

Neither side gained a strong advantage during the war's early years.

## War on Land and at Sea

SS.8.A.5.3, SS.8.A.5.5, SS.8.A.5.6, SS.8.G.2.2, LA.8.1.6.1, LA.8.1.6.2, LA.8.1.6.3

### **What was the outcome of the first major battle of the war?**

While the Union and Confederacy mobilized their armies, the Union navy began operations against the South. In April 1861, President Lincoln announced a blockade of all Confederate ports. The stage was set for fighting on land and at sea.

### **First Battle of Bull Run**

Tension mounted in the summer of 1861, leading to the first major battle of the Civil War. On July 21, about 30,000 Union troops commanded by General Irvin McDowell attacked a smaller Confederate force led by General P.G.T. Beauregard.

The fighting took place in northern Virginia, near a small river called Bull Run. Hundreds of spectators from Washington, D.C., watched the battle from a few miles away.

Both sides lacked battle experience. At first, the Yankees drove the Confederates back. Then the Rebels rallied, inspired by General Thomas Jackson. Another Confederate general noted that Jackson was holding his position "like a stone wall." This earned him the nickname "Stonewall" Jackson. The Confederates then unleashed a savage counterattack that broke the Union lines. As they retreated, Union troops ran into civilians fleeing in panic.

The loss shocked Northerners. They realized that the war could be long and difficult. President Lincoln named a new general, George B. McClellan, to head the Union army of the East—called the Army of the Potomac—and to train the troops.

Although dismayed over Bull Run, President Lincoln was also determined. He put out a call for more army volunteers. He signed two bills requesting a total of 1 million soldiers to serve for three years. In addition, victories in the West would soon give a boost to Northern spirits and increase enlistment.

### **Control of the West**

In the West, the major Union goal was to control the Mississippi River and its **tributaries** (TRIH • byuh • tehr • eez), the smaller rivers that fed it. With control of the river, Union ships could prevent Louisiana, Arkansas, and Texas from supplying the eastern Confederacy. Union gunboats and troops would also be able to move into the heart of the South.

The battle for the rivers began in February 1862. Union forces captured Fort Henry on the Tennessee River. Naval commander Andrew Foote and army general Ulysses S. Grant led the assault. Soon afterward, Grant and Foote moved against Fort Donelson on the Cumberland River. The Confederates realized they had no chance of saving the fort. They asked Grant what terms he would give them to surrender. Grant replied, "No terms except an unconditional and immediate surrender can be accepted." "Unconditional Surrender" Grant became the North's new hero.

### **A Battle Between Ironclads**

The Union blockade posed a real threat to the Confederacy. Southerners hoped to break it with a secret weapon—the *Merrimack*. The *Merrimack* was a damaged frigate that had been **abandoned** by the Union. The Confederates rebuilt the wooden ship and covered it with iron. They renamed their new **ironclad** (EYE • uhrn • klad) the *Virginia*.

On March 8, 1862, the *Virginia* attacked Union ships in the Chesapeake Bay. Union shells just bounced off its sides. Some Union leaders feared the *Virginia* would destroy the Union navy, steam up the Potomac River, and bombard Washington, D.C.

By this time, however, the North had an ironclad of its own. The *Monitor* rushed southward to face the *Virginia*. On March 9, the two ironclads met in battle. Neither ship won the battle, but it raised spirits in both the North and the South.

### **The Battle of Shiloh**

Meanwhile, in the West, General Grant and about 40,000 troops headed south toward Corinth, Mississippi, a major railroad junction. In early April 1862, the Union army camped at Pittsburg Landing, 20 miles (32 km) from Corinth, near Shiloh Church. Additional Union forces joined Grant from Nashville.

Confederate leaders decided to strike before more troops arrived to **reinforce** the Union. Early on the morning of April 6, Generals Albert Sidney Johnston and P.G.T. Beauregard led Confederate forces in a surprise attack. The battle lasted two days. It was a narrow victory for the Union, but the losses were enormous. Together, the two armies suffered more than 23,000 **casualties** (KA • zhuhl • teez)—people killed, wounded, captured, or missing.

After Shiloh, Union troops laid siege to Corinth, forcing the Confederates to withdraw. The Union army occupied the town on May 30. Memphis, Tennessee, fell to Union forces on June 6. The North seemed well on its way to controlling the Mississippi River.

### **Capturing New Orleans**

A few weeks after Shiloh, the North won another key 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. The capture of New Orleans meant that the Confederacy could no longer use the Mississippi River to carry its goods to sea. The city's fall also left the Confederate stronghold of Vicksburg, Mississippi, as the only major obstacle to the Union's strategy in the West.

**Explaining** How did the loss of New Orleans affect the Confederacy?

## War in the Eastern States

SS.8.A.5.3, SS.8.A.5.5, SS.8.A.5.6

### *How did the Union respond to important defeats in the East in 1862?*

While the two sides fought for control of Tennessee and the Mississippi River, the Union was trying to capture the Confederate capital at Richmond, Virginia. Close to the Union, Richmond was vulnerable to attack. Confederate armies fought hard to defend it. Confederate forces in the East enjoyed much more success than their western counterparts.

### Confederate Victories

Southern victories in the East were largely the result of the leadership of Robert E. Lee and Stonewall Jackson. The two generals knew the terrain and could move forces quickly. They were also expert at inspiring troops. As a result, Confederate forces managed to defeat much larger Union forces.

In 1862 Confederate forces enjoyed a string of impressive victories in Virginia, each over a different Union general. The Confederates 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 force twice its size. "My God, my God," Lincoln said when he learned of the defeat, "What will the country say!" The mood in the Union grew grim.

### Lee Invades Maryland

Confederate president Jefferson Davis urged Lee to move his troops into western Maryland—Union territory. His goal was to move into Pennsylvania and to bring the war deeper into the Northern states. Though he knew McClellan was following him with a sizable force, Lee's forces crossed into Maryland and began his invasion of Union territory.

### The Battle of Antietam

Once in Maryland, Lee split his army into four parts. To confuse McClellan, he ordered each part to move in a different direction. Lee's plan never had a chance to work. A Confederate officer lost his copy of the orders describing it. Two Union soldiers found the orders and brought them to McClellan.

McClellan did not attack immediately. This gave Lee time to gather his troops. On September 17, 1862, the two sides met at a place called Antietam (an • TEE • tum) near Sharpsburg, Maryland.

Antietam would be a key victory for the Union. It was also the deadliest single day of fighting in the war. About 6,000 soldiers died. About 17,000 more suffered wounds. Because of the great losses, Lee retreated to Virginia after the battle. For the time being, his strategy of invading the North had failed.

**Summarizing** What was the outcome of the Battle of Antietam?

## The Emancipation Proclamation

SS.8.A.5.3, SS.8.A.5.5, SS.8.A.5.6

### *What was the effect of the Emancipation Proclamation?*

At first, Lincoln viewed the Civil War as a battle for the Union, not a fight against slavery. As the war went on, Lincoln changed the way he thought about the role of slavery in the war.

### The Debate Over Ending Slavery

Lincoln hated slavery, yet he was reluctant to make the Civil War a battle to end it. Early in the war, Lincoln hesitated to move against slavery for fear of losing the border states. Even many Northerners who disapproved of slavery were not eager to risk their lives to end it.

Meanwhile, abolitionists, including Frederick Douglass and newspaper editor Horace Greeley, urged Lincoln to make the war a fight to end slavery. The abolitionists described slavery as a moral wrong that needed to be abolished. They also pointed out that slavery was the root of the divisions between North and South. Finally, they argued that if Lincoln presented the war as a fight to abolish slavery, Britain and France would be less willing to support the South. Confederate hopes were increasingly linked to this European support.

## A Call for Emancipation

The Constitution did not give Lincoln the power to end slavery, but it did give him the power to take property from an enemy in wartime. By law, enslaved people were considered property. On September 22, 1862, Lincoln announced that he would issue the **Emancipation Proclamation** (ih • mant • suh • PAY • shuhn prah • kluh • MAY • shuhn). This decree freed all enslaved people in rebel territory on January 1, 1863.

The Emancipation Proclamation did not change the lives of all enslaved people overnight. For example, enslaved people living in the loyal border states remained in bondage. Others remained under the direct control of their holders in the South and would have to wait for a Union victory before gaining their freedom.

Yet the Emancipation Proclamation had a strong impact. With it, the government declared slavery to be wrong. It was clear that a Union victory would end slavery in the United States.

"I never, in my life, felt more certain that I was doing right, than I do in signing this paper. . . . If my name ever goes into history it will be for this act, and my whole soul is in it."

—Abraham Lincoln, 1863

**Explaining** How did the Emancipation Proclamation change the focus of the war?

## LESSON 2 REVIEW

### Review Vocabulary

1. Identify the significance of the following terms to the subject of the Civil War.

- a. tributary
- b. ironclad
- c. casualty

LA.8.1.6.1

### Answer the Guiding Questions

2. **Analyzing** Why was the outcome of the Battle of Bull Run surprising to Northerners?

SS.8.A.5.3, SS.8.A.5.6

3. **Explaining** Why was it important for the Confederacy to defend Richmond?

SS.8.A.5.3

4. **Evaluating** How did the Emancipation Proclamation affect enslaved people in the South?

SS.8.A.5.3, SS.8.A.5.6

5. **PERSUASIVE WRITING** Choose one of Douglass and Greeley's arguments for making abolition an aim of the war. Write a short paragraph expanding on the argument.

SS.8.A.5.3, SS.8.A.5.6