

Civil War Early Years 1861-1862

Union- Plans for winning war

- General **Winfield Scott** presented President Lincoln with the Union's plan to win the war.
- It was called the **Anaconda Plan**.
- The union planned to win the war by "squeezing" the South. There were **three** parts to it:
 - 1. SOUTH / EAST**-The Union planned to **blockade the southern ports**. This would halt the South's trade with Europe.
 - 2. WEST**-The Union planned to **seize control of the Mississippi River**. This would cut off any supply of goods to the South. Also, controlling the Mississippi would separate Arkansas, Texas and Louisiana from the rest of the Confederate states.
 - 3. NORTH / EAST**-The Union planned to seize **control of the Confederate capitol** (Richmond Virginia) and capture the Confederate headquarters (Approx. 85 miles from Washington D.C.).

Confederate-Plans for winning war

The Confederate plan was quite **simple**:

They would just stay at home and fight a defensive war by letting the Union troops come to them.

April 1861- Battle at Fort Sumter

July 1861- The Union began its **blockade** of the Confederate's southern ports.

First Battle of Bull Run

- In response to public demand, on July 21st President Lincoln ordered an **attack** on Richmond, Virginia.
- Troops, who had not been adequately **trained**, were led from Washington, D.C. under the guidance of **General Irvin McDowell**.
- Shortly after leaving Washington, D.C. the Union troops **clashed** with Confederate troops at a **small stream called Bull Run** (Manassas Junction, Virginia)
- Inspired by **General Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson**, the Confederate troops held their ground.
- Eventually, **the Union troops retreated**. The Confederates did not **pursue** – if they had done so, they might have been able to capture Washington, D.C.

Video Question:

- 1) Why did many Washingtonians go to picnic at the battle site?
They thought Union forces would crush the rebels quickly
- 2) What was the Battle of Bull Run known for when it ended?
Longest and bloodiest in history

The **First Battle of Bull Run** showed:

- Troops on both sides needed **training**
- It was going to be a **long, bloody war**.

UNION:

| | | |
|-----|---|-------|
| KIA | = | 451 |
| WIA | = | 1,001 |
| MIA | = | 1,741 |

CONFEDERATE:

| | | |
|-----|---|-------|
| KIA | = | 362 |
| WIA | = | 1,519 |
| MIA | = | 12 |

- After the **First Battle of Bull Run**, President Lincoln replaced General Irvin McDowell with **George B. McClellan** as Commander of the Union Army.
- McClellan was a specialist at military organization and training.

January 1862

- President Lincoln issued a war order authorizing the Union to launch an **aggressive attack** on the Confederacy.
- General McClellan **ignored** the President's order because he felt that the Union troops were **not ready**.

March 1862

- General McClellan moves the Union troops **into action**. Union troops sail from **Washington, D.C.** to an area south of **Richmond**, Virginia.
- Confederate **General Robert E. Lee** launched a series of counter attacks.
- General Lee also sent "**Stonewall**" **Jackson** with troops to threaten Washington, D.C.
- Being cautious, General McClellan **abandoned** the attack on Richmond and returned to Washington, D.C.

Battle of the "**Monitor**" and the "**Merrimack**"

- In early July of 1861, the **Union** abandoned one of its naval ships, the "**Merrimack**" near Virginia. Confederates covered the ship with **iron plates** and sent it into battle against the Union navy.

March 8, 1862

- The "**Merrimack**" – now the "**CSS Virginia**" - sank **1** Union ship, drove another **aground**, and forced another ship to **surrender**

March 9, 1862

- The Union countered with the “Monitor” off the coast of Virginia. The “CSS Virginia” had more **firepower**, but the “Monitor” moved **more easily**.
- In the end, neither ship seriously damaged the other, and both **withdrew**.

Battle of Shiloh -(one of the bloodiest battles of the war) **April 6-7, 1862**

- **Confederate** forces attacked **Union** forces who were under the command of **Ulysses S. Grant** at Shiloh, Tennessee.
- By the end of the day, the Union troops were **almost defeated** .
- During the night, reinforcements arrived, and by the next morning the **Union troops** commanded the battlefield.
- Casualties in this battle were heavy:
 - **13,000** out of **63,000** Union soldiers were killed
 - **11,000** out of **40,000** Confederate troops were killed
 - 24, 000 out of 103,000 = 23% Killed

May 1862

- Confederate General “**Stonewall**” **Jackson**, commanding forces in the Shenandoah Valley, attacked Union forces in late-May, forcing them to retreat across the **Potomac** River.
- As a result, Union troops were rushed to protect **Washington, D.C.**

The Seven Days’ Battles

- Between June **26** and July **2**, Union and Confederate forces fought a series of battles:

| | |
|----------------|-------------------------|
| Mechanicsville | June 26 & 27 |
| Gaines’s Mill | June 27 |
| Savage Station | June 29 |
| Frayser’s Farm | June 30 |
| Malvern Hill | July 1 |

On July 2, the Confederates withdrew to **Richmond, Virginia**.

Second Battle of Bull Run

- *The Second Battle of Bull Run* was fought on **August 29-30, 1862**.
- The Union troops failed to commit to battle quickly enough – which led to another *Confederate* victory.

Battle of Harper’s Ferry

- Union *General McClellan’s* forces defeated Confederate *General Robert E. Lee’s* forces at **South Mountain** and **Crampton’s Gap** in September, but did not move quickly enough to save **Harper’s Ferry** (Federal Gun Warehouse), which fell to Confederate *General “Stonewall” Jackson’s* forces on September 15, 1862.

Battle of Antietam

- On September 17, 1862, Confederate forces under General Robert E. Lee were caught by General McClellan near **Sharpsburg, Maryland**.

Antietam Video Questions:

- 1) This battle will be known as the Bloodiest day of the war.
- 2) What is the name of the bridge they had to cross in the battle? Where did it come from? Burnside- Named for a Union general
- 3) What idea did Lincoln come up with at Antietam to end the war? Preliminary Emancipation Proclamation.

UNION:

2,108 soldiers KIA **9,549** soldiers WIA

CONFEDERATE:

2,700 soldiers KIA **9,029** soldiers WIA

TOTAL: 4,808 KIA 18, 578 WIA

- There was no clear **winner**, but because the **Confederates** withdrew to Virginia, the **Union** was considered the victor.
- This battle convinced the **French** and **British**, who were considering supporting the Confederates in the war, not to get involved.

“Preliminary” Emancipation Proclamation

- On September 22, **President Abraham Lincoln** issued the *Preliminary Emancipation Proclamation*, which would **free all slaves in areas rebelling against the United States** – effective **January 1, 1863**.

The Battle of Fredericksburg

- In **December** of 1862, Union forces, under the command of *General Ambrose E. Burnside*, were defeated in a series of attacks against entrenched Confederate forces at Fredericksburg, Virginia.