

WEEK 17

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The Civil War

Florida Studies Weekly

State History



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The World That Waged a WAR

You probably know hundreds and hundreds of words. Some of them are big and long, like archaeologist, and some of them are short and simple, like cat. Here's one medium-sized word that caused the Civil War, the most deadly war ever fought by the United States. Are you ready for the word? The word is secede, and it means to officially leave a group or country.

Secede is just what the slave-holding states in the Southern part of the United States wanted to do. They believed they had the right to break away from the rest of the Union and form their own country. A union is a group of people who share a common cause. Does that seem like a crazy idea? The people in the Northern states

sure thought so, and when the Southern states seceded, it was only a matter of time before the first shot was fired at Fort Sumter, South Carolina.

Why did the South want to be its own country? That's a good question, and there are many different answers. But probably the main answer is that the Southern states allowed people to own slaves, and the Northern states did not. It was a big difference, and big differences can lead to big arguments. Solving big arguments sure is tough. It's tough enough to solve arguments between just two people; think of what it must take to solve an argument big enough for an entire nation! That's something to think about, but while you're thinking about it, go right ahead and read this issue of Florida Studies Weekly!

Connections

A book recommendation from the owner of Studies Weekly

Hey kids! My name's Ed Rickers, and I'm the owner of Studies Weekly. Thank you for reading our paper!

I'd like to recommend some great books I recently read with my family—the Michael Vey books by Richard Paul Evans. The publisher of these books is NOT paying me or my company to recommend these stories. I think it would be great if more kids got to know this Michael Vey character.

Often kids' books seem flooded with

increasingly darker themes. But the Michael Vey series is an electric story about hope, loyalty, courage and much more. The characters are strong, likeable and genuinely realistic, and the villains are frightening. It's a New York Times best-selling series, so a lot of people agree with me.

Note to teachers: I have never written a book recommendation before, and have no plans to in the future, but I thought Michael Vey was exceptional and so did my wife and son. I'm

recommending these books because teachers nationwide are reporting unique experiences with their students' reading interest at all-time highs.

Log on to the online version of this Studies Weekly publication to see a video of the author telling the story of how Michael Vey was created. Or visit www.studiesweekly.com/vey.



Florida Next Generation Sunshine State Standards: SS.4.A.1.1: Analyze primary and secondary resources to identify significant individuals and events throughout Florida history. SS.4.A.1.2: Synthesize information related to Florida history through print and electronic media. SS.4.A.5.1: Describe Florida's involvement (secession, blockades of ports, the battles of Ft. Pickens, Olustee, Ft. Brooke, Natural Bridge, food supply) in the Civil War. SS.4.A.6.3: Describe the contributions of significant individuals to Florida. SS.4.A.9.1: Utilize timelines to sequence key events in Florida history. SS.4.G.1.1: Identify physical features of Florida. SS.4.G.1.2: Locate and label cultural features on a Florida map. SS.4.G.1.4: Interpret political and physical maps using map elements (title, compass rose, cardinal directions, intermediate directions, symbols, legend, scale, longitude, latitude).



Fewer than a dozen battles were fought in Florida during the Civil War.

What Is a Civil War?

The United States has fought in many wars since it became a nation over 200 years ago. Our soldiers have fought in World War I, World War II, wars in Korea and Vietnam and in Operation Desert Storm. These wars were all fought against other countries, governments and armies. A civil war is a war between people in the same country. The American Civil War lasted from 1861 until 1865. American soldiers fought against other Americans in one of the deadliest wars our country has ever seen.

The War Begins

One of the main causes for the Civil War happened when the country elected a new president in 1860. People living in the Southern states were

upset because they knew the new president did not like slavery. Do you know who this president was? It was Abraham Lincoln!

About a month after Lincoln was elected, South Carolina seceded from the United States. To secede means to officially leave a group. Over the next few months, 10 more states did the same. Florida seceded on Jan. 10, 1861. We were the third state to leave the Union.

On April 12, 1861, Confederate troops attacked Fort Sumter in South Carolina. The U.S. government controlled the fort, and Lincoln knew he had to respond. He gave orders to raise an army, and he ordered his generals to attack the Southern states.

Florida Does Its Part

When the Civil War started, Florida had fewer people than any other Southern state. Some people even called it the "smallest tadpole" of the Confederacy. A confederacy is a group of nations or states that agree to work together. Florida was not able to send many soldiers to fight, but it found other ways to help. Soldiers in the Civil War needed guns, ammunition, clothes and food. Florida had some of the most fertile farmland in the South. Farmers from our state grew a lot of the crops that helped feed Confederate soldiers.

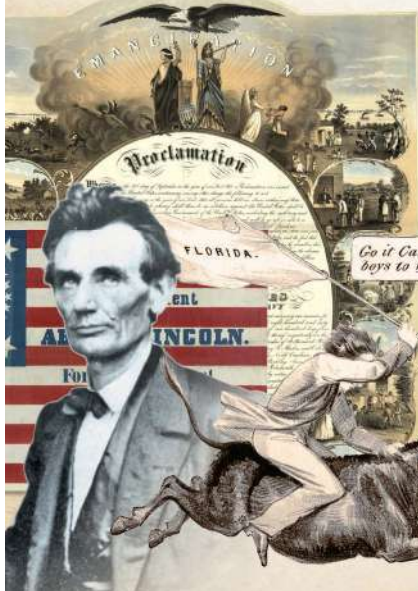
Battles of Fort Pickens and Fort Brooke

Fort Pickens was built on Pensacola Bay. For a long time, there weren't any soldiers at the fort, but that changed in October 1861. Union soldiers took control of Fort Pickens and prepared to defend it. Over 1,000 Confederate troops soon arrived and began to attack. Union soldiers used artillery from the fort and two Navy ships to keep the attackers away. Artillery is a group of large guns or cannons that can fire over long distances. This plan worked, and Fort Pickens became one of the few Southern forts to stay under Union control.

The Battle of Fort Brooke took place where the city of Tampa is today. Two Union Navy ships arrived in October 1863 and started attacking the fort. Confederate soldiers fought hard to defend it, but they didn't realize they were being tricked. The Navy ships were just a distraction. While the ships attacked the fort, other Union troops sneaked past the fort. They marched another 14 miles to the Hillsborough River, where they captured several Confederate boats. Pretty sneaky!

Emancipation

New Year's Day in 1863 was even more special than usual. That was the day President Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation. Emancipation means being set free from



Go it Carolina! we are the boys to wreck the Union.

We go the whole hog... Old Hickory is dead, and now we'll have it.



(above) Fort Brooke (right) Fort Pickens

Florida Facts

Former Fugitives Fight for Freedom

As the Union Army marched in long lines through the South, people of all ages who had escaped



slavery joined them for safety. Many of these people volunteered as workers and teamsters to help the Union Army in any way they could. By 1863, more and more former slaves enlisted for service as soldiers in the Union Army. Before the end of the war, there were dozens of African American regiments with well more than 200,000 African American soldiers fighting courageously to win the war. To be courageous is to be brave.

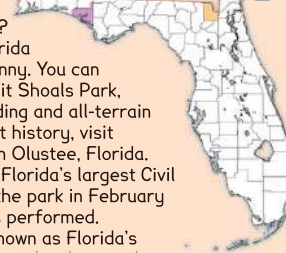
Baker and Bay Counties

Baker County: Where is Ocean Pond a lake?

It's in Baker County, on the northern Florida border, where the county seat is Macclenny. You can camp and fish at Ocean Pond Lake or visit Shoals Park, with 1,600 acres of hiking, horseback riding and all-terrain vehicle trails. If you enjoy learning about history, visit Olustee Battlefield Historic State Park in Olustee, Florida. Here you can visit the site where one of Florida's largest Civil War battles took place. Be sure to visit the park in February when a live re-enactment of the battle is performed.

Bay County: This county is part of what's known as Florida's Emerald Coast. We sure have a lot of coastal nicknames here, don't we? Here you can visit Gulf World, Zoo World and the county seat of Panama City, which is sometimes called "Spring Break Town." Watch the spectacular sight of powerful jets flying in and out of Tyndall Air Force Base. Or see the enormous ships at Port Panama City. What do you think all those ships are carrying?

Florida Counties



something (slavery in this case). Lincoln's proclamation made slavery illegal everywhere in the United States. The war was still being fought, however, so there were many slaves in the South who were not freed until the end of the war.

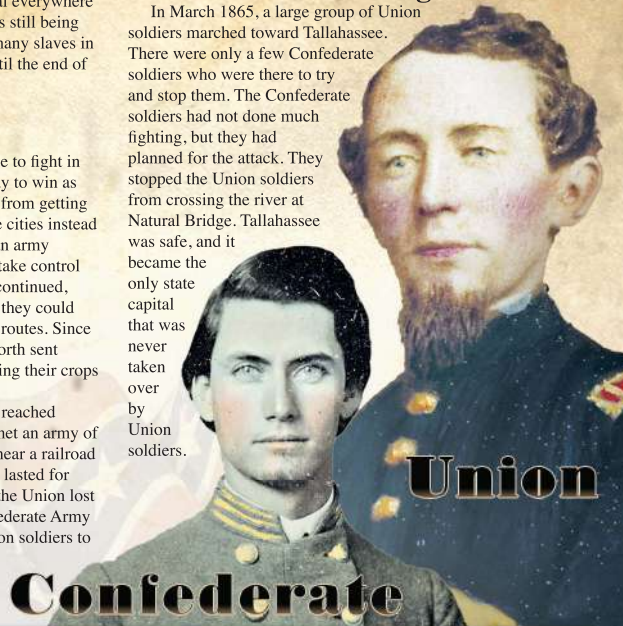
Battle of Olustee

An army does not always have to fight in order to win a battle. Another way to win as an army is to keep your enemies from getting any food. Soldiers began to siege cities instead of attack them. A siege is when an army surrounds an enemy and tries to take control or force a surrender. As the war continued, some Northern generals realized they could win battles by cutting off supply routes. Since Florida grew a lot of food, the North sent troops to stop farmers from sending their crops to the Confederate Army.

Around 5,500 Union soldiers reached Florida on Feb. 20, 1864. They met an army of about 5,000 Confederate troops near a railroad station called Olustee. The battle lasted for several hours. During that time, the Union lost around 1,800 soldiers. The Confederate Army won the battle, and it forced Union soldiers to retreat to the North. It was the largest battle fought in Florida during the Civil War.

Battle of Natural Bridge

In March 1865, a large group of Union soldiers marched toward Tallahassee. There were only a few Confederate soldiers who were there to try and stop them. The Confederate soldiers had not done much fighting, but they had planned for the attack. They stopped the Union soldiers from crossing the river at Natural Bridge. Tallahassee was safe, and it became the only state capital that was never taken over by Union soldiers.



TIMELINE

American Civil War, 1861-1865



Florida secedes from the United States, 1861

President Lincoln delivers the Emancipation Proclamation, 1863



Union troops are defeated at Olustee, 1864

President Lincoln is assassinated, 1865



Civil War Ports

During the Civil War, the Union Navy blocked southern ports with steamers and sailing ships. The blockades stopped the trade of cotton, the South's biggest business. That hurt!



The ships also kept Confederate supplies and men from getting to where they needed to go. In 1861, the North came up with "The Anaconda Plan." (An anaconda is a snake that squeezes its victims to death.) Part of the plan was for Union ships to patrol the Gulf of Mexico and around Key West, blocking any Southern ships that tried to leave the ports. Blockades were also used on the Mississippi River and along the Atlantic coast.

Some Confederate ships avoided the blockades by sailing on small rivers and bays. These ships were called blockade runners. They were smaller, faster boats that could travel in shallow waters. Blockade runners helped get some supplies to the Confederates but not enough. The blockades eventually helped destroy the South's economy.

Southern Flying Squirrel

This little critter proves that feathers aren't always necessary for flying. It's easy to tell the differences between a flying squirrel and other types of squirrels. The flying squirrel has a baggy pouch of skin (called a membrane) that goes from the front wrists to the hind ankles. When the front and hind legs are stretched, the membrane forms a wing-like gliding surface. The flying squirrel even uses its tail as a rudder to steer around branches and other things that may get in the way.



The southern flying squirrel is quite small. An adult is usually 9 to 10 inches long (including the tail), and it weighs between 2 and 4 ounces. It has dark rings around its eyes (maybe from staying up all night) and a dark border on the edge of its flying membrane.

The flying squirrel is the most strict nocturnal mammal in Florida. It's believed that it almost never comes out during the day because of the threat of hawks and other daytime predators.

If you're ever lucky enough to see one, just don't try to mimic the way it gets out of trees. YIKES!

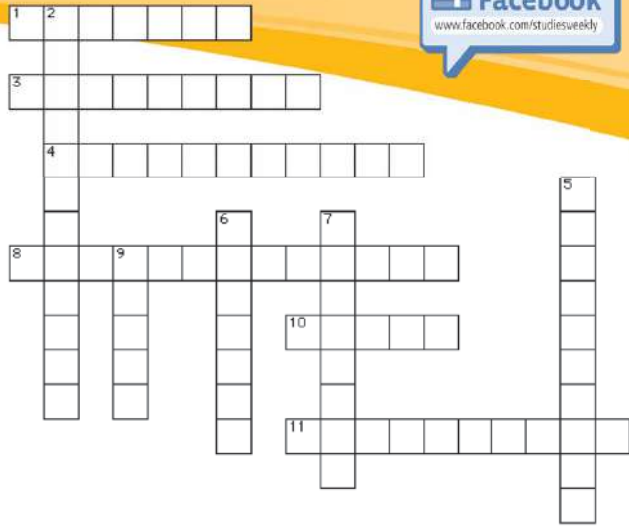
Florida Wildlife

History

Name _____



- ACROSS**
- rich; good for growing crops
 - the county seat of Baker County
 - a group of nations or states that join together for a common cause
 - the site of the Civil War battle that protected Tallahassee
 - cutting off a food supply
 - the county seat of Bay County
- DOWN**
- not being in bondage; a state of liberty
 - the place where South Carolina first fired cannons and started the Civil War
 - six-hour battle fought near a railroad station
 - a war between people who are part of the same country
 - a group of people who share a common cause



Find the Battlefields of Yesteryear in Your Own Backyard

Activity

On this Civil War map, find all the places where battles were fought and where federal forces raided or bombarded Florida towns. Color the battlefields red and the raid sites orange.

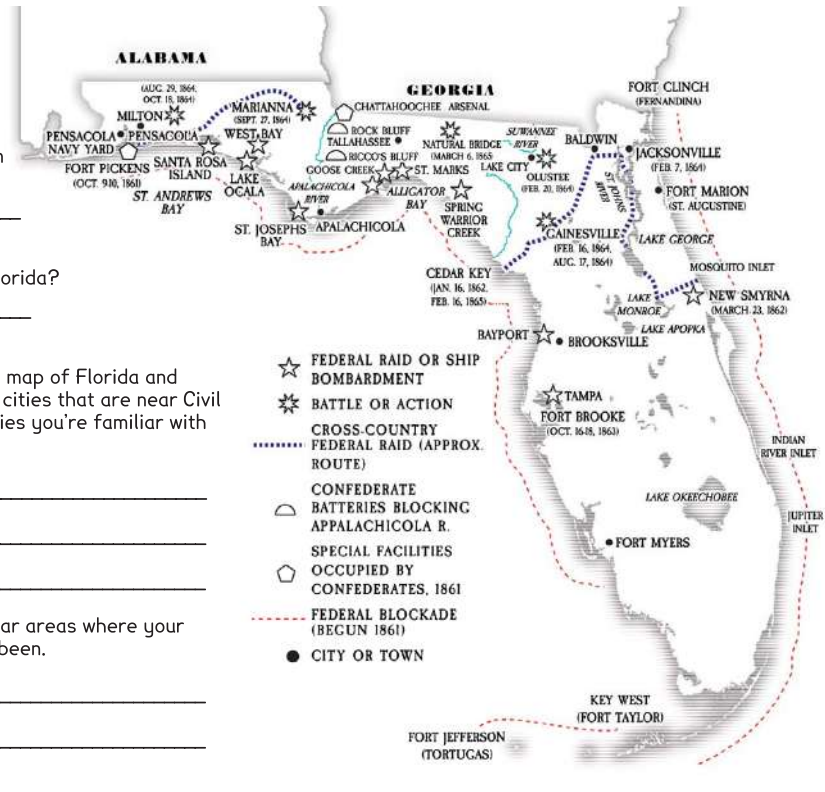
- How many battles took place in Florida?

- How many federal raids or bombardments took place in Florida?

3. Compare this map to a modern map of Florida and discover the names of modern cities that are near Civil War battlefields. List three cities you're familiar with that have battle sites nearby.

- _____
- _____
- _____

4. List Civil War sites that are near areas where your relatives live or places you've been.



- Why did the Southern states want to leave the U.S. to form their own country?
- What was the first state to secede, and what happened?
- Who were the Confederate soldiers? The Union soldiers?
- What happened at the Battle of Olustee?
- What is a civil war?

Think & Review

- What was the Emancipation Proclamation?
- Describe the flying squirrel.
- When did the Civil War end?
- What happened at the Battle of Natural Bridge?
- What does "courageous" mean?

The Civil War between the North and South began shortly after the election of President Abraham Lincoln.

Let's Write

The people of the South were upset because he was against slavery. South Carolina was the first to secede from the Union. Before you begin to write, think about why the South should or should not secede from the Union. Now write to explain why the South should or should not secede from the Union.