

## Lesson: Brothers

### Lesson Topic: Brother Against Brother in the Civil War

# Brother Against Brother in the Civil War

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The American Civil War created deep divisions between the North and South. Some favored slavery and two separate nations, while others fought for freedom and unity. It may be hard to imagine, but the issues also divided many families in the Civil War era. Some family members fought for the Union, while others sided with the Confederacy. The war brought on more than 600,000 American casualties. In many of those deadly battles, brothers fought against their own brothers.

Even one of the most high profile families of the 1800s couldn't agree on a side. First Lady Mary Todd Lincoln had six relatives that fought for the Confederates. Famous Confederate leader Robert E. Lee couldn't make up his mind either. It's said that he was originally offered a position to command the Union forces, but ultimately chose to fight for the South after his home state of Virginia joined the Confederacy.



This lithograph shows United States President Abraham Lincoln with his wife, Mary Todd Lincoln, and his sons, Robert and Thaddeus Lincoln.

In Maryland, the question of secession deeply divided the state's residents. In all, nearly 60,000 Maryland men fought for the Union, while 20,000 went to war for the Confederates. One example of brother fighting brother came from the Goldsborough family. One brother, William, became a major for the South. The other brother, Charles, was a surgeon in the Union.

In an 1862 battle, William took Charles prisoner. Charles was sent to Libby Prison in Richmond, Virginia. He was later paroled and returned to fight in the Union Army. William went on to fight in Gettysburg. He was seriously injured and then captured by Union forces. He was eventually held prisoner at Fort Delaware.



□ Libby Prison was a Confederate prison during the American Civil War. Many Union prisoners of war were housed there between 1861-1865.

Kentucky was another border state with divided loyalties. John J. Crittenden was a senator who tried to push for a compromise on the slavery issue. His efforts failed. His sons, George Bibb and Thomas Leonidas went on to fight for opposite sides in the Civil War. George became a brigadier general for the South. Thomas was a Union General. Their cousin, Colonel Thomas T. Crittenden, also fought for the North. These family members never fought against each other directly. With luck unlike so many other families, they all survived the war.



No other fact of the Civil War captures its divisiveness better than this one: People would sooner fight their brothers rather than seek to change or compromise their beliefs on slavery.

□ George Bibb Crittenden fought for the South, while his brother and cousin fought for the North.

**Question 1:**

How many casualties occurred during the American Civil War?

- ☐ 200,000 casualties
- ☐ 20,000 casualties
- ☐ 186,200 casualties
- ☐ 600,000 casualties

**Question 2:**

What are the main ideas of the text? Check all that apply.

Check all that are true.

- ☐ The American Civil War was fought between enemies.
- ☐ The American Civil War was fought between relatives.
- ☐ The American Civil War divided families.
- ☐ The American Civil War brought families together.

**Question 3:**

According to the article, how did the American Civil War affect families?

- ☐ The American Civil War turned brothers against brothers.
- ☐ The American Civil War caused many deaths.
- ☐ The American Civil War brought brothers together in battle.
- ☐ all of the above

**Question 4:**

Read these sentences.

*No other fact of the Civil War captures its divisiveness better than this one: People would sooner fight their brothers rather than seek to change or **compromise** their beliefs on slavery.*

What is the meaning of **compromise**?

- ☐ an argument between two parties giving their demands
- ☐ a disagreement between two parties
- ☐ a settlement of a dispute by each party giving up some demands
- ☐ all of the above

**Question 5:**

Why do you think this article was paired with "Brothers"?

- ☐ Both the story and the article describe how close friends and families were torn apart by the war.
- ☐ Both the story and the article demonstrates how brothers and sisters fight each other.
- ☐ Both the story and the article demonstrates how the American Civil War brought families together.
- ☐ none of the above

**Question 6:**

How was "Brothers" account of the American Civil War different from this article's account of the war?

- ☐ "Brothers" was a secondhand account of the division the American Civil War caused between friends, while this article was a secondhand account.
- ☐ "Brothers" was a firsthand account of the division the American Civil War caused between friends, while this article was a secondhand account.
- ☐ "Brothers" was a secondhand account of the division the American Civil War caused between friends, while this article was a firsthand account.
- ☐ none of the above

**Question 7:**

What source would be best to consult for a research report on the family feuds during the American Civil War?

- ☐ "Brother Against Brother in the Civil War"
- ☐ "The Ideals Guide to the American Civil War"
- ☐ "Brothers"
- ☐ none of the above

**Question 8:**

Read the passage below.

*In Maryland, the issues deeply divided the state's residents. In all, nearly 60,000 Maryland men fought for the Union, while 20,000 went to war for the Confederates. One example of brothers fighting brothers comes from the Goldsborough family. One brother, William, became a major for the South. His other brother, Charles, was a surgeon in the Union.*

*In an 1862 battle, William took Charles prisoner. Charles was sent to Libby Prison in Richmond, Virginia. He was later paroled and returned to fight in the Union Army. William went on to fight in Gettysburg. He was seriously injured and then captured by Union forces. He was eventually held prisoner at Fort Delaware.*

Why did the author include this information in the article?

- ☐ to give an example of the places prisoners were held during the Civil War
- ☐ to give an example of the types of jobs brothers had during the Civil War
- ☐ to give an example of the division opposing beliefs caused families during the American Civil War
- ☐ none of the above

**Question 9:**

What does the author use to support information in the article?

- ☐ interviews with experts
- ☐ personal observation
- ☐ historical research
- ☐ stories from books