

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Class: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## **Biography Week (Distance Learning Week 3)**

**Instructional Guide:** In order to complete this instructional activity on the Civil War, read the articles listed at the bottom of these directions. There is a short multiple-choice quiz to complete at the end of each article.

### **Student Instructions:**

1. Read the content summary.
2. Read the provided articles and complete the story quiz for each article. If you're completing this digitally, you may use Microsoft Word and then submit either on Edmodo or email (depending on your teacher).
4. Everything is to be completed and **turned in by Friday, May 15<sup>th</sup> by 3:30pm.** (Either electronically or by dropping off the packets at school.)

### **Content Summary:** (Important people, events, and vocabulary are in **bold**.)

There were many interesting people to learn about from the Civil War period. This week we will start by looking at the key figures of the Civil War. We'll start with the President of the United States at the time- **Abraham Lincoln**. Next we'll look at his Southern counterpart, **Jefferson Davis**. Next we'll learn about Davis' most important General, **Robert E. Lee**. Many would argue, no matter which side you supported, that General Lee was the best military leader of the entire war. Before the war, in fact, Lincoln tried to recruit Lee to be the leader of the Union Army. Lee, not wanting to take up arms against his fellow Virginians, declined the offer. General Lee's opponent in the war was **General Ulysses S. Grant**. Grant was not initially in charge of the Union Army. In fact, Lincoln went through several generals before Grant took over. Once he got the job, however, Grant did everything in his power to end the war as quickly as he could. Finally, we'll look at one of Grant's trusted generals, **General William Tecumseh Sherman**. Famous (or infamous, depending on your point of view) for his **March to the Sea**, General Sherman believed that only by making war completely horrifying could he break the Confederate spirit and put a quick end to the war. His tactics were so brutal, that there are southerners that curse his name to this day.

### **Questions:**

1. You only need to answer the questions at the end of each reading this week!

### **The articles included in this lesson are:**

- Presidential Profile: Abraham Lincoln
- Military Leaders: Jefferson Davis
- Military Leaders: Robert E. Lee
- Presidential Profile: Ulysses S. Grant
- War, William Tecumseh Sherman-style

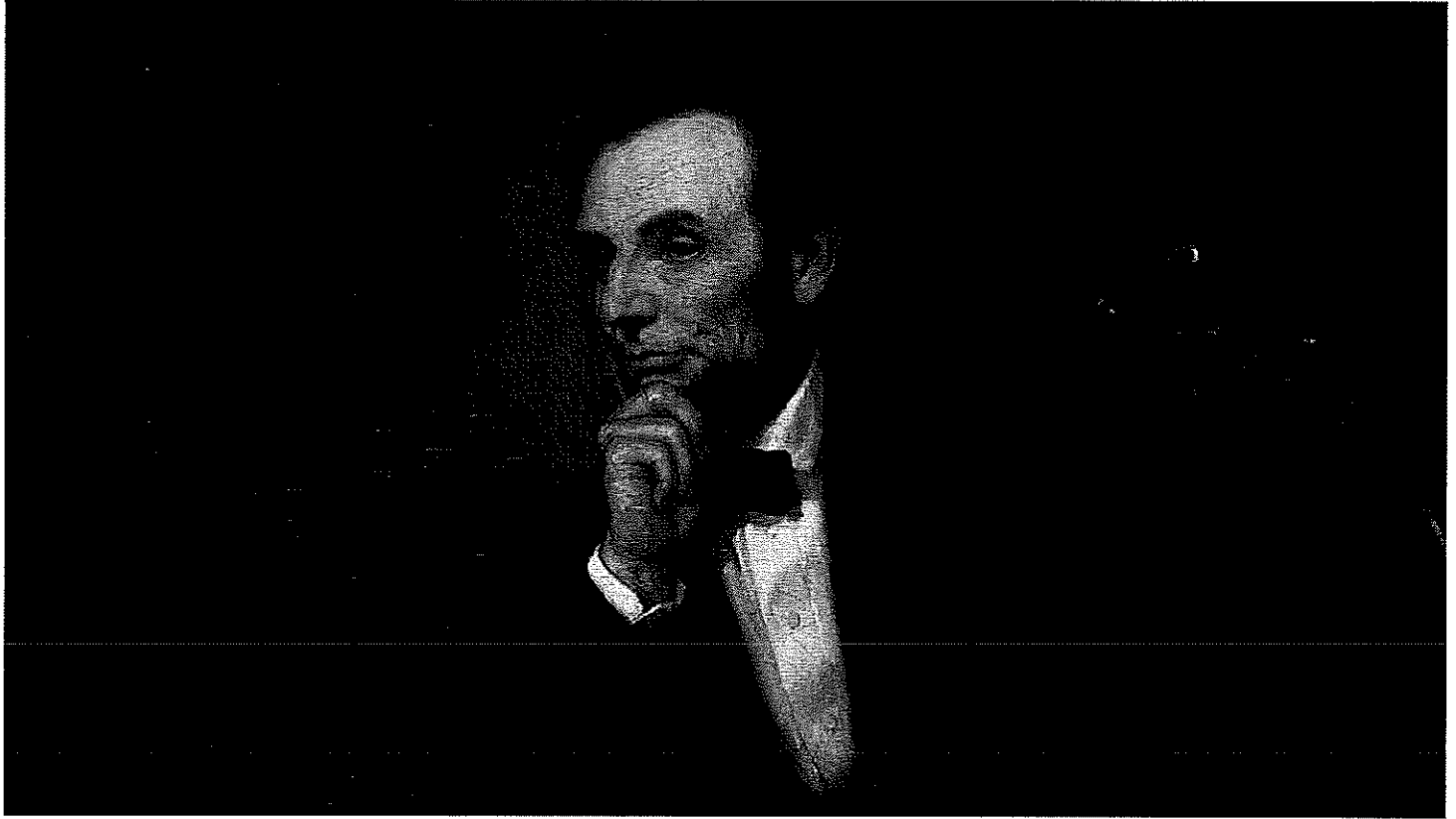


# Presidential Profile: Abraham Lincoln

By White House Historical Association, adapted by Newsela staff on 07.04.13

Word Count **787**

Level **970L**



Official White House Portrait George Peter Alexander Healy/White House

In his inaugural address, President Abraham Lincoln warned the South that whether the country entered into a civil war was in their hands. Lincoln felt that such a war would be harmful to the nation and asked the Southern states not to leave the United States.

At the time of Lincoln's election, the country was divided. The major disagreement was over the question of slavery. Southern states wanted to protect their right to own black people as slaves. Agriculture was the main business throughout the South and Southerners felt that to make agriculture profitable, they needed slave workers who did not have to be paid. The North felt that no person had the right to own another person and wanted slavery to be abolished. Southern states threatened that if slavery was outlawed, they would break away and form a separate country, a Confederacy.

## First Shots Of War

Lincoln was willing to use force to keep the nation united.

When the first shots of war were fired by the Southern Confederate Army at Fort Sumter in South Carolina, the Civil War had begun.

Lincoln called on the Northern states for 75,000 volunteers. They would make up the Northern, or Union Army. Once the battles began, four more Southern states joined the Confederacy, but four others remained within the Union and against slavery.

### **Humble Frontier Beginnings**

Lincoln was born in a log cabin, the son of a Kentucky frontiersman who had helped to settle new parts of the country. He had to struggle for a living, and to find time to read and study. His mother died when he was 9 years old. His father's new wife encouraged young Abe to read books.

While Lincoln worked on his farm and as a store clerk, he was always trying to attain knowledge and experiences. He studied law on his own and passed the exam to become a lawyer. He was a captain in the Black Hawk War, a brief fight between the United States and Native Americans. Black Hawk was the name of the Native Americans' leader. Later, Lincoln spent eight years as an Illinois congressman and worked as a traveling judge. His law partner once said of him that "his ambition was a little engine that knew no rest."

Lincoln married Mary Todd in 1842, and they had four boys, only one of whom lived to adulthood.

### **Two Historic Addresses**

In 1858, Lincoln ran against Stephen A. Douglas for senator of Illinois. He lost the election, but gained a national reputation for his debate with Douglas. That reputation made running for president possible. He ran in 1860 and won.

As president, Lincoln united most of the North to the Union cause. On New Year's Day in 1863, he issued the Emancipation Proclamation, a document that declared slaves forever free.

Lincoln would not let the world forget that the Civil War involved even larger problems than slavery — the issues of freedom and democracy. This he stated most movingly in dedicating the military cemetery in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. In his famous Gettysburg Address he said: "that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain—that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom—and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the Earth."

### **Lincoln Encourages Reuniting Of Southern States**

Lincoln was re-elected to the White House in 1864. The Union Army was winning and it seemed that an end to the war was near.

In his planning for peace, the 16th president was generous and willing to try to understand other points of view. He encouraged Southerners to lay down their arms and rejoin the Union to quickly become one nation again.

The spirit that guided Lincoln was clear in his second inaugural address. That address is now inscribed on one wall of the Lincoln Memorial, a monument built to honor him in Washington, D.C. "With malice toward none, with charity for all, with firmness in the right," he called on the nation "to finish the work we are in, to bind up the nation's wounds."

## Death Of A Beloved President

On April 14, 1865, Lincoln was shot at close range while attending a play at Ford's Theatre in Washington, D.C. John Wilkes Booth, an actor, was unhappy that the North had won the war and somehow thought he was helping his beloved South. The opposite was the result.

Lincoln died the following morning. The chance of an easy peace between the North and the South was lost with his assassination.

*Adapted from the Presidents of the United States of America, 18th edition, published by the White House Historical Association, 2009.*

## Quiz

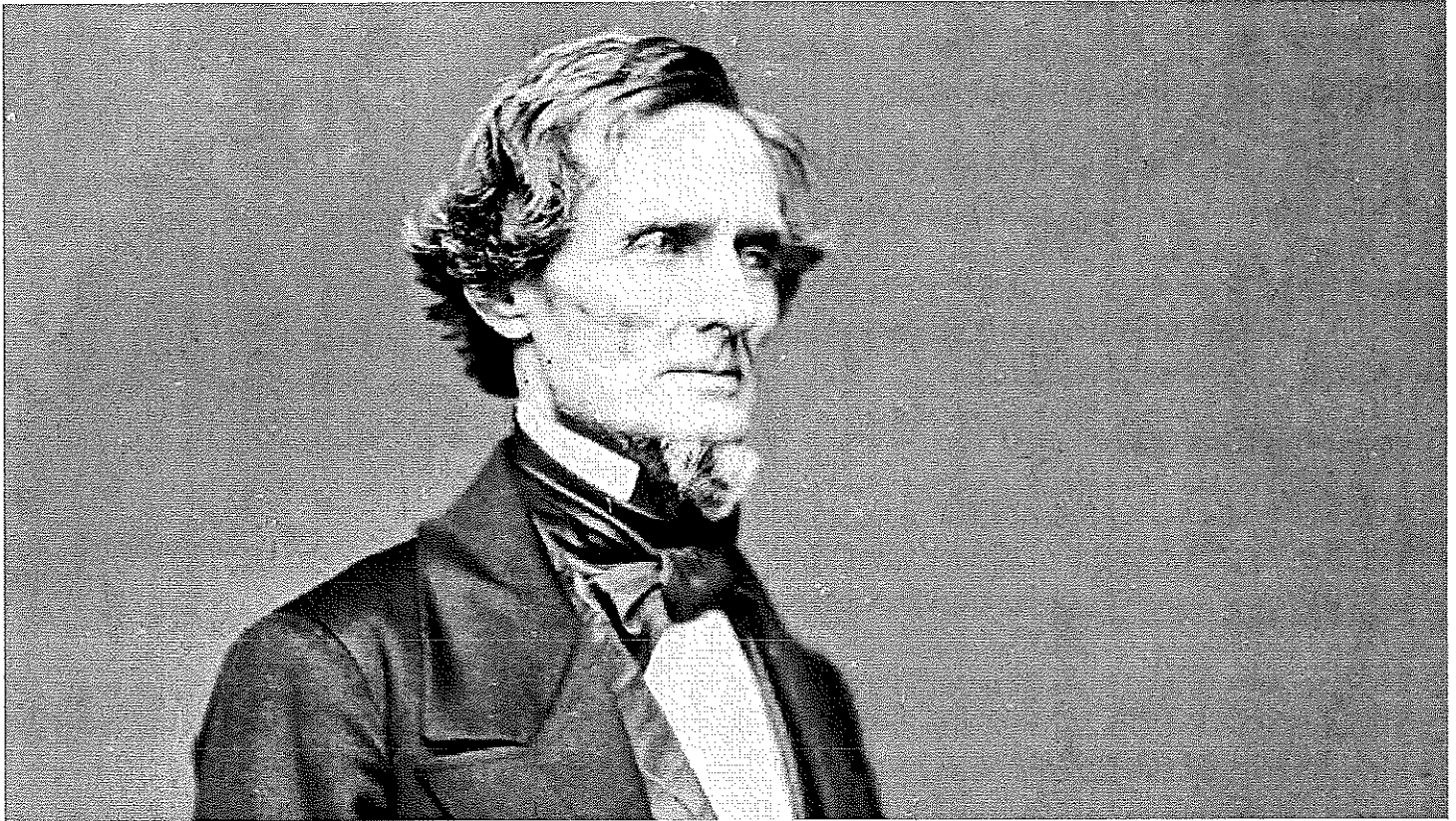
- 1 Which paragraph in the section "Humble Frontier Beginnings" or the section "Two Historic Addresses" supports the idea that Lincoln wanted the meaning of the war to always be remembered?
- 2 Based on the information in the article, which of these statements is TRUE?
  - (A) Abraham Lincoln fought as a general in the Black Hawk War.
  - (B) The Northern Union Army fired the first shots of the Civil War.
  - (C) Abraham Lincoln warned the South against starting a war.
  - (D) The Southern Confederate Army surrendered at Fort Sumter.
- 3 What effect did the Emancipation Proclamation have on slaves living in the United States?
  - (A) It required them to fight in the Civil War.
  - (B) It required them to move to the South.
  - (C) It gave them the right to be free.
  - (D) It gave them the right to vote.
- 4 Which answer choice accurately characterizes President Lincoln's reaction to the growing conflict in the South?
  - (A) He thought the issues would resolve themselves and was surprised when a war broke out.
  - (B) He urged against dividing the nation and was willing to use force to keep it together.
  - (C) He encouraged a civil war as a means of settling longstanding disputes within the nation.
  - (D) He worried about the effects of fighting and refused to choose a side in the dispute.

# Military Leaders: Jefferson Davis

By Encyclopaedia Britannica, adapted by Newsela staff on 05.17.17

Word Count 983

Level 970L



Jefferson Davis From public domain

**Synopsis:** During the American Civil War, Jefferson Davis was president of the Confederate States of America. He was a hero of the Mexican-American War and former U.S. secretary of War. Davis directed the Confederate military's strategy during the Civil War.

## Early Life And Career

Both Jefferson Davis and his eventual enemy, U.S. President Abraham Lincoln, were born in Kentucky. Davis was born on June 3, 1807 or 1808, in what is now Fairview, the 10th child of a farmer. The family soon moved to a small plantation in Mississippi. His parents were not wealthy, but his oldest brother, Joseph, became well-to-do and helped him. Davis attended academies in Kentucky and Mississippi, and in 1821, he entered Transylvania University in Kentucky.

Three years later, he was appointed to West Point. He graduated in 1828, becoming an officer in the U.S. Army. He served in frontier posts in Illinois and Wisconsin and in the Black Hawk War in 1832. It was a war between the United States and Native Americans led by Black Hawk, a Sauk chief. Black Hawk crossed the Mississippi River to try to get back land in Illinois that the U.S. had taken. Black Hawk lost the war. That war was used as justification for the U.S. policy of Indian

removal, in which Native American tribes were pressured to sell their lands and move west of the Mississippi River and stay there.

In 1833, Davis fell in love with Sarah Taylor, the daughter of his commanding officer, Colonel Zachary Taylor, who later became president of the United States. The colonel did not approve of the match. In 1835, Davis resigned his commission and married Sarah. Joseph helped him establish a plantation, Brierfield, on land in Mississippi. But within three months, the young couple fell ill with malaria and Sarah died.



Davis spent the years following the tragedy living quietly at Brierfield. In 1845, he married Varina Howell. By this time, he was a successful planter. He developed a deep devotion to Southern plantation life, and his own attitude toward his slaves led him to deny all claims that slavery was cruel.

### **Elected To Public Office**

Davis was elected a representative to Congress in 1845. But he resigned the next year when the Mexican-American War broke out. He became a colonel of Mississippi volunteers and served under his former father-in-law, then General Taylor. At the Battle of Buena Vista, Davis and his regiment probably saved the U.S. Army from defeat. Davis, who was severely wounded in the battle, became widely known as "the hero of Buena Vista."

In 1847, Mississippi sent Davis to the U.S. Senate. His ability as a speaker and his call for the extension of slavery into the Western territories made him a leader among Southern Democrats. In 1851, he resigned and ran for governor of Mississippi. He was defeated, but he re-entered public life in 1853 when President Franklin Pierce made him secretary of War. Davis served until the end of Pierce's term in 1857.

Mississippi again sent him to the Senate. By this time, the tension between the North and the South over slavery was at a fever heat. Davis took an unyielding attitude in favor of slavery. In 1860, he helped nominate a pro-slavery Democrat to run for president against both the Northern Democratic nominee and the Republican nominee, Abraham Lincoln. This party split helped Lincoln to be elected.

At first, Davis did not want the Southern states to secede, or withdraw, from the Union, though he believed it was their constitutional right to do so. He spoke throughout many parts of the country urging cooperation between North and South.

### **President Of The Confederacy**

Mississippi was the second state to secede, however, in early 1861. Soon after, on January 21, 1861, Davis made an impassioned speech to the Senate and resigned. Almost immediately he was made



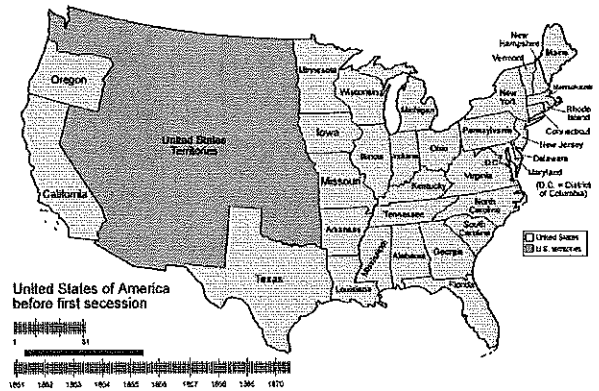
commander of Mississippi's armed forces. Within a couple of weeks he was named president of the Confederacy. Despite poor health, he was inaugurated on February 18, 1861. His first act was to dispatch peace delegates to the United States, but Lincoln would not receive them. The war soon began.

Davis formed a strong central government. At first his administration was highly popular, and his armed forces were successful. But his government faced considerable problems: the Confederacy was seriously outnumbered and undersupplied, it had few manufacturing plants or railroads, and it was wracked by internal political disputes. Time brought military reverses, and criticism began.

In April 1865, General Robert E. Lee, commander of the Confederate forces, surrendered without Davis' approval. Davis moved his cabinet out of Richmond, Virginia, but he soon was captured by U.S. troops near Irwinville, Georgia.

Davis was confined at Fort Monroe. His sufferings there aroused the sympathy of the Southern people. Even those who had found fault with his policies now regarded him as a martyr. Davis was indicted for treason but never went to trial. He was released on bail in 1867, and the case against him was later dropped. His U.S. citizenship was posthumously reinstated in 1978.

As soon as he was free he journeyed to Canada and Europe to try to regain his health. Upon his return to the United States, he tried to mend his broken fortunes. His business ventures proved failures, however, and in 1878, he retired. The rest of his life was spent writing his book "The Rise and Fall of the Confederate Government." He died in New Orleans, Louisiana, on December 6, 1889. His body was later moved to Richmond, which had been the capital of the Confederacy.



## Quiz

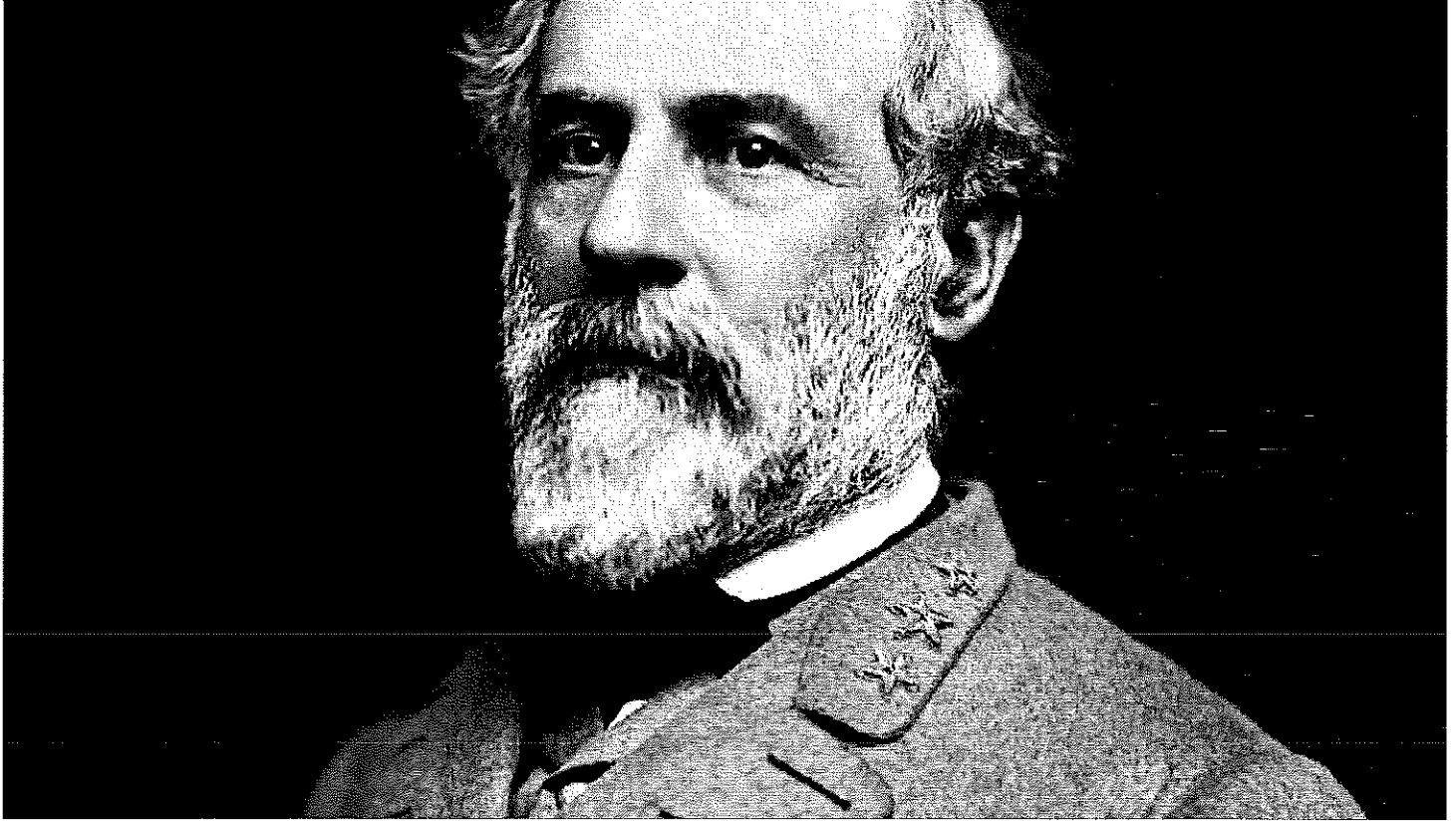
- 1 Which statement BEST explains why the map is included with the article?
- (A) to illustrate the progression of states joining the Union
  - (B) to demonstrate how the Union defeated the Confederacy
  - (C) to show which states were loyal to the United States
  - (D) to illustrate the status of states before and after the war
- 2 Which sentence from the article is BEST supported by information in the animated map?
- (A) Within a couple of weeks he was named president of the Confederacy.
  - (B) His first act was to dispatch peace delegates to the United States, but Lincoln would not receive them.
  - (C) At first his administration was highly popular, and his armed forces were successful.
  - (D) Davis moved his cabinet south, but he soon was captured by U.S. troops near Irwinville, Georgia.
- 3 How is the section "Early Life And Career" connected to the section "President Of The Confederacy"?
- (A) both describe how Davis feels about slavery
  - (B) both describe Davis' role in the Civil War
  - (C) both describe Davis' career in politics
  - (D) both describe Davis' achievements in war
- 4 Which of the following sentences from the article develops the idea that Jefferson Davis was an important historical leader?
- (A) Davis was born on June 3, 1807 or 1808, in what is now Fairview, the 10th child of farmers.
  - (B) The colonel did not approve of the match, so in 1835, Davis resigned his commission and married Sarah.
  - (C) He was defeated, but he re-entered public life in 1853 when President Franklin Pierce made him secretary of war.
  - (D) As soon as he was free he journeyed to Canada and Europe to try to regain his health.

# Military Leaders: Robert E. Lee

By Biography.com Editors and A+E Networks, adapted by Newsela staff on 08.16.16

Word Count 716

Level 920L



Portrait of General Robert E. Lee of the Confederate Army, U.S. Civil War The Library of Congress Prints & Photographs Online Catalog;  
<http://www.loc.gov/rr/print/catalog.htm>

**Synopsis:** Robert E. Lee was born on January 19, 1807, in Stratford, Virginia. He became an important military leader during the U.S. Civil War. He commanded the Army of Northern Virginia and became general-in-chief of the South's Confederate forces toward the end of the war. Though the Union North won the war, many have admired Lee. After the war ended, he went on to become president of Washington College in Virginia.

## Early Years

Robert Edward Lee was born January 19, 1807, in Stratford Hall, Virginia.

Lee was a member of the Virginia aristocracy. His family members included a president, a chief justice of the Supreme Court, and signers of the Declaration of Independence. His father, Colonel Henry Lee, had served as an army leader during the Revolutionary War, leading a group of horsemen. He went on to become one of the war's heroes, and was praised by General George Washington.

Lee saw himself as a part of his family's greatness. At 18, he went to West Point Military Academy, where he put his determination and serious mind to work. He finished West Point without a single demerit, which is a mark against a person for misconduct or deficiency. He achieved perfect scores in three main military subjects.

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After graduating from West Point, Lee met and married Mary Custis, the great-granddaughter of George and Martha Washington. Together, they had seven children, three sons and four daughters.

### **Early Military Career**

Mary and the children spent their lives on her father's plantation. Lee moved around the country with the army from Savannah to Baltimore, St. Louis to New York.

In 1846, Lee got the chance he'd been waiting for when the United States went to war with Mexico. He was a brave commander and known for his brilliant battle plans. After the U.S. victory over Mexico, Lee was called a hero.

But life away from the battlefield proved difficult for Lee. He struggled with the ordinary tasks associated with his work and life. For a time, he returned to his wife's family's plantation. The property had fallen under hard times, and for two long years, he tried to make it profitable again.

### **Confederate Leader**

In 1859 Lee returned to the Army. He accepted a position at a lonely outpost in Texas. In October of that year, Lee was called to put an end to a rebellion led by John Brown at Harpers Ferry, West Virginia. Brown wanted to free the slaves by force and captured weapons there. Lee took just a single hour to end the revolt.

After his triumph at Harper's Ferry, Lee was one of the people considered to lead the Union Army in the event of war. But Lee loved Virginia even more than he loved the Army. After turning down an offer from President Abraham Lincoln to command the Union forces, Lee resigned from the military and returned home. Lee had doubts about fighting a war over slavery. Still, when Virginia voted to leave the nation on April 18, 1861, Lee agreed to help lead the Confederate forces.

In May 1862, he took control of the Army of Northern Virginia and drove back the Union Army in Richmond in the Seven Days Battle. In August of that year, he gave the Confederacy an important victory at the Second Manassas battle.

But he was not always so successful.

From July 1 to July 3, 1863, many of Lee's soldiers were killed or wounded in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. The three-day Battle of Gettysburg almost destroyed his army. It ended Lee's invasion of the North and helped turn the war around for the Union.

By the summer of 1864 Ulysses S. Grant destroyed much of Richmond, the Confederate capital. By early 1865 the fate of the war was clear, and in April, Lee surrendered to Grant at a home in Appomattox, Virginia.

"I suppose there is nothing for me to do but go and see General Grant," he said. "And I would rather die a thousand deaths."

## Final Years

A forgiving Lincoln and Grant saved him from being hanged as a traitor. Lee returned to his family in April 1865. He eventually accepted a job as president of Washington College in western Virginia.

On October 12, 1870, he died at his home, surrounded by family.

## Quiz

- 1 Based on the information in the section "Confederate Leader:", which of these statements is TRUE?
- (A) Lee told John Brown how to end slavery.
  - (B) Lee told Abraham Lincoln how he had doubts about slavery.
  - (C) Lee told how he felt about surrendering to General Grant.
  - (D) Lee told how he planned to free slaves in the Confederate forces.
- 2 Which sentence from the section "Early Military Career" BEST suggests that Lee preferred life during war?
- (A) Mary and the children spent their lives on her father's plantation.
  - (B) Lee moved around the country with the army from Savannah to Baltimore, St. Louis to New York.
  - (C) After the U.S. victory over Mexico, Lee was called a hero.
  - (D) But life away from the battlefield proved difficult for Lee.
- 3 Which of the following are two MAIN ideas of the article?
- 1. *Lee decided early on that he wanted to become a military leader.*
  - 2. *Lee decided early on that he wanted to have a big family.*
  - 3. *Lee's dedication and bravery made him a strong military leader.*
  - 4. *Lee was successful in every battle he fought.*
- (A) 1 and 3
  - (B) 1 and 4
  - (C) 2 and 3
  - (D) 3 and 4
- 4 Which detail below BEST supports the main idea that Lee studied hard in school because he was determined to become a great military leader?
- (A) At 18, he went to West Point Military Academy, where he put his determination and serious mind to work.
  - (B) He achieved perfect scores in three main military subjects.
  - (C) He finished West Point without a single demerit, which is a mark against a person for misconduct or deficiency.
  - (D) Lee saw himself as a part of his family's greatness.

# Presidential Profile: Ulysses S. Grant

By White House Historical Association, adapted by Newsela staff on 07.04.13

Word Count 917

Level 910L



Official White House portrait of Ulysses S. Grant Henry Ulke/White House

Late in the administration of Andrew Johnson, General Ulysses S. Grant had been fighting with the president. Grant aligned himself with the Radical Republicans, who often felt that Johnson was too kind to the Confederates. This group of Republicans had been against slavery before and during the Civil War. They also wanted to punish Confederate leaders who had played a big role in the war. As the symbol of Union victory during the Civil War, and a military hero, Grant seemed to be the perfect candidate for president in 1868.

When Grant was elected the 18th president of the United States, the American people hoped for an end to the chaos of the war. Grant did not seem to have any immediate answers. As president, he looked to Congress for the direction in which to take the nation. He seemed bewildered. One visitor to the White House noted that Grant seemed to be a man "... with a problem before him of which he does not understand the terms."

## Unlikely Military Career Begins

Born in 1822, Grant was the shy son of an Ohio leather tanner. His father insisted he attend the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. Grant graduated in the middle of his class. Afterward, he

was a lieutenant and was sent to St. Louis, Missouri. It was there that he met his future wife, Julia Dent.

In the Mexican War he fought under General Zachary Taylor. The Mexican War was a conflict between the United States and Mexico that took place from the spring of 1846 to autumn 1848, over territory in what is today the American Southwest.

At the beginning of the Civil War, Grant was working in his father's leather shop in Illinois. He was appointed by the governor to lead a volunteer regiment. These volunteers were not experienced or disciplined. Grant went in and trained them to fight. By September 1861, he had risen to the rank of brigadier general of volunteers.

He sought to win control of the Mississippi Valley for the Union. In February 1862, he took Fort Henry in Tennessee. Taking this fort from the Confederates opened the Tennessee River to Union gunboats. Grant and his troops then successfully attacked Fort Donelson. The Confederate commander of Fort Donelson asked Grant what his terms were to put an end to the attack. Grant replied: "No terms except an unconditional and immediate surrender can be accepted." The Confederate troops surrendered, and President Abraham Lincoln promoted Grant.

### **Grant's Reputation As A Leader Grows**

Grant had far less success at the Battle of Shiloh in April. About 23,800 soldiers were killed on both sides. It was the worst battle death count in American history up until that time.

Many Northerners blamed Grant for the loss of so many Union soldiers, and were outraged by what they thought was his incompetence. They demanded that Grant be removed from his post. But President Lincoln believed in Grant and refused to fire him. Lincoln said, "I can't spare this man—he fights."

Grant was working to wear down the Confederate Army. He maneuvered and fought skillfully to win Vicksburg, the key city in Mississippi. This cut the Confederacy in two. Then he broke the Confederate hold on Chattanooga, Tennessee.

Finally, on April 9, 1865, General Robert E. Lee surrendered to Grant at Appomattox Court House in Virginia. The Civil War had ended. Grant wrote out generous terms of surrender that would prevent treason trials for the Confederates. Treason is the crime of trying to overthrow the government of one's own country.

### **Gold Scheme Discovered**

As president, Grant presided over the government much as he had run his troops. He even brought part of his Army staff to work in the White House.

Although he was a man of extreme honesty, as president, Grant accepted large, fancy gifts from admirers. That might have appeared to some that he could be influenced by these gifts. Worse, he allowed himself to be seen with two bad businessmen, Jay Gould and James Fisk. The men were known to engage in risky investments for profit.

Gould and Fisk wanted Grant to raise the price of gold, telling him that it would benefit the country. Meanwhile, Gould and Fisk were quietly buying and stockpiling large amounts of gold, believing that they would profit greatly when they sold it later at a higher price. When Grant



discovered their scheme to make money, he authorized the secretary of the Treasury to sell enough gold to wreck their plans. But their actions had already caused problems.

### **Re-election And Reconstructing The South**

During his campaign for re-election in 1872, Grant was attacked by reformers in his own Republican Party. They did not like Grant's support of Reconstruction, or rebuilding the war-torn South, which he tried hard to do. He called them "narrow-headed men," their eyes so close together that "they can look out of the same gimlet hole without winking."

Grant allowed Radical Reconstruction to run its course in the South, bolstering it at times with military force. He tried to protect the rights of freed slaves.

After retiring from the presidency, Grant started writing a book about his life. He learned he had cancer and was racing against death to produce a well-written autobiography that ultimately earned nearly \$450,000. Soon after completing the last page, in 1885, he passed away.

*Adapted from the Presidents of the United States of America, 18th edition, published by the White House Historical Association, 2009.*

## Quiz

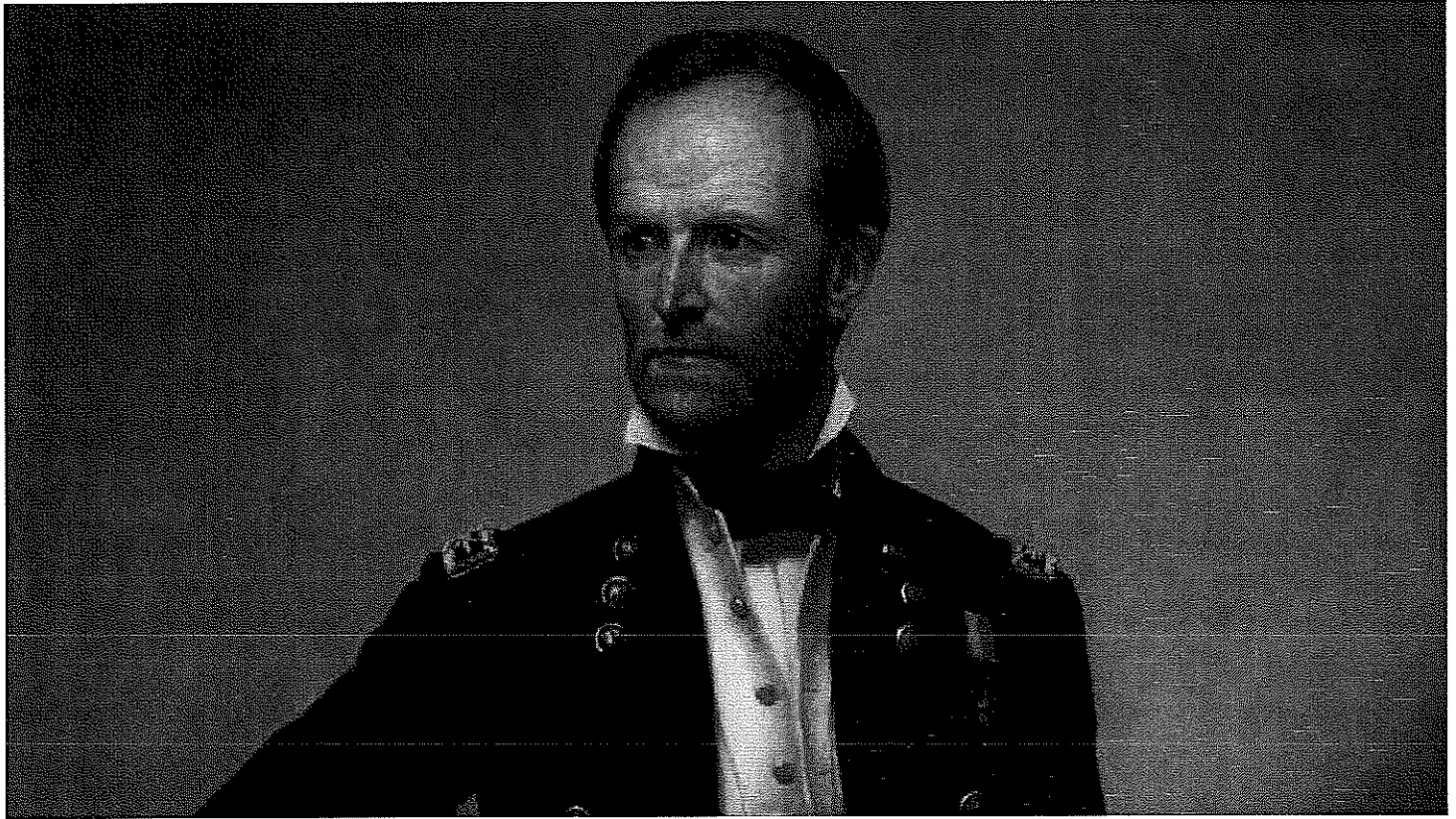
- 1 Select the sentence from the section "Grant's Reputation As A Leader Grows" that shows Grant was unpopular with many Northerners during the Civil War.
- (A) ~~Grant had far less success at the Battle of Shiloh in April.~~
- (B) About 23,800 soldiers were killed on both sides.
- (C) It was the worst battle death count in American history up until that time.
- (D) They demanded that Grant be removed from his post.
- 2 Which section of the article highlights the idea that Grant tried to protect the civil rights of freed slaves?
- (A) "Unlikely Military Career Begins"
- (B) "Grant's Reputation As A Leader Grows"
- (C) "Gold Scheme Discovered"
- (D) "Re-election And Reconstructing The South"
- 3 What is the BEST summary of the section "Gold Scheme Discovered"?
- (A) Grant was an honest president, but two businessmen tricked him into making a bad decision.
- (B) Grant was a foolish president, but two businessmen helped him make money for the country.
- (C) Grant was a greedy president who hired two businessmen to stockpile gold for him.
- (D) Grant was a vain president who took gifts from two businessmen in exchange for favors.
- 4 Which detail BEST supports the article's central idea?
- (A) the gifts Grant received during his time as president
- (B) the illness Grant battled during his final years of life
- (C) the victories Grant achieved during the Civil War
- (D) the loss Grant suffered at the Battle of Shiloh

# War, William Tecumseh Sherman-style

By Laura Phillips, Cricket Media, adapted by Newsela staff on 03.17.20

Word Count **809**

Level **940L**



General William Tecumseh Sherman made history during the American Civil War for his destructive attacks on Confederate resources. This 1866 painting by George Peter Alexander Healy features Sherman in his Union uniform. Image: Wikimedia Commons/National Portrait Gallery.

William T. Sherman was a Union General in the Civil War. And as far as he was concerned, the fighting had gone on long enough. He believed that Southerners' willingness to fight had to be destroyed. The best way to do that, he thought, was to wage "total war." Sherman wanted to make citizens feel the pain of war and hate it as much as he did. He believed that if Southern citizens had to experience the horrors of war and try to survive in the destruction left behind, their support for the war and their Confederacy would fade quickly. Sherman's invading army killed their horses and mules, tore up their railroads, and burned their factories.

Sherman had applied this thinking in a previous campaign through Georgia. In his March to the Sea in 1864, he cut his supply lines and told his army to live off the land. It was an effective and devastating military tactic. In places along Sherman's route, citizens were left without food or shelter. After seizing the city of Savannah in December, Sherman spent the month of January there, preparing for his next move.

At first, Lieutenant General Ulysses S. Grant planned to have the Union navy transport Sherman's army to join Grant and the Army of the Potomac in Virginia. Together, Grant believed, they could defeat Confederate general Robert E. Lee. But Sherman proposed that he march his army through the Carolinas to reach Virginia. Grant approved Sherman's suggestion.

### **"Soldiers Pushed Through South Carolina"**

South Carolina had been the first state to secede from, or leave, the Union in 1860. The first shots of the Civil War were fired at Charleston in 1861. But instead of heading for Charleston as Confederate leaders expected, Sherman made his goal the state's capital, Columbia. Sherman's 60,000 soldiers pushed through South Carolina at an alarmingly fast pace.

By February 15 of 1865, Sherman's army reached the outskirts of Columbia. Sherman approached Columbia from the north and ordered troops to occupy the city. The 15th Corps headed into Columbia on February 17, 1865.

Sherman's field order No. 26 specified the destruction of Columbia's "public buildings, railroad property, manufacturing and machine shops." Libraries, some hospitals, and private property were to be spared. But as Union troops marched into the city, they passed an abandoned prison camp known as Camp Sorghum. About 1,300 Union soldiers had been held there in an area intended for 500 prisoners. The sight of the holes in the ground where prisoners had tried to find shelter enraged the Northern troops.

Once in the city, the Union forces went against orders and raided stores and public buildings. They consumed any alcohol that they found. Convicts released from the city jail added to the chaos. When Sherman entered the city just before noon, he directed his officers to get control of the drunken soldiers.

That night, fires began burning in Columbia — no one knows who started them, or if they were accidental. As citizens of Columbia fought the flames, some soldiers cut the water hoses or raided buildings. Added high winds turned Columbia into a raging inferno.

Sherman never issued any orders to stop the burning. He later wrote, "Though I never ordered it and never wished it ... I believe that it hastened what we all fought for, the end of the War."

When the sun rose, the devastation was clear. The fires had destroyed two-thirds of Columbia.

### **"To Stop Sherman"**

Fewer than 100 miles away, Charleston, South Carolina, had been under siege since July 10, 1863. Fearing Sherman's army would arrive, Charleston's mayor surrendered to the Union on February 18, 1865. Union troops moved into the city.

Sherman, meanwhile, pushed into North Carolina. On March 11, he entered Fayetteville, which had been left behind by Confederate forces before his arrival. His army stopped only to destroy military sites before continuing its march.

Wanting to keep Grant and Sherman from combining their forces, Robert E. Lee ordered General Joseph E. Johnston to stop Sherman. Johnston had recently taken command of the scattered Confederate forces in the Carolinas. He organized an army near Bentonville, North Carolina. But

his men, like most of the Confederacy's troops at this point, were poorly supplied, poorly fed and outnumbered.

Still, from March 19 to March 21, Johnston led the last major offensive against a Union army in the Civil War. But after three days of fighting, he retreated. Unopposed, Sherman's forces ended their 425-mile march in Goldsboro, North Carolina.

News of Lee's surrender on April 9 reached Johnston. On April 26, Johnston surrendered to Sherman. Johnston's decision resulted in the largest number of Confederate soldiers to surrender at one time.

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## Quiz

1

Read the section "Soldiers Pushed Through South Carolina."

Select the sentence from the section that suggests why Union soldiers destroyed so much of Columbia.

- (A) But instead of heading for Charleston as Confederate leaders expected, Sherman made his goal the state's capital, Columbia.
- (B) Sherman's field order No. 26 specified the destruction of Columbia's "public buildings, railroad property, manufacturing and machine shops."
- (C) The sight of the holes in the ground where prisoners had tried to find shelter enraged the Northern troops.
- (D) The fires had destroyed two-thirds of Columbia.

2

One conclusion a reader could make after reading the article is that General Sherman was willing to hurt civilians to end the war.

Which of the following statements accurately paraphrases evidence from the article to support the conclusion?

- (A) He later wrote, "Though I never ordered it and never wished it ... I believe that it hastened what we all fought for, the end of the War."
- (B) Sherman was able to easily defeat Johnston's army in North Carolina, leading to the largest surrender of Confederate troops.
- (C) Sherman only instructed his soldiers to destroy public buildings and manufacturing shops in Columbia, but his soldiers disobeyed orders.
- (D) Sherman knew that the total destruction of Columbia was bad, but it would ultimately lead to a speedier end to the war.

3

Read the section "To Stop Sherman."

What does this section show that other sections do not?

- (A) how Sherman used total war tactics to win
- (B) what happened when Sherman fought another Confederate army
- (C) why Sherman thought total war tactics were effective
- (D) why Sherman was heading north to Virginia

4

How does the introduction relate to the section "Soldiers Pushed Through South Carolina"?

- (A) The introduction sets up the problem Sherman faced in the South, and the following section explains how Sherman solved it.
- (B) The introduction gives background information about Sherman's life, and the following section describes what he was like in war.
- (C) The introduction describes Sherman's philosophy of "total war," and the following section gives an example.
- (D) The introduction portrays Sherman as a person committed to fighting war fairly, and the following section contradicts that idea.