

The Civil War

Lesson 1 The Two Sides, *Continued*

Two Very Different Sides

For most states, choosing sides in the Civil War was easy. This was not true for Delaware, Maryland, Kentucky, and Missouri. They were **border states**. They had ties to both the North and the South.

The border states were important to the Union's plans. Missouri could control parts of the Mississippi River. It could control major routes to the West. Kentucky controlled the Ohio River. Delaware was close to Philadelphia. Maryland was close to Richmond, Virginia. Richmond was the Confederate capital. Washington, D.C., was within Maryland. It was the capital of the Union. If Maryland left the Union, the capital would be behind enemy lines. President Lincoln did many things to keep those states as part of the Union.

Each side had strengths and weaknesses. The North had more people than the South. The North had more resources, too. The South had great military leaders and a strong fighting spirit. Also, most of the war was fought in the South. This meant the army knew the land well. They were willing to fight hard to defend it.

Each side had different goals for fighting the Civil War.

The South (The Confederacy)

- Wanted to be an independent country
- Thought if they fought long and hard enough, the North would give up
- Hoped for support from Britain and France (Britain and France bought cotton from the South. Southerners hoped these countries might pressure the North to end the war.)

The North (The Union)

- Wanted to reunite North and South again
- Had to invade the South and force Confederate states to give up independence

The North's war plan came from General Winfield Scott. He had been a hero in the war with Mexico. His plan was called the Anaconda Plan. An anaconda is a snake that squeezes its victim to death.

- First, the North would blockade, or close, Southern ports. This would stop supplies from getting to the Confederacy. It would also stop the South from exporting cotton.

Mark the Text

1. Underline the four border states.

Explaining

2. Why did Lincoln need the support of the border states?

Reading Check

3. From what countries did the South hope to get help?

Critical Thinking

4. Why was the North's war plan called the Anaconda plan?

 **Listing**

5. List the three main parts of the Anaconda Plan.

 **Reading Check**

6. Why weren't African Americans allowed to join the Confederate army until the end of the war?

 **Visualize It**

7. Which side had more soldiers?

- Second, the North would aim to control the Mississippi River. This would split the Confederacy into two parts. It would cut Southern supply lines.
- The North wanted to capture Richmond, Virginia. Richmond was the capital of the Confederacy.

Americans Against Americans

In the Civil War, brother fought brother. Neighbor fought neighbor. Kentucky senator John Crittenden had two sons who became generals. One fought for the Confederacy. The other fought for the Union. Even President Lincoln's wife had relatives in the Confederate army.

Many men left their homes to **enlist** in, or join, the Union or Confederate armies. Each had his own reasons.

Some Reasons for Enlisting

- patriotism
- to avoid being called a coward
- to have an adventure

The average soldier was in his 20s. Many were younger. Some soldiers were younger than 18. Some were younger than 14. To get into the army, many teenagers ran away from home or lied about their age.

At first, the North refused to let free African Americans enlist. Later, they did allow it. The Confederacy did not want to give enslaved people guns. In the last days of the war, they did allow African Americans to fight.

When the war began, each side expected to win quickly. Both sides were mistaken. The war lasted a very long time, and many soldiers died before it ended.

Soldiers came from every part of the country. Most came from farms. Almost half of the Northern soldiers and almost two-thirds of the Southern soldiers had owned or worked on farms before becoming soldiers.

Total Soldiers in Civil War (1861-1865)

Northern Soldiers—2,100,000

Southern Soldiers—900,000
