

The Civil War 1864-1865

Total War

- When *General Ulysses S. Grant* became commander of the Union forces, a new type of combat was created. **Total War** is the phrase used to describe Grant's tactic of winning the war.
- In the past, only **soldiers** were involved in wars. In "total war", however, **everyone** was affected as the Union army destroyed **food** and **equipment** that might be useful to the enemy.
- **Civilians** suffered the same hardships as soldiers.

Sheridan in the Shenandoah

- General Grant wanted to end the war by destroying the South's ability **fight**.
- Grant sent *General Philip Sheridan* and his troops into the fertile farmland of Virginia's **Shenandoah Valley**.
- General Sheridan was ordered to **destroy everything!**
- In the summer and fall of 1864, General Sheridan marched through the valley destroying farms and livestock.

General Sherman's "March"

- General Grant also ordered **General William Tecumseh Sherman** to march and capture **Atlanta, Georgia**, and then march to the Atlantic coast.
- **Like General Sheridan, General Sherman had orders to destroy everything useful to the South.**
- General Sherman and his troops **captured Atlanta, Georgia** in September 1864. They **burned** the city in November when Sherman began his "**march to the sea**".
- General Sherman and his troops traveled from **Georgia** to **South Carolina** ripping up **railroads**.
- They built **bonfires** with the barns, bridges, homes, factories, and public buildings they destroyed.

Lincoln Runs for Re-election

- In 1864, Lincoln ran for re-election (Republican candidate).
- The Democrats nominated **George B. McClellan** to oppose Lincoln in the election.

President Lincoln is Re-elected

- At first, Lincoln's defeat in the election seemed "**extremely probable**".
- However, with General Sheridan's success in the Shenandoah and General Sherman's taking of Atlanta in September, the north rallied around Lincoln.

- In the election of 1864 (November), the vote was *close*, but Lincoln remained President.

The Fall of the Confederacy

- **Transportation** problems and successful **blockades** caused severe shortages of food and supplies in the South.
- Starving soldiers began to **desert** General Lee's forces.
- In February 1865, Confederate President **Jefferson Davis** agreed to send **delegates to a peace conference** with President Lincoln.
- However, President Davis insisted on Lincoln's recognition of the South as a separate **country**.
- President Lincoln **refused** to recognize the South as a separate country, and the conference ended.
- In March 1865, General Grant attacked General Lee's forces at *Petersburg*, near **Richmond**, Virginia. Here, Grant kept Lee under *siege* for **9** months.
- On April 2, 1865 General Lee and his men evacuated **Richmond**, and headed to a small town called **Appomattox Courthouse**.
- In Appomattox Courthouse, one week later, General Lee and his men were trapped by Union troops. Lee knew if he kept fighting his men would be **slaughtered**.
- On April 9, 1865, General Lee surrendered to General Grant at Appomattox Courthouse.

End of the War Video Question:

- 1) How was the war affecting the South by 1865? They were suffering, farms and factories were destroyed, they had no food, goods, or money, towns ruined.
- 2) What was the condition of the troops on both sides by 1865? Lee's were starving and wearing rags, Grants were well fed, clothed and armed; both were weary of fighting.
- 3) What did Grant say to stop the Union soldiers from celebrating the surrender of the South? The war is over, the rebels are our countrymen again.

The Assassination of President Lincoln

- On April 14, 1865, as President Lincoln was watching a performance at Ford's Theater, in Washington, D.C., **he was shot by John Wilkes Booth**.
- President Lincoln died the next morning.
- 11 days after the assassination, **John Wilkes Booth was cornered in a barn and was killed by a Union soldier**.

General Robert E. Lee

- General Lee became a "civilian". He was never allowed to serve in the army or hold any position of power within the government of the United States.