Name:	U.S. History
Date:	Mr. Melhorn
Period:	

Civil War Review

The Secession Crisis and Fort Sumter

The Secession Crisis began	in 1860 following the election of new United States	
President,	. For this president, his first Vice-Preside	nt
was a Senator from Maine	named Hannibal Hamlin, and his Vice-President fo	r the
later election of 1864 was _	, a highly criticized pick w	ho
was a Democrat from Teni	essee. The first state to secede was	
and	a total of states had seceded be	fore
the new president took offi	ce. The Confederate States of America was formed	from
these secession states with	heir new president of	,
hailing from the state of M	ississippi. The Confederacy wrote their own	
Constitution, created their	own money, and began defense preparations in case	e an
attack might come. The fig	tht began with the first battle at Fort Sumter located	d at
	Major	<u>,</u> a
Kentuckian, was an odd fii	st commanding officer representing the Union in th	eir
first Civil War battle again	st, a Confedera	ıte
officer of French-origins.	The battle raged from April 12-13 until surrender te	erms
were accepted and the Uni	on began vacating the fort. There were a total of	
battle cas	ualties, with one strange occurrence happening after	r the
fight as a cannon exploded	killing one Union soldier and wounding three other	'S
during a salute to the U.S.	flag as it was being lowered. The	
won the battle and this star	ted their winning momentum. As well,	
more states seceded follow	ng the Battle of Fort Sumter as they took this Battle	e as
an act of war that the Nort	h had committed upon the South.	
	The first Bull Run	
The first bloody battle, the	one where many of the Civil War soldiers "saw the	
elephant" (meaning that th	ey saw blood, gore, and the truth of battle for the fi	rst
time) was in the Battle of the	ne 1st Bull Run July 20-21, 1861, located at	
	Desnite the fact that the General-in-ar	rms

health issues and had to choose a leader to be present i	in his stead. The leader
chosen to fulfill his battlefield duties was the inexperie	nced
The Commander for the Confeder	eacy was the defector from the
Union Army who at once occupied the position of Qua	
The Confederate	Commander, though, was
not present at the beginning of the battle, and the place	
went again to the officer of French-descent,	
He did a splendid job placing these soldiers for the bat	
located at the crossing points of	Creek, and if they must
retreat from these positions, they would be atop the	
some positioning throughout the main fighting on July	21, and leaving some gaps
which the Union broke through, the troops of	held
the high ground of	
be the breaking point for the Union as they ended the	
back to Washington, D.C. Disgusted with the soldiers	' performance, Abraham
Lincoln appointed a new commander, a pompous and	confident General by the
name of	
Antietam	
This new commander did not take many actions from	1861 to 1862 but instead was
satisfied with training his troops, whom he claimed we	re far too small to make an
adequate attack on the South. Given his lack of mover	ment, new Confederate
Commander, decided to	move his troops to the North
in order to create an attack in Maryland. A victory in	
South in two or three possible ways. First, if the South	wins a victory in the North,
they may achieve their ultimate goal of gaining	
Secondly, if they are unable to get this, they will at least	st gain European recognition
and possibly gain a European of Bri	tain or France, and a boost in
, which was necessary given the lack of	manufacturing facilities
contained in the South. The North's fate should have	made a turn for the better
when a Union Private, in the middle of skirmishing wi	th Confederates at Frederick,
Maryland, had found Lee's Orders, entitled	,
which allowed the Union to now know about the comp	lete whereabouts and strength
of the Confederate forces in Maryland. The Union sta	alled, though, and were not

for the Union was Winfield Scott, Scott could not be present on the battlefield due to

had taken Harper's Ferry where they found wartime materials and, given
the fact that some of the soldiers had less than suitable attire at this point in the war,
the second general mentioned allowed his soldiers to dress up in
before they moved to Antietam. In the battle of Antietam on
September 17, 1862, the first attack was to the North in the Cornfield and Woods.
This attack was spoiled by excellent cannon fire by the Confederates as they would
say that, by the end of the day, "one could walk from one end of the cornfield to the
other without laying a foot upon the ground." The second attack came towards the
South of the field at Ambrose Burnside attacked the Lower Bridge and, though he
was successful, he decided to retire for 2 hours to allow his soldiers time to replenish
and reform. The middle of the field held the bloodiest fighting in a location
appropriately named Here fighting lasted for 4 hours
total until the Union retreated to their normal positions. After his two hour hiatus,
Burnside continued his attack until the freshly clad troops of arrived
and began firing upon Burnside and Burnside's troops turned and hightailed it
back to headquarters. On the next day, the retreated back
down to Virginia as Robert E. Lee did not see the next day bringing his soldiers any
greater fortune. Abraham Lincoln felt that, given the fact that Lee left Maryland,
this was a great Union victory (though that is heavily debated by historians), and 5
days after he released the
Fredericksburg and Chancellorsville
The two battles that usually are teamed together by historians given the fact that
they are so close together in distance and bookend each other with one being at the
end of 1862 and the next the first battle of 1863 are Fredericksburg and
Chancellorsville. A trend that has formed for the Union is that whenever they do
not gain an overwhelming victory, they decide to change Commanders, and given
the fact that Antietam was not an overwhelming victory, this instance follows suit.
The new Commander for the Union for the Battle of Fredericksburg is
In order to destroy the Confederates at
Fredericksburg, Virginia, the Union must accomplish two objectives. First, they
must cross the daunting River. Second, they must attack
up a large hill where the Confederates are standing behind a huge
. These two objectives prove to be too much for the Union as they

able to take advantage of this great find. Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson and _____

are embarrassed in this effort, losing more than a 2 to 1 ratio in casualties in	
comparison to the Confederates after failing in 14 different attempts to take over	er
the area of the Fredericksburg Heights. Another Union failure means another	
Union Commander, and for the battle of Chancellorsville, this Commander will	be
This new Commander has a well thought-ou	ıt
plan as he wants to flank Robert E. Lee but he runs into some Confederate sold	iers
in the process and Lee now will turn the table on him. Lee, as usual, attempts a	
daunting maneuver of ordering to march with h	ıis
Corps through the Wilderness area just South and West of Chancellorsville wit	h the
guidance of an army chaplain, Reverend B.F.C. Lane. These soldiers charge of	ut of
the Wilderness and attack an unknowing, untrained group of Union soldiers wh	10
were new recruits to the army. The one big downside to the fight is the evening	
activities on May 2, 1863, as decides to lead	his
officers on a scouting mission to find out the strength of the enemy and if they n	nay
be able to make a late night attack. When he returns to his forces, his forces be	lieve
him to be the enemy and begin firing. He is shot in the left shoulder and arm, a	nd
must have his arm amputated. Eight days later he dies from pneumonia and is	a
tremendous loss for Lee and the Confederacy. Despite the loss, the actions by h	is
troops cause Chancellorsville to be a victory.	
Gettysburg	
These successive victories and another Union leadership change to	
lead Robert E. Lee to making another movement into Northern	soil,
leading to the Battle of Gettysburg. The day one fighting was begun as the troo	ps of
Robert Rodes, claiming afterwards that they were only moving to Gettysburg for	r a
supply of, felt that they were only fighting a small dispatch of Union	n
soldiers and then the entire Union army arrived. The fighting on the first day v	vas
in the area of Ridge, and at 4:00 p.m. the soldie	ers
retreated, ran through the town, and set up their defenses atR	idge
while the Confederates were confined to the lower ridge, Ridg	ge.
The Day Two attack was entitled the attack by the	
Confederates and they attacked Cemetery Hill and Culp's Hill with Richard Ev	vell
while attacked the areas of the Peach Orchard	,
Devil's Den, and Little Round Top. The attacks upon the hills were thwarted b	y the
Union, with especially heroic actions completed by the 20th Maine led by	

	as they defended Little
Round Top. The Confederates were left to one final att	
Lee attempted to attack the center of the Union lines in	an assault known by most as
The assault began wi	ith two hours of
fire to lessen the Union forces around the center of the a	attack, but this did not lessen
the forces much due to the inaccuracy of the Confedera	tes. In this assault,
% of the soldiers who began on it did not make	it past Emmittsburg Road,
and only 80 Confederates actually made it past the rock	a line to the aiming point of
the The Union had	won the battle and turned
the tide of the Civil War.	
The Ending of the War	
The last two years of the Civil War are sad ones for the	Confederacy. They
continued to try to hold on, but they were fighting a losi	ing cause. The Union,
despite not losing a significant battle, did change comm	anders again and finally the
most well-known commander took over of	He
began an assault down through Virginia whereby he co	ntinue to move in the
direction of the after every battle	e in order to get closer to
, Virginia. The Confederates continue	ed losing substantial leaders,
such as at the Battle of the Wilderness where they temp	orarily lost General and
Corps Commander, and a	t Spotsylvania where they
lost Cavalry Commander Whil	le the main Union army was
traveling down through Virginia, one of the Union's Wo	estern armies was traveling
through the deep south, and taking two main cities in G	Georgia, those being
, while th	ey were under the leadership
of	
advised his soldiers to rip up the line, burn	
the lives of the people. The movements in Virginia and	also in Georgia led Robert
E. Lee to order the evacuation of Virginia on	, and surrender
his army to the Union on April 9, 1865 at	, finally ending the war.

Generals and Leaders

















Name the Sites- Name the site and the battle where this site was located.









