8.81 Assess the impact of the assassination of President Abraham Lincoln on both the North and the South. (C,E,H,P)

The Day Lincoln Was Shot  http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PBlsOQPu23U
America: The Story of Us - Abraham Lincoln  http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Bjxbb-tjSAA
Story Time With Mr. Beat - Abraham Lincoln  http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9ozI1laFlNQ

The Assassination of the President

Pictured Above: John Wilkes Booth leaps from the President’s box at Ford’s Theater after shooting Lincoln and stabbing Major Rathbone.

On April 11, 1865, two days after LEE’S SURRENDER at Appomattox, Lincoln delivered a speech outlining his plans for peace and reconstruction. In the audience was JOHN WILKES BOOTH, a successful actor, born and raised in Maryland. Booth was a fervent believer in slavery and white supremacy. Upon hearing Lincoln’s words, he said to a companion, "Now, by God, I’ll put him through. That is the last speech he will ever make."

After failing in two attempts earlier in the year to kidnap the President, Booth decided Lincoln must be killed. His conspiracy was grand in design. Booth and his collaborators decided to assassinate the President, Vice President Andrew Johnson, and Secretary of State William Seward all in the same evening. Lincoln decided to attend a British comedy, Our American Cousin, at Ford’s Theater, starring the famous actress Laura Keene. Ulysses S. Grant had planned to accompany the President and his wife, but during the day he decided to see his son in New Jersey. Attending the play that night with the Lincolns were Major Henry Rathbone and his fiancée, Clara Harris, the daughter of a prominent Senator.
Pictured Above: This broadside announces the assassinations of President Lincoln and Secretary of State Seward. In fact, Seward survived the attack.

In the middle of the play that night, Booth slipped into the entryway to the President’s box, holding a dagger in his left hand and a Derringer pistol in his right. He fired the pistol six inches from Lincoln and slashed Rathbone’s arm with his knife. Booth then vaulted over the front of the President’s box, caught his right leg in a flag and landed on the stage, breaking his leg. He waved his dagger and shouted what is reported to be Sic Semper Tyrannis — Latin for "thus be it ever to tyrants." Some reported that he said, ”The South is avenged.” He then ran limping out of the theater, jumped on his horse, and rode off towards Virginia.

The bullet entered Lincoln’s head just behind his left ear, tore through his brain and lodged just behind his right eye. The injury was mortal. Lincoln was brought to a nearby boarding house, where he died the next morning. The other targets escaped death. Lewis Powell, one of Booth’s accomplices, went to Seward’s house, stabbed and seriously wounded the Secretary of State, but Seward survived. Another accomplice, George Atzerodt, could not bring himself to attempt to assassinate Vice President Johnson.

Two weeks later, on April 26, Union cavalry trapped Booth in a Virginia tobacco barn. The soldiers had orders not to shoot and decided to burn him out of the barn. A fire was started. Before Booth could even react, Sergeant Boston Corbett took aim and fatally shot Booth. The dying assassin was dragged to a porch where his last words uttered were, "Useless ... useless!"

Pictured Above: The conspirators in the President’s assassination were tried in front of a military tribunal known as the Hunter Commission.

A train carried Lincoln’s body on a circuitous path back home for burial in Springfield, Illinois. A mourning nation turned out by the hundreds of thousands to say goodbye to their President, the first to fall by an assassin’s bullet.
9a. The Civil War

9b. Tennessee and the Civil War

**Primary Documents and Supporting Texts to Read:**

- excerpts from the "House Divided" speech in 1858
  http://www.abrahamlincolnonline.org/lincoln/speeches/house.htm

- Gettysburg Address
  http://www.abrahamlincolnonline.org/lincoln/speeches/gettysburg.htm

- Emancipation Proclamation of 1863
  https://www.archives.gov/exhibits/featured_documents/emancipation_proclamation/

- Inaugural Address of 1861 and 1865
  http://blog.constitutioncenter.org/2015/03/great-inaugural-speeches-abraham-lincoln/

- excerpts from The Respective of Co.Aytc, Sam Watkins
  http://dragoon1st.tripod.com/cw/files/soldier_watkins.html