

The Civil War**Lesson 4**

The Civil War Begins

Key Terms and People

Fort Sumter Union fort in Charleston, South Carolina, whose attack started the war

Anaconda plan Three-part Union strategy to win the Civil War

Bull Run Battle won by the Confederates

Stonewall Jackson Confederate general

George McClellan Union general

Ulysses S. Grant Union general

Shiloh Two-day battle in which nearly one-fourth of the 100,000 troops were killed, wounded, or captured

David G. Farragut Commander of the Union navy

Monitor Union ironclad ship

Merrimack Confederate ironclad ship

Robert E. Lee Confederate general

Antietam Union victory

Before You Read

In the last lesson you learned how conflicts between the North and the South led to southern secession. In this lesson you will learn about the early battles in the Civil War.

As You Read

Use a chart to summarize advantages of the North and South and key Civil War battles in 1861 and 1862.

CONFEDERATES FIRE ON FORT SUMTER**How did the Civil War begin?**

Immediately after Lincoln's inauguration, the Confederacy demanded that the Union surrender **Fort Sumter** or face an attack. Lincoln did not want a war, but he did not want to abandon the fort either. So he sent only food for the people there.

This left Jefferson Davis with a

problem. If he did nothing, it would harm the Confederacy's image as an independent nation. If he attacked, he would start a war. On April 12, 1861, the Confederacy attacked and seized it. The attack and loss of Fort Sumter united the North. Men rushed to join the Union army. Meanwhile, four more states joined the Confederacy, making the total 11. Four slave states remained in the Union. They were the border

Lesson 4, *continued*

states of Maryland, Kentucky, Delaware, and Missouri. Lincoln believed those states were essential to winning a war.

1. What event started the Civil War?

AMERICANS EXPECT A SHORT WAR

What was the first battle of the Civil War?

The North and South alike expected a short war for their side. But the North had many advantages over the South. It had a larger population, more factories, more food production, and better railroads. It also had a skilled leader—Lincoln.

The South's advantages included cotton profits, better generals, a military tradition, and soldiers eager to defend their way of life. Also, the North would have to conquer southern territory to win.

The North had a three-part victory plan: 1) blockade southern ports to keep out supplies; 2) split the Confederacy in two at the Mississippi; 3) capture the Confederate capital of Richmond, Virginia. It was called the **Anaconda plan**, after a snake that suffocates its prey by squeezing them.

Although both sides had little experience in battle, the Confederates won the first battle of the war, **Bull Run**. The winning general was **Stonewall Jackson**. He earned his nickname because he stood as firm as a stone wall in battle.

2. Who won the battle at Bull Run?

UNION ARMIES IN THE WEST; A REVOLUTION IN WARFARE

Who led Union forces in the West?

Lincoln appointed General **George McClellan** to lead the eastern Union army. Western Union forces began their fight to control the Mississippi.

In 1862 a Union army led by General **Ulysses S. Grant** captured two Tennessee Confederate forts. Both sides suffered terrible losses at **Shiloh**, which ended in a draw. It did show that the Union's plan to take the Mississippi might succeed.

Grant pushed on toward the Mississippi River. Meanwhile, a Union fleet was near the river's mouth in Louisiana. The navy, commanded by **David G. Farragut**, captured the port of New Orleans.

New weapons changed warfare. The ironclad ships **Monitor** and **Merrimack** made all wooden warships obsolete. New rifles could accurately fire at targets as much as 500 yards away, making trenches necessary in battle. A new soft lead bullet was more destructive than earlier bullets. Troops also used primitive hand grenades and land mines.

3. What new weapons changed warfare in the Civil War?

THE WAR FOR THE CAPITALS

Who won the battle of Antietam?

In 1862 the Union army under McClellan marched toward Richmond, the Confederate capital. General **Robert E. Lee** successfully defended it and forced the Union army to retreat. Lee then went toward Washington, DC.

In August, Lee's troops won a victory at the second **Battle of Bull Run**. A few

Lesson 4, *continued*

days later, they crossed the Potomac River into the Union state of Maryland. At this point, McClellan's troops found a plan that revealed that Lee's and Jackson's armies were temporarily separated. McClellan decided to go after Lee.

Union forces met Lee's army at **Antietam**, Maryland, in the bloodiest clash of the war. Lee retreated.

However, Union troops did not chase Lee's troops. If they had, the war might have ended then. Lincoln fired McClellan.

4. How did General Lee have mixed success in the East?

Summarize the advantages held by each side at the time war was declared. Then provide information about four early battles of the Civil War. Some answers are provided.

1. What advantages did the Union have?			2. What advantages did the Confederacy have?	
Battle	Head of Union Forces	Head of Confederate Forces	Outcome of the Battle	Important Facts
3. Fort Sumter	Anderson	Beauregard		
4. Bull Run	McDowell			
5. Shiloh		Johnson and Beauregard		
6. Antietam				