

Name: _____

Since the beginning of the war Lincoln had searched for a general who could lead the Union to victory. More and more, he thought of Ulysses S. Grant. After capturing Vicksburg in July of 1863, Grant won again at Chattanooga, Tennessee in November. In 1864, Lincoln appointed Grant as commanding general of the US Army. Some questioned the choice, but Lincoln felt that Grant was the general who would end the war in the Union's favor. "I can't spare this man," Lincoln said. "He fights!"

Grant's Plan. Grant's plan for ending the war was to destroy the South's ability to fight. To achieve this, Grant ordered his generals to wage *total war* against the South. He wanted the Union army to destroy food, equipment, and anything else they found that might be useful to the enemy. In the past, war had been restricted to soldiers. However, total war meant that Civilians, southerners, would suffer the same hardships as the army.

General Sheridan. To set his plan in motion, Grant sent General Phillip Sheridan and his cavalry into the rich farmland of Virginia's Shenandoah Valley. In the summer and fall of 1864, as he fought through the valley, he also destroyed farms and livestock. During the campaign, Sheridan's troops burned 2,000 barns filled with grain. There was nothing left for Lee's troops or for civilians.

General Sherman. Grant also ordered General William Tecumseh Sherman to capture Atlanta, Georgia. Like Sheridan, Sherman had orders to destroy everything useful to the South. Sherman's troops captured Atlanta in September 1864.

Then, Sherman began his march to the sea. As they marched through Georgia, Sherman's troops ripped up railroad tracks, built bonfires from the ties, then heated, and twisted the rails. They killed livestock and tore up fields. They burned barns, homes, bridges, and factories. Most importantly, Sherman's army won many victories, particularly against General Joseph Johnston's forces.

Election of 1864. Lincoln ran for reelection in 1864. At first, his defeat seemed exceedingly probable. Before the capture of Atlanta, Lincoln knew that many northerners were unhappy with his handling of the war. The war had stretched into its fourth year, Northern casualties were piling up, and no sign of victory was in sight. He thought these factors might cost him the election.

The Democrats nominated general George McClellan to oppose Lincoln. The Democrats adopted a resolution demanding the immediate end of hostilities against the South. Although he had commanded the Union Army, McClellan was willing to compromise with the Confederacy. If peace could be achieved, he was ready to restore slavery.

Then, in September, Sherman took Atlanta, and the North rallied around Lincoln. Sheridan's smashing victories in the Shenandoah Valley in October further increased Lincoln's popular support. In the election in November, Lincoln won an easy second term as president.

1. What victory had Grant won that made him well known?

2. What was total war?

- a. The term means everything that happens in a war
b. It means forcing civilians to serve in the military
c. It means destroying everything that is useful to an enemy
d. A and B are not the answer

3. Who were generals Sheridan and Sherman?

- a. The two commanders Lincoln used before Grant
b. The generals that carried out Grants plan of total war
c. They were Grant's two opponents throughout the war
d. They both ran against Lincoln in the election

4. How can you describe what Sherman's army was doing all along their march to the sea?

5. How was it possible that Union victories on the battlefield helped Lincoln win at the ballot box? Choose two.
- a. The victories made Lincoln look like a good leader
 - b. Many Union armies destroyed southern voting booths
 - c. Citizens thought Lincoln was fighting in the battles
 - d. Stupid people vote based on the current situation

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Meanwhile, in the East, General Lee moved his army from Chancellorsville into Pennsylvania. He had hoped to take the Yankees by surprise. If he succeeded in Pennsylvania, he hoped the “open road” to Washington would convince Lincoln to discuss peace terms.

On June 30th, 1863, a Union force under General George Meade met part of Lee's army at the small town of Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. Both sides quickly sent in reinforcements. The three-day Battle of Gettysburg that followed would last for three days, result in over 33,000 wounded men, with 10,000 missing, and the deaths of over 7,000 more.

On the first day of battle, July 1st, the Confederates drove the Union forces out of Gettysburg. The Yankees, however, took up positions on Cemetery Ridge. Union reinforcements would occupy the rest of the high ground in a fishhook formation leading away from the town.

The next day, Lee ordered an attack on both ends of the Union line. Southern troops fought hard, but the Union Army was well prepared for Lee's offensive. At the end of a day of savage fighting, Lee's forces had suffered heavy casualties but failed to dislodge the Union Army from a strong position.

Pickett's Charge. Despite his losses, Lee decided to attack again. The enemy was in front of him, and he refused to withdraw and regroup. On July 3rd, he ordered General George Pickett to lead his 15,000 men in a daring charge against the center of the Union line.

The last attack led by Pickett is known as Pickett's Charge. The “charge” was a near mile march, up a long slope, over open ground, toward the Union center. As the men surged forward; Union cannons opened fire. Row after row of soldiers were blown apart.

Pickett's Charge failed. The steady barrage of bullets and shells kept all but a few Confederates soldiers from reaching the Union lines. Lee had no choice but to retreat. Lincoln, however, was disappointed. He felt that the Union Army had once again allowed the Confederate troops to get away.

The Union victories at Vicksburg and Gettysburg marked the turning point of the Civil War. After Gettysburg, the Union would not lose another major battle. It seemed just a matter of time before the Confederacy would fall. However, the South was still determined to fight. The war would last another two years.

1. T or F. Part of Lee's plan for invading Pennsylvania was to send one half of his army to capture President Lincoln
Is false, why? _____

2. Which statistic tells us how big the Battle of Gettysburg was?

a. It resulted in 33,000 wounded and the deaths of 70,000 dead.

c. It resulted in 33,000 wounded, and 7,000

b. It involved 5 armies fighting in four states

d. 70,000 soldiers fought 50,000 soldiers

3. What factors helped stop most of the 15,000 soldiers of Pickett's division from reaching the Union lines?

a. They had to march nearly a mile in the July heat

c. They had to climb over a fence that bordered a farm

b. They were under continuous cannon and rifle fire

d. All choices, even c, were all factors

4. Why do you think Lincoln was still not satisfied after the victory at Gettysburg?

5. What details can you use to describe why the US victory at Gettysburg marked the turning point of the Civil War?
