

# UNIT 7 SUMMARY - CIVIL WAR and RECONSTRUCTION

**SS8H6a** Explain the importance of key issues and events that led to the Civil War; include slavery, states' rights, nullification, Missouri Compromise, Compromise of 1850 and the Georgia Platform, Kansas-Nebraska Act, Dred Scott case, election of 1860, the debate over secession in Georgia, and the role of Alexander Stephens.

**STATES' RIGHTS and SLAVERY:** The economy of southern states depended on agriculture and the growing of cotton and tobacco. Slave labor was used to earn large profits for plantation owners. Whites with land and slaves often controlled the rules and laws of a state and had an interest in keeping slavery legal in the south, despite others knowing slavery was immoral. Slave states argued that individual states should have the power to determine what laws to obey and many wealthy southerners feared that federal (national) laws would abolish slavery.

In 1820, there were 11 free states in the north and 11 slave states in the south. Territories applying for statehood had to decide if they were to be a free or slave state. Missouri wanted to become a slave state, but that would make representation in US government unbalanced, so the US admitted Maine as a free state. Territories above the 36 line of latitude would become free states.

1820  
Missouri  
Compromise

In 1832, South Carolina nullified (or refused to accept) a federal tariff or tax on British imported goods because it was unfair to southern consumers while it benefitted northern factories. The US began to enforce the tariff causing South Carolina to threaten to secede from the Union. To avoid this conflict, the US government backed off and lowered the tariff.

1832  
Nullification  
Crisis

In 1850, California was admitted as a free state, and Texas as a slave state. Slavery became illegal in Washington DC, and the southern states demanded that runaway slaves be captured and returned back to their owners in the south. This was known as the Fugitive Slave Act. Northerners who wanted to abolish slavery were upset that they could go to jail or fined for helping slaves escape.

Compromise  
of  
1850

In 1854, Kansas and Nebraska were territories applying for statehood. Ignoring the Missouri Compromise 36 degree latitude policy the US government allowed citizens in these territories the opportunity to vote on whether slavery would be legal or illegal. This was known as popular sovereignty. After bloody conflicts between pro-slavery and abolitionists, Kansas became a free state.

1854  
Kansas-  
Nebraska Act

In 1857, the United States Supreme Court made its decision on the Dred Scott case. Dred Scott was a slave who sued for his freedom b/c his master took him to a free state. The court ruled that since Dred Scott was a slave he was not a citizen, therefore, he had no rights and could not sue. Also, since slaves were considered property, his master could take him anywhere. This was a defeat for abolitionists.

1857  
Dred Scott  
Case

In 1860, Abraham Lincoln was elected President from the Republican Party. Lincoln was an abolitionist and southern slave states feared that his power as president could eventually outlaw the institution of slavery, a threat to their economic success. Shortly after his election, southern states held conventions to discuss whether or not they should leave or secede from the Union.

Election  
of  
1860

## Debate over Secession and the role of Alexander Stephens

South Carolina became the 1<sup>st</sup> state to secede from the Union. Georgia held a convention to debate whether they should secede as well. Georgia US Representative Alexander Stephens was pro-slavery like other politicians in the state, but he was against secession. He tried to warn that seceding against the Union States was disloyal to the US Constitution and that the South risked losing states' rights and slavery if they were to lose in war.



**SS8H6b** State the importance of key events of the Civil War; include Antietam, the Emancipation Proclamation, Gettysburg, Chickamauga, the Union blockade of Georgia's coast, Sherman's Atlanta Campaign, Sherman's March to the Sea, and Andersonville.



**Union Blockade**  
After South Carolina fired the 1<sup>st</sup> shot of the Civil War at Fort Sumter, President Lincoln ordered a Union Naval blockade of southern ports. This cut off trade in the South and hurt the economy while also weakening the Confederate Army by reducing the amount of supplies they received. Southerners became poor as a result.

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## BATTLE OF ANTIETAM

In 1862, Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee tried to invade the north to capture the capital- Washington D.C. Union Army forced the Confederates back into Virginia, which is why this battle is a Union victory. This one day battle was the single bloodiest day in American history with 26,134 casualties.

## EMANCIPATION PROCLAMATION

After the battle of Antietam President Lincoln tried to get the South to surrender and rejoin the Union. The South did not surrender so he freed all slaves in the Confederacy. The Civil War was officially about secession and slavery. The South lost the support of other countries b/c they refused to stop slavery.

## BATTLE OF GETTYSBURG

In 1863, Robert E Lee once again tried to bring war onto northern soil in Pennsylvania in an attempt to capture the capital. The battle lasted three days and was the bloodiest battle of the war (51,112 casualties). The Confederacy lost again and this became the turning point in the war as the Union gained momentum and began to weaken the southern army.

## SS8H6c

Analyze the impact of Reconstruction on Georgia and other southern states, emphasizing Freedmen's Bureau; sharecropping and tenant farming; Reconstruction plans; 13th, 14th, and 15th amendments to the constitution; Henry McNeal Turner and black legislators; and the Ku Klux Klan.

## FREEDMEN'S BUREAU

Government organization created to provide food, clothing, education, and job contracts for freed blacks and poor whites after slavery was abolished.

**SHARECROPPING and TENANT FARMING:** After the Civil War plantation owners needed labor and freed blacks needed jobs. Since it was illegal for slaves to be educated or receive money many freed blacks were forced into borrowing money (credit) from white plantation owners to pay for a place to live, food, medicine, tools, seed, and fertilizer. Freed blacks would receive a "share" of the profits or crops that they worked from the planter's land. The money earned could not pay down the debt they owed to the planter, thus a cycle of poverty continued. Laws were passed to keep blacks working on the planter's property until all debts were paid.

## 13TH AMENDMENT

In 1865, slavery is officially abolished and illegal.

## 14TH AMENDMENT

Ratified in 1868, citizenship is granted to people born in the United States, guaranteeing freedoms and rights found in the United States Constitution.

## 15TH AMENDMENT

Ratified in 1870, the United States cannot deny a citizen the right to vote based on "race, color, or previous condition of servitude".

## PRESIDENTIAL RECONSTRUCTION:

After the South surrendered during the Civil War Abraham Lincoln and later Andrew Johnson wanted to quickly readmit the Confederate states back into the Union. First, states had to abolish slavery by ratifying the 13th Amendment. Secondly, 10% of the population had to take an oath of allegiance to the United States. This plan was not very strict and did not punish the rebellious governments, which caused Congress to come up with their own Reconstruction plan.

## CONGRESSIONAL RECONSTRUCTION

Radical Republicans who controlled the US Congress wanted to make sure the South provided freedoms to all of its citizens, not just the wealthy whites. To do this, the South had to ratify the 13th, 14th, and 15th amendments in order to rejoin the United States. The US military temporarily governed the southern states, while former Confederate officers were denied political power. The US provided financial aid to rebuild cities, schools, and railroad to improve the South.



## ANDERSONVILLE PRISON

45,000 captured Union soldiers were imprisoned in Andersonville during the war. 13,000 died of starvation, exposure to cold, and disease.

**ATLANTA CAMPAIGN:** In 1864, Union Gen. William T. Sherman invaded Georgia from Chattanooga and successfully pushed toward Atlanta by flanking the enemy from one battle after another in Northwest Georgia. In Paulding County the battles of Dallas, New Hope, and Pickett's Mill are all part of the Atlanta Campaign. Gen. Sherman wanted to capture Atlanta b/c it was a very important railroad hub for the Confederacy supplying much of their needed supplies. In 1864, Atlanta was burned and destroyed, which helped end the Civil War sooner.

## BATTLE OF CHICKAMAUGA

In 1863, Confederate forces were able to defeat and push the Union Army back into Tennessee. This was the bloodiest battle on GA soil and the 2nd bloodiest of the War. Union forces regrouped and took over Georgia the next spring during the Atlanta Campaign.

**SHERMAN'S MARCH TO THE SEA:** After capturing Atlanta, Gen. Sherman waged "total war" against the South by destroying crops, and burning some homes and businesses that supported the Confederacy. His troops marched from Atlanta to Savannah and up to North Carolina living off the land and freeing slaves along the way. Confederate soldiers quit and returned to home.



## HENRY McNEAL TURNER

African-American who was very influential as a religious leader and Georgia politician. Turner and 26 other black legislators were denied acceptance by the majority white General Assembly. After protest and US support the legislators were able to participate in the second legislative session.



## KU KLUX KLAN

A terror group created by former Confederate soldiers that used violence and intimidation tactics to disenfranchise blacks (denying the right to vote and other freedoms). The Klan was successful in getting southern white Democrats elected, albeit illegally and through corruption and violence. The KKK harassed, harmed, and killed many blacks, Jews, Catholics, carpetbaggers (northern whites rebuilding the South), and scalawags (southern whites who supported the Radical Republicans).