

## The Civil War Presentations

### 1. Strengths and Weaknesses of the North and South

	Strengths	Weakness
North	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Bigger population</li><li>• More factories</li><li>• More food</li><li>• Larger railroad system</li><li>• Had a three-part plan – block Southern ports, control the Mississippi River to cut the Confederacy in two, and capture the capital Richmond, Virginia</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Weaker generals</li><li>• Less experienced soldiers</li></ul>
South	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• King Cotton</li><li>• Better generals</li><li>• Better trained soldiers</li><li>• Only had to fight a defensive war (hold their ground)</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Smaller population</li><li>• Less factories and food</li><li>• Less railroad tracks</li></ul>

**Significance – On paper the Union had a much better chance of winning the Civil War than the Confederacy.**

### 2. Battle of Bull Run and the Battle of Antietam

- Battle of Bull Run took place in Virginia on July of 1861.
- With the help of Stonewall Jackson the Confederacy won the Battle of Bull Run.
- Confederate moral went up and some soldiers went back home convinced that the Confederacy would win.
- The Union realized that they needed to be better prepared for the war and Lincoln focused on enlisting more men.
- The Battle of Antietam took place in Maryland on September of 1862.
- Maryland was a border state and thus part of the Union.
- The Union general McClelland found a copy of the Confederate general Lee's plan wrapped around some cigars.
- Both sides meet at Antietam on September 17 which was the bloodiest single-day battle in American history with 26,000 casualties.
- The Union won but McClellan failed in pursuing Lee into Virginia and as result Lincoln removed McClellan from his command.

**Significance – During the Battle of Antietam the Confederacy failed to invade the Union and because of the Union success Lincoln was able to enact the Emancipation Proclamation.**

### **3. The Politics of War**

- The Confederacy thought that because England relied on its cotton it would come to their aid but England had a surplus of cotton.
- What England needed was wheat and corn from the Union – because of this the English remained neutral.
- In 1863, Lincoln enacted the Emancipation Proclamation in which he emancipated the slaves in the Confederacy.
- Because of the EP slaves could flee the Confederacy and join the Union armies – they became contraband of war.
- The EP gave the Civil War a moral purpose and ensure that a compromise would not be possible any longer.
- In order to deal with disloyalty and dissent Lincoln suspended the writ of habeas corpus which allowed him to hold citizens in jail without formally charging them with a crime. Lincoln was able to arrest all those opposed to him during the Civil War.

**Significance – The Emancipation Proclamation gave the Civil War a moral purpose which was to end slavery.**

### **4. Life During the War – African Americans and Soldiers**

- Conscription led to race draft riots.
- African-Americans made up 1% of the population in the North but about 180,000 African-Americans served in the Union Army or about 10% of the Union forces.
- African-Americans served in separate regiments commanded by white officers and earned lower pay.
- Soldiers on both sides lived under terrible sanitary conditions, had a limited diet, and inadequate medical care.
- Soldiers lived among garbage and human waste.
- Body lice, dysentery, and diarrhea were common.
- Prisoner camps were overcrowded and unsanitary.
- The Confederacy prisoner of war camps lacked food and tent canvases.
- Union prisons provided more food and space but there was little heat and this contributed to the rise of pneumonia.
- 15% of Union prisoners in Southern prisons died and 12% of Confederate prisoners died in Northern prisons.

**Significance - African-Americans played an active role during the Civil War as soldiers and faced significant discrimination.**

### **5. Life During the War – Women and Regional Economies**

- 3,000 women served as Union nurses during the Civil War.
- Clara Barton was a nurse who went on to be the founder of the American Red Cross.
- Union nurses tended to the injured in the front lines.
- Southern women also served as nurses.
- One Confederate nurse, Sally Tompkins was even commissioned as a captain.
- The war expanded the North's economy but shattered the South's economy,

- The South experienced a food shortage because of the drain of manpower to the army and the loss of slave labor.
- Food prices rose and inflation was at 7,000%
- In the North production went up but wages did not rise and the standard of living went declined.
- When white male workers went on strike, African-Americans, immigrants, and women replaced them for lower wages.
- The North raised money to pay for the war by enacting the first income tax.

**Significance - Women played a pivotal role during the Civil War by nursing the injured. The Civil War helped solidify the North's economic dominance over the South.**

## **6. The Battle of Gettysburg**

- The battle started on July 1, 1863 in Pennsylvania.
- It was Lee's second attempt to invade the Union.
- Lee thought that a major Confederate victory my tip proslavery politicians in the Union to the Confederate side.
- Union general Meade commanded 90,000 and Lee commanded 75,000.
- Battle lasted 3 days and ended in a Confederate loss - Lee was pushed back to Virginia.
- Each side lost about 30% of their men - Union 23,000 and the Confederacy 28,000.
- On November of 1863, Lincoln delivered the Gettysburg Address at the dedication of a cemetery. Lincoln only spoke for 2 minutes he stressed the importance of creating a unified country that lived up to the ideals of the Founding Fathers.

**Significance - Union victory at the Battle of Gettysburg stopped the Confederate invasion of the North for the second time.**

## **7. The Battle of Vicksburg**

- The Battle of Vicksburg took place in Mississippi from April to July of 1863.
- The Union General was Ulysses S. Grant.
- Vicksburg was important because from its bluffs above the Mississippi River water traffic could be controlled.
- Grant attacked Vicksburg and its residents were forced to hide in caves they dug in the hills.
- Food supplies were really low and people began to eat dogs and mules.
- Finally the city fell on July 4, 1863.
- The Confederacy was cut in two.

**Significance - The Battle of Vicksburg further crushed the Confederacy because they lost access to the Mississippi River.**

## **8. The Confederacy Wears Down**

- The Confederacy was low on food, shoes, uniforms, guns, and ammunition.
- Many Confederate soldiers deserted the army and many people began to call for an armistice.
- Lincoln is going to call for total war by asking General Grant decimate Lee's army in Virginia.
- Lincoln also sent General William Tecumseh Sherman on a march through Georgia to the seas in the spring of 1864.
- General Sherman's orders were to destroy everything in his path - houses, livestock and railroads.

- About 25,000 former slaves followed General Sherman on his march.
- Lincoln won reelection in 1864.
- Lee surrendered to Grant on April 9, 1865 at the Appomattox Court House in Virginia.

**Significance - By waging total war the Union was able to wear down Southern morale.**

### **9. The War Changes the North**

- 360,000 Union soldiers and 260,000 Confederate soldiers died - more than all other American war combined.
- The Civil War increased the power of the federal government.
- The North's economy boomed while the South's economy was devastated - not only did slavery end but its industries and farmlands were also destroyed.
- Warfare also changed with the introduction of the rifle and the minie ball bullet.
- Grenades and land mines were also introduced.
- Ironclad ships were also built and were able to attack wooden ships, withstand cannon fire, and resist burning.

**Significance - The North came up on top at the end of the Civil War not just politically but also economically.**

### **10. The 13<sup>th</sup> Amendment**

- With Lincoln's help the 13th Amendment which abolished slavery was ratified at the end of 1865.
- On April 14, 1865 Lincoln was assassinated while watching a comedy at Ford's Theater in Washington D.C. – he died the following day.
- The assassin was John Wilkes Booth a 26-year old actor and Southern sympathizer.
- Booth was captured 12 days later and killed.
- Lincoln's funeral train took 14 days to reach Springfield, Illinois and approximate 7 million people turned out to mourn his death.

**Significance - The Civil War ended with the complete abolishment of slavery.**