of Antietam. Confederate troops are shown in red, Union troops in blue.

The battle began early on the morning of September 17 when Union troops under the command of General Joseph Hooker attacked the forces of Stonewall Jackson across a cornfield that lay between them. The fighting was ferocious. The battle surged back and forth across the cornfield 15 times, costing each side nine generals. Within five hours, 12,000 soldiers lay dead or wounded, and the weary opponents stopped fighting for the day.

By midday, the struggle had shifted to a sunken country road between two farms. Two Confederate brigades stood their ground repeatedly as Union soldiers attacked and fell back. Finally, Union attackers assumed a position from which they could shoot down on the Confederate soldiers occupying the road. It was quickly filled with the dead and dying, sometimes two and three deep. The road earned a new name: BLOODY LANE. The Confederates fell back, and McClellan again had the opportunity to cut Lee’s army in two and ruin it. But McClellan did not follow through, and the battlefield fell silent.

This day sits in history as the bloodiest single day America has ever suffered. Over 22,000 soldiers were killed, wounded, or missing — more than all such casualties during the entire American Revolution. Lee lost a quarter of his army; the survivors headed back to Virginia the next night.

The horror of Antietam proved to be one of the war’s critical events. Lee and Davis did not get their victory. Neither Britain nor France was prepared to recognize the Confederacy. Five days after the battle, Lincoln issued his preliminary Emancipation Proclamation. On November 5, Lincoln, impatient with McClellan’s hesitancy, relieved him of command, and replaced him with GENERAL AMBROSE BURNSIDE. Antietam changed everything.

Eyewitness to Antietam http://www.eyewitnesstohistory.com/antiet.htm

Stones River - December 31, 1862 - Jan 2, 1863

The Confederate Army of Tennessee was encamped at Stones River, Murfreesboro, Tennessee. The Confederates lost this battle but both sides suffered 24,000 casualties. The Union took the farmland that had supplied the Confederates with food; it would now help feed the Union Army.

Battle Summary of Stones River http://www.nps.gov/hps/abpp/battles/tn010.htm

Fredericksburg - December 1862

The Battle of Fredericksburg was a defeat for the Union army. Fredericksburg is located between Richmond, VA (the Confederate capital) and Washington D.C. (our nation’s capital). The Union troops were waiting for a bridge to be finished so they could cross the Rappahannock River to reach Fredericksburg. The Confederate army snipers shot at the Union bridge builders, which halted the construction. The Union general Ambrose Burnside ordered his men to cross the river anyway, which allowed bridge construction to continue. The Confederate troops under Robert E. Lee had taken position on a hill and as the Union army headed up the hill, Confederate forces moved them down with gunfire. Fighting even continued out into the streets. In the end Burnsides Union army had lost 13,000 men and Lee’s Confederate army lost 5,000.

Battle Summary of Fredericksburg http://www.nps.gov/hps/abpp/battles/va028.htm
Chancellorsville - May 1-4, 1863

Chancellorsville was a battle in which the Confederate army under General Robert E. Lee and Stonewall Jackson defeated the Union troops, under General Joseph Hooker, in three days. During this battle, Stonewall Jackson was shot by friendly fire and died several days later.

Battle summary of Chancellorsville  http://www.nps.gov/hps/abpp/battles/va032.htm

Gettysburg July 1-3, 1863

General Robert E. Lee thought that if he could have a Confederate victory in the north, the northerners would want to end the war. As the Confederate army moved north into Gettysburg Pennsylvania, they met the Union army, under General George Meade, and pushed them out of Gettysburg. The north then took position on Cemetery Ridge which overlooks the town. The next day the Confederate army suffered heavy casualties and failed to force the Union from their position. Lee decided to attack again.

The last encounter, led by General George Pickett, is called Pickett’s Charge. Pickett led his men through an open field for about 1,000 yards and then climb a steep slope in plain view of the enemy. As the men moved forward, the Union army opened fire. Only about 100 men reached the Union lines. The next day as a Union officer tried to ride across the battlefield, he could not because of the amount of dead soldiers that littered the field. Lee lost almost a third of his troops in this battle.


Anaconda Plan/Vicksburg -July 4, 1863

Pictured Above: In this photo, taken in the summer of 1864, Ulysses S. Grant stands with his most famous horse, Cincinnati. This magnificent horse, standing 18 hands high, was given to Grant in January, 1864, by a St. Louis man who boasted that the mount was "the finest horse in the world."

Only one day after their victory at Gettysburg, Union forces captured Vicksburg, the last Confederate stronghold on the Mississippi River. Lincoln and Union commanders began to make plans for finishing the war.

The Union strategy to win the war did not emerge all at once. By 1863, however, the Northern military plan consisted of five major goals:

1. Fully blockade all Southern coasts. This strategy, known as the ANACONDA PLAN, would eliminate the possibility of Confederate help from abroad.
2. Control the Mississippi River. The river was the South’s major inland waterway. Also, Northern control of the rivers would separate Texas, Louisiana, and Arkansas from the other Confederate states.
3. Capture RICHMOND. Without its capital, the Confederacy’s command lines would be disrupted.
4. Shatter Southern civilian morale by capturing and destroying ATLANTA, SAVANNAH, and the heart of Southern secession, South Carolina.
5. Use the numerical advantage of Northern troops to engage the enemy everywhere to break the spirits of the Confederate Army.

By early 1864, the first two goals had been accomplished. The blockade had successfully prevented any meaningful foreign aid. General Ulysses Grant’s success at Vicksburg delivered the Mississippi River to the Union. Lincoln turned to Grant to finish the job and, in the spring of 1864, appointed Grant to command the entire Union Army.
Grant had a plan to end the war by November. He mounted several major simultaneous offensives. General George Meade was to lead the Union’s massive Army of the Potomac against Robert E. Lee. Grant would stay with Meade, who commanded the largest Northern army. GENERAL JAMES BUTLER was to advance up the JAMES RIVER in Virginia and attack Richmond, the capital of the Confederacy. General William Tecumseh Sherman was to plunge into the heart of the South, inflicting as much damage as he could against their war resources.

**Battle Summary of Vicksburg**  [http://www.nps.gov/hps/abpp/battles/ms011.htm](http://www.nps.gov/hps/abpp/battles/ms011.htm)

**Chickamauga - Sept 1863**

As the Confederate army moved southward toward Georgia, they stopped and fought the battle near Chickamauga Creek. The Confederates were trying to take back control of the railroad center in Chattanooga, Tennessee. More than one fourth of the soldiers on each side were casualties by the time the battle was over. This was considered a victory for the Confederates, even though they were unable to take back control of the Chattanooga railroad lines.

**Battle Summary of Chickamauga**  [http://www.nps.gov/hps/abpp/battles/tn018.htm](http://www.nps.gov/hps/abpp/battles/tn018.htm)

**Lookout Mountain - 1863**

After the Battle of Chickamauga, the Confederate soldiers headed back to Lookout Mountain. This battle is sometimes call the “Battle Above the Clouds” because the fog was so bad on the mountain. They were trying to protect the city from Union occupation. Lincoln ordered troops to be transferred from other parts of the country to Chattanooga. Union troops headed up Lookout Mountain, took it over, and then pushed the Confederate army southward into Georgia.

**Battle Summary Lookout Mountain**  [http://www.nps.gov/hps/abpp/battles/tn024.htm](http://www.nps.gov/hps/abpp/battles/tn024.htm)

**Franklin November 30, 1864**

The last major battle in Tennessee would be fought in Franklin, Tennessee. The Confederate Army was unable to take back control of Tennessee from the Union Army. General John Bell Hood, in charge of the Confederate Army, tried to take back Nashville from the Union.

**Battle Summary Franklin**  [http://www.nps.gov/hps/abpp/battles/tn016.htm](http://www.nps.gov/hps/abpp/battles/tn016.htm)

**Nashville - Dec. 15-16, 1864**

The Battle of Nashville was fought with the help of the 13th US Colored troops regiment. In November of 1864 General John Bell led the Army of Tennessee toward Nashville and occupied a line of hills parallel to the Union Army. Union Major General George H. Thomas was planning to destroy Hood’s army. Fighting continue for several days before the Army of Tennessee retreated Tupelo, Mississippi.

**Battle Summary of Nashville**  [http://www.nps.gov/hps/abpp/battles/tn038.htm](http://www.nps.gov/hps/abpp/battles/tn038.htm)
Here is a link to more information about the Battle of Nashville:

http://www.tnhistoryforkids.org/cities/Nashville

Sherman’s “March to the Sea” - 1864

Pictured Above: One week after Abraham Lincoln’s reelection in 1864, William Tecumseh Sherman (above) began his merciless march through Georgia, leaving nothing behind but civilian sorrow and scorched earth. Both Atlanta and Savannah would fall back to Union control during this campaign.

Meade faced Lee’s army in Virginia. Lee’s strategy was to use terrain and fortified positions to his advantage, thus decreasing the importance of the Union’s superiority in numbers. He hoped to make the cost of trying to force the South back into the Union so high that the Northern public would not stand for it. He almost accomplished this. From May 5 to May 24, the full force of Grant’s and Lee’s armies fought continually with enormous casualties.

But, unlike the Union commanders of the past, Grant had the determination to press on despite the cost. Twenty-eight thousand soldiers were casualties of the BATTLE OF THE WILDERNESS. A few days later, another 28,000 soldiers were casualties in the BATTLE OF SPOTSYLVANIA COURT HOUSE. More than two-thirds of the casualties of these battles were Union soldiers.

At COLD HARBOR the following week, Grant lost another 13,000 soldiers — 7,000 of them in half an hour. In the 30 days that Grant had been fighting Lee, he lost 50,000 troops — a number equal to half the size of the Confederate army at the time. As a result, Grant became known as "THE BUTCHER." Congress was appalled and petitioned for his removal. But Lincoln argued that Grant was winning the battles and refused to grant Congress’s request.

Pictured Above: William T. Sherman’s ruthless march through the South to the sea drove a stake into the heart of the Confederacy. He left nothing in his wake, destroying everything in sight in an attempt to crush the rebellion once and for all.

Butler failed to capture Richmond, and the Confederate capital was temporarily spared. On May 6, one day after Grant and Lee started their confrontation in the Wilderness, Sherman entered Georgia, scorching whatever resources that lay in his path. By late July, he had forced the enemy back to within sight of Atlanta. For a month, he lay siege to the city. Finally, in early September he entered Atlanta — one day after the Confederate army evacuated it.

Sherman waited until seven days after Lincoln’s hotly fought reelection before putting Atlanta to the torch and starting his MARCH TO THE SEA. No one stood before him. His soldiers pillaged the countryside and destroyed everything of conceivable military value as they traveled 285 miles to Savannah in a march that became legendary for the misery it created among the civilian population. On December 22, Savannah fell.
Next, Sherman ordered his army to move north into South Carolina. Their intent was to destroy the state where secession began. Exactly a month later, its capital, Columbia, fell to him. On the same day, Union Forces retook Fort Sumter. The war was almost over.

**Appomattox Court House - April 1865 - The Road to Appomattox**

*Pictured Above:* Grant and Lee signed the surrender for the Army of Northern Virginia on April 9, 1865, in Appomattox Court House, Virginia. The surrender is often called the Gentleman’s Agreement because of the character of both generals.

**Eyewitness to Sherman’s March to the Sea** [http://www.eyewitnesstohistory.com/sherman.htm](http://www.eyewitnesstohistory.com/sherman.htm)

**The end was in sight ...**

Only Lee’s Army of Northern Virginia remained as a substantial military force to oppose the Union Army. For nine months, Grant and Lee had faced each other from 53 miles of trenches during the Siege of Petersburg. Lee’s forces had been reduced to 50,000, while Grant’s had grown to over 120,000.

The Southern troops began to melt away as the end became clear. On April 2, Grant ordered an attack on Petersburg and broke the Confederate line. Lee and his shrinking army were able to escape.

Lee sent a message to Jefferson Davis saying that Richmond could no longer be defended and that he should evacuate the city. That night Jefferson Davis and his cabinet set fire to everything of military value in Richmond, then boarded a train to Danville, 140 miles to the south. Mobs took over the streets and set more fires. The next day, Northern soldiers arrived. And one day after that, Lincoln visited the city and sat in the office of Jefferson Davis.

*Pictured Above:* These Union troops posed in the village of Appomattox Court House in 1865.

**Eyewitness to the surrender at Appomattox** [http://www.eyewitnesstohistory.com/appomatx.htm](http://www.eyewitnesstohistory.com/appomatx.htm)

Lee’s Army of Northern Virginia, now reduced in size to 35,000 troops, had escaped to the west. They were starving, and Lee had asked the Confederate Commissary Department to have rations for his infantry waiting at the Amelia Court House. But when he arrived there, no rations awaited his troops, and they were forced to forage the countryside for food. The delay caused by his need to acquire food proved fatal to the Confederate effort.

Now 125,000 Union soldiers were surrounding Lee’s army, whose numbers had been reduced to 25,000 troops and were steadily falling. Still, Lee decided to make one last attempt to break out. On April 9, the remaining Confederate Army, under John Gordon, drove back Union cavalry blocking the road near the village of Appomattox Court House. But beyond them were 50,000 Union infantry, and as many or more were closing in on Lee from his rear. It was over.
**Pictured Above:** Confederate troops burned Richmond as they retreated to the South.

Lee sent a note to Grant, and later that afternoon they met in the home of Wilmer McLean. Grant offered generous terms of surrender. Confederate officers and soldiers could go home, taking with them their horses, sidearms, and personal possessions. Also, Grant guaranteed their immunity from prosecution for treason. At the conclusion of the ceremony, the two men saluted each other and parted. Grant then sent three day’s worth of food rations to the 25,000 Confederate soldiers. The official surrender ceremony occurred three days later, when Lee’s troops stacked their rifles and battle flags.

President Lincoln’s will to save the Union had prevailed. He looked with satisfaction on the survival of his country and with deep regret on the great damage that had been done. These emotions did not last long, however.

Lincoln had only five days left to live.

**Ending the Civil War...........**

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**Crash Course The Civil War 2**

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GzTrKccmj_I

**American Civil War Images**

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UjM6zjwi4R0