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STUDY GUIDE

Edited & Designed by Kathleen Riemenschneider



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THE PROGRAM

One hundred and forty years ago during the Civil War Eric Wolf's great-granduncles—Jacob Alkire and James Hoffman—faced each other across the field of battle. Mr. Wolf has worked hard to represent his uncles' perspectives on life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness through personal recollection. Mr. Wolf tells the true-life adventures of his relatives who fought for what they believed. This storytelling presentation also gives an overview of the major issues in the Civil War.

THE AMERICAN CIVIL WAR

BACKGROUND
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CAUSES OF THE CIVIL WAR

The chief and immediate cause of the war was slavery. Southern states, including the 11 states that formed the Confederacy, depended on slavery to support their economy. Southerners used slave labor to produce crops, especially cotton. Although slavery was illegal in the Northern states, only a small proportion of Northerners actively opposed it. The main debate between the North and the South on the eve of the war was whether slavery should be permitted in the Western territories recently acquired during the Mexican War (1846-1848), including New Mexico, part of California, and Utah. Opponents of slavery were concerned about its expansion.

By 1860, the North and the South had developed into two very different regions. Divergent social, economic, and political points of view, dating from colonial times, gradually drove the two sections farther and farther apart. Each tried to impose its point of view on the country as a whole. Although compromises had kept the Union together for many years, in 1860 the situation was explosive. The election of Abraham Lincoln as President was viewed by the South as a threat to slavery and ignited the war.

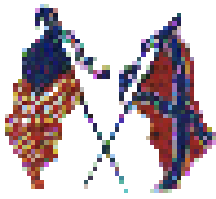
THE CIVIL WAR BEGINS

As the Southern states seceded, they seized and occupied most of the federal forts within their borders or off their shores. Only four remained in the hands of the Union. Fort Sumter stood guard in the mouth of the harbor of Charleston, South Carolina. The other three forts were in Florida: Fort Jefferson in the Dry Tortugas, Fort Pickens in Pensacola Bay, and Fort Taylor at Key West. Of the four, Sumter was the most important.



CIVIL WAR, 1861

Both sides prepared for what would become a much longer war than either at first imagined. Hundreds of thousands of volunteers poured into



the armies, and the respective economies tried to adjust to meet the demands of supplying huge military forces. On the battlefield, the Confederates won victories in Virginia at the First Battle of Bull Run in mid-July, and in Missouri at Wilson's Creek in August. Despite these setbacks, the Union army and navy took steps to begin operations along the upper Mississippi River and along the southern Atlantic coast. The goal was to implement Winfield Scott's Anaconda Plan to seize control of the Mississippi River and institute a naval blockade of the Confederacy. Away from the military sphere, the Trent Affair presented the Lincoln administration with a major diplomatic crisis that threatened to involve Britain in the American war.

CIVIL WAR, 1862

Furious military action flared in both the eastern and western theaters. In the West, Union victories at forts Henry and Donelson in February and at Shiloh in April gave the Union control of the heartland of Tennessee. The Battle of Pea Ridge in March frustrated a Confederate effort to gain a hold in Missouri, and the capture of New Orleans in late April cost the Confederacy its largest city and busiest port. Confederates responded with an invasion of Kentucky in late summer and fall, which ended in failure at the Battle of Perryville in October. Heavy fighting for the year ended with the inconclusive battle of Stones River at Murfreesboro, Tennessee, and unsuccessful opening movements in the Union campaign to capture Vicksburg, Mississippi. In the East, a Confederate victory at the Seven Days Battle in late June and early July turned back a major threat to Richmond, followed by another Southern triumph at Second Bull Run in late August, and the Union's strategic success at Antietam in mid-September, which ended Robert E. Lee's first invasion of the North. The year closed in Virginia with a costly Union setback at Fredericksburg in mid-December. The year also saw the Confederacy enact the first national conscription act in American history, and the North placed emancipation alongside unification as a second great war aim.

CIVIL WAR, 1863

The year opened poorly for the Northern military. In the West, their efforts to capture Vicksburg during the winter and spring were continually frustrated. In the East, the Union forces were defeated at Chancellorsville in early May. The North rebounded in June and July with a trio of successes: the Tullahoma campaign, which cleared major Confederate forces from Tennessee; the capture of Vicksburg, which together with the fall of Port Hudson, Louisiana, gave the North control of the Mississippi River; and the Battle of Gettysburg, where Lee's last movement across the Potomac River ended in bloody repulse. Another success at Chattanooga in late November closed a most auspicious year of campaigning for the North. The Union also adopted a national conscription act in 1863, prompting wide opposition and considerable violence. The Emancipation Proclamation went into effect on January 1, and soon thereafter the North began recruiting black soldiers on a large scale. Shortages of food and material goods became quite severe in the Confederacy, which experienced bread riots at several locations.

CIVIL WAR, 1864

The year 1864 began optimistically for the North, which expected Grant, its new general-in-chief, to bring victory. However, the bloody Overland Campaign in Virginia during May and June, which featured clashes at the Wilderness, Spotsylvania, and Cold Harbor, depressed Northern morale, as did the failure of General Sherman to capture Atlanta. A swift strike through the Shenandoah Valley brought a small Confederate army to the outskirts of Washington in early July, which further alarmed the North. By August, Northern morale had reached its lowest point of the war, and there were expectations that Lincoln would be defeated in his bid for reelection in November. As Grant and Lee settled into a siege along the Petersburg-Richmond lines, Union victories at Mobile Bay in late August, at Atlanta in early September, and in the Shenandoah Valley in September and October raised Northern morale and ensured Lincoln's reelection. Lincoln's political triumph in turn guaranteed that the North would continue to prosecute the war vigorously. The year ended with Union victories at Franklin and Nashville, Tennessee, in November and December, and Sherman's destructive march across the interior of Georgia. Hopes for Confederate success had virtually ended, the Northern blockade was tightening, and civilian and military morale in the South sagged badly.

For 1864 Grant planned an aggressive campaign. In the spring, when the roads had dried, the Army of the Potomac, still under Meade's direct command, moved against Lee in Virginia. Union General Benjamin F. Butler's Army of the James would advance from Bermuda Hundred, Virginia, on the James River. Sherman, now in full command in the West, would take the offensive against Johnston's army and Atlanta. For these moves the Union armies could muster 235,000 men. The Confederates had no more than 150,000 to oppose them.

CIVIL WAR, 1865

The Union moved toward victory during the first four months of 1865. In mid-January, the capture of Fort Fisher, which guarded Wilmington, North Carolina, closed the final significant Confederate port. On the political front, the U.S. House of Representatives passed the 13th Amendment to the Constitution, abolishing slavery on January 31, and a last-ditch effort at negotiating an end to the war failed at the Hampton Roads conference in early February. In February and March, the siege of Petersburg and Richmond continued, while Sherman's army worked its way northward through South Carolina and into North Carolina. Union success at the Battle of Five Forks on April 1 signaled the end of the long defense of Richmond, after which Lee's army retreated westward until forced to surrender at Appomattox Court House on April 9. With Lee's surrender, the war was clearly drawing to a close. However, Northern celebrations were quickly silenced when Lincoln was shot on April 14 and died the next day. Large-scale Union raids into Alabama and Northern successes elsewhere further weakened an already reeling Confederacy, and in late April Sherman accepted surrender of the South's last major field army at Durham Station, North Carolina.

ABOLITIONISTS

FREDERICK DOUGLASS (1817-1895)

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Douglass, whose original name was Frederick Augustus Bailey, was born in 1817 in Talbot County, Maryland, the child of a slave, Harriet Bailey, and an unknown white man. He was separated from his mother at a very early age and never knew her well.

At the age of seven or eight, Frederick was sent to Baltimore to the home of Hugh and Sophia Auld. Sophia Auld began to teach Frederick to read from the Bible until her husband forbade such instruction. Frederick secretly used books belonging to Sophia Auld's son to teach himself. When he was about 13, he bought his first book, *The Columbian Orator*.

The Aulds found Frederick too independent. When he was about 17, he was sent to work for Edward Covey, a "slave breaker." Covey had Frederick beaten daily for the slightest violation of impossibly strict rules. After nearly six months Frederick resisted Covey, wrestling him to a draw in a fight. After that Covey never attempted to beat him again. Frederick later described his conflict with Covey as "the turning point of my 'life as a slave.'" Before the battle Frederick believed he was "nothing," but after it, he emphatically wrote: "I was a man now."

Covey returned Frederick the Aulds, who then sent him to work as an apprentice in a shipyard. He not only learned the caulker's trade, which involved making ships watertight, but he also learned to write by tracing letters on the prows of these ships. In September 1838 Frederick obtained papers supplied by a free black seaman and, dressed as a sailor, took a train from Baltimore to New York.

Once in New York, Frederick found his way to the home of David Ruggles, a leading black abolitionists in the nation. Ruggles helped him decide on a new name—Frederick Johnson—and also helped him contact his fiancée, Anna Murray, a free black from Baltimore. After marrying, the couple went to New Bedford, Massachusetts, where Frederick hoped to find work as ship's caulker. However, because of racial discrimination, he was forced to work as common laborer. Frederick struggled to provide for his wife, and nine months later, his first child. The couple eventually had five children. While in New Bedford, Frederick also decided that his surname, Johnson, was too common. He changed it to Douglass, the name of a character in the poem *The Lady of the Lake* (1810) by Scottish writer Sir Walter Scott.

Douglass began to read the antislavery weekly *The Liberator*, published by abolitionist William Lloyd Garrison and soon joined Garrison's followers in New Bedford. In 1841 he attended the Massachusetts Anti-Slavery Society convention in Nantucket, where he was asked to speak. Douglass related his experiences as a slave, and his passionate address made such a profound impression that the society hired him as a full-time agent. In this position, and later as an agent for the larger American Anti-Slavery Society, he traveled throughout much of the North, speaking at antislavery meetings, giving public lectures, and helping to recruit members for the societies. He campaigned against slavery, but also for the civil rights of free blacks.

Douglass later wrote two more autobiographies: *My Bondage and My Freedom* (1855) and *Life and Times of Frederick Douglass* (1881, revised 1892).

In his papers Douglass championed the rights of free blacks and slaves and supported a number of other causes, most notably women's rights. In 1848 Douglass participated in the first women's rights convention, held at Seneca Falls, New York, and throughout his career he advocated women's equality.

Douglass continued his tireless effort to secure black rights, but he also actively supported equal rights for women. In 1872 he was the vice-presidential candidate on the Equal Rights Party slate headed by the feminist Victoria Claflin Woodhull, the first woman ever to run for the presidency.

Douglass soon became the leading black abolitionist and one of the most famous orators of the time. But as his oratory grew more polished, audiences began to question whether he had ever been a slave. To dispel these doubts, he published his first autobiography, *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass* (1845). In this work he named his former owners and described every aspect of his life under slavery. Publishing his autobiography placed Douglass in danger of recapture under the provisions of the Fugitive Slave Laws, which allowed masters to seize runaway slaves and return them to bondage. Thus, in 1845 Douglass went abroad, and for two years he toured England and Ireland, speaking against slavery. In 1847, after British friends purchased his freedom, Douglass returned to the United States.

In October 1847 Douglass decided to start a newspaper managed and edited solely by blacks to disprove the proslavery argument that blacks were "naturally inferior." He moved to Rochester, New York, and began publishing a weekly called *The North Star* (later became *Frederick Douglass' Weekly*) and was followed by *Douglass' Monthly*. Douglass published his newspapers almost continuously from December 1847 through May 1863.

Douglass became a friend of American abolitionist John Brown, who supported the use of armed force to help slaves escape. Douglass, however, refused to join Brown in an attack planned on the federal arsenal and armory at Harpers Ferry, Virginia (now West Virginia), in 1859. He warned Brown that seizing the armory would be considered an attack on the U.S. government and could prove disastrous. After Brown was captured in the raid, Douglass faced charges that he was an accomplice and fled the country to avoid possible arrest for treason. He came back to the United States about six months later, after furor over the incident had died down.

On his return, Douglass campaigned for Abraham Lincoln during the presidential election of 1860. After the outbreak of the Civil War, he urged Lincoln to expand his war aims beyond the stated goal of preserving the Union. Douglass argued that slavery was the true cause of the conflict and that the Union should make the abolition of slavery its primary focus. Douglass also called for the Union Army to recruit slaves and free blacks, and he helped to raise two regiments of black soldiers, the Massachusetts 54th and 55th. His own sons, Frederick and Lewis, were among the first volunteers for these all-black regiments.

During Reconstruction when the United States tried to rebuild after the Civil War, Douglass campaigned for suffrage and full civil rights for all blacks. He became a leading spokesperson for improving the situation of former slaves. He also worked for the passage of the 13th, 14th, and 15th Amendments, which banned slavery, made all people born in the United States citizens, and prohibited racial discrimination in voting.

Controversy arose during the later years of Douglass's life. In 1882 his wife of 44 years died, and in January 1884 Douglass married his white secretary, Helen Pitts. Some blacks, and many whites, criticized him for marrying outside his race, but Douglass categorically rejected the notion that his actions should be constrained by his skin color. For him the marriage symbolized one more victory in his lifelong crusade against racial discrimination.

At his death in 1895, Douglass had already established his reputation as the foremost African American spokesperson of the 19th century as well as one of the nation's most effective orators and activists.

JOHN BROWN (1800-1859)

"Brown, John
(abolitionist)."
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John Brown was born in Torrington, Connecticut. His family moved to Ohio when he was five years old. Early in life he acquired the hatred of slavery that marked his subsequent career, his father having been actively hostile to the institution. While living in Pennsylvania in 1834, Brown initiated a project among sympathetic abolitionists to educate young blacks. The next 20 years of his life were largely dedicated to this and similar abolitionist ventures, entailing many sacrifices for himself and his large family. In 1855 he followed five of his sons to Kansas Territory, then a center of struggle between the antislavery and proslavery forces. Under Brown's leadership, his sons became active participants in the fight against proslavery terrorists from Missouri, whose activities led to the murder of a number of abolitionists at Lawrence, Kansas. Brown and his sons avenged this crime, on May 24, 1856, at Pottawatomie Creek by killing five proslavery adherents. This act, as well as his success in withstanding a large party of attacking Missourians at Osawatomie in August, made him nationally famous as an irreconcilable foe of slavery.

Aided by increased financial support from abolitionists in the northeastern states, Brown began in 1857 to formulate a plan, which he had long entertained, to free the slaves by armed force. He secretly recruited a small band of supporters for this project, which included the establishment of a refuge for fugitive slaves in the mountains of Virginia. After several setbacks, he finally launched the venture on October 16, 1859, with a force of 18 men (including several of his sons), seizing the United States arsenal and armory at Harpers Ferry, Virginia (now West Virginia), and winning control of the town. After his initial success, he made no attempt at offensive action, but instead occupied defensive positions within the area. His force was surrounded by the local militia, which was reinforced on October 17 by a company of U.S. Marines under the command of Colonel Robert E. Lee. Ten of Brown's men, including two of his sons, were killed in the ensuing battle, and he was wounded and forced to capitulate. He was arrested and charged with various crimes, including treason and murder. He distinguished himself during his trial, which took place before a Virginia court, by his eloquent defense of his efforts on behalf of the slaves. Convicted, he was hanged in Charlestown, Virginia (now West Virginia) in December 1859. For many years after his death, Brown was generally regarded among abolitionists as a martyr to the cause of human freedom. He became the subject of a famous song, known generally by the first line as "John Brown's body lies a-mould'ring in the grave."



ON THE UNION SIDE

ABRAHAM LINCOLN (1809-1865)



Thomas Lincoln, President Lincoln's father, was a carpenter and a farmer and in June 1806 married Nancy Hanks. On February 12, 1809, Abraham Lincoln was born in a log cabin built by his father on their Kentucky farm. Abraham had an older sister, Sarah, who was born in 1807. In 1816, the Lincolns moved to Indiana, because of a land dispute. Nancy Lincoln fell victim to an epidemic of milk sickness and died in October 1818. The following year, Thomas Lincoln traveled to Kentucky and married Sarah Bush Johnston, a widow with three children. Growing up on a frontier farm, Abraham spent most of his time doing chores or hunting and fishing, leaving little time for formal education. His stepmother encouraged him to continue to learn, even if it was informally. Although books were rare on the frontier, Abraham was still able to read classic authors like Aesop, John Bunyan, and Daniel Defoe, as well as books on American history.

In 1830, when Abraham Lincoln was 21, his family moved to Illinois. Lincoln was never fond of farm work and in order to help his family, he was often hired as a day laborer. A year after moving to Illinois, Denton Offutt, who had hired Lincoln for a cargo run, hired him to work in his general store in New Salem, a small community near Springfield. Working in the general store gave Lincoln more time to read books and newspapers, and he enjoyed conversing with customs. He loved to discuss politics and joined the local debating society. Lincoln had just announced his intentions to run for the Illinois House of Representatives when the store went bankrupt and Lincoln was jobless. To support himself, Lincoln enlisted in the Illinois militia. Unfortunately, he returned to New Salem only two weeks before Election Day. Even though the immediate area of New Salem voted overwhelming for him, Lincoln lost the election. Lincoln was then appointed postmaster of New Salem. The job gave Lincoln time to read, especially all the newspapers that came through his office. He also became the deputy surveyor of Sangamon County.

In 1834, Lincoln again ran for the Illinois House of Representatives and won the election. He was re-elected in 1836, 1838, and 1840. Whig floor leader, Representative John T. Stuart of Springfield, encouraged Lincoln to study law, which he did on legislative session breaks. He became a licensed attorney in 1836 and the following year joined Stuart's law firm in Springfield. After a long courtship, Lincoln married Mary Todd in 1842. They were both ambitious, and she aided in his political career. They had four boys, but only one – Robert Todd Lincoln – survived into adulthood.

When not serving in the Illinois House of Representatives, Lincoln practiced law and rode the circuit (i.e. he traveled between courts in 15 counties in Illinois defending cases). During his travels Lincoln furthered his political career by meeting people and making valuable connections with lawyers and judges. He sought the Whig party's nomination for U.S. House of Representatives, in 1842 and 1844, but did not receive it until 1846, winning the election. While in Congress, Lincoln tried to influence the spread of slavery. Although he felt the federal government could not abolish slavery within individual states, it could in Washington D.C. which is controlled by congress; and he was against allowing slavery in new territories. Although he wanted to run for a second term, it was

Whig party tradition that candidates only served one term. Lincoln returned to Illinois and again rode the court circuit. He soon became one of the most respected lawyers in the state.

Abraham Lincoln's interest in politics would not be rekindled until 1854 when Congress passed the Kansas-Nebraska Act, which allowed voters in these territories to decide whether or not slavery would be allowed. Senator Stephen A. Douglas, a Democrat from Illinois, authored the Kansas-Nebraska Act. When he came to Springfield to defend the act, Lincoln responded in a speech the next night. Lincoln saw slavery as both a political and a moral issue that was the responsibility of the entire United States, and felt it was incompatible with American democracy. The Kansas-Nebraska Act created a split between Northern Whigs, who opposed it, and Southern Whigs, who supported it, effectively disbanding the party. Many Northern Whigs joined a new political party, the Republicans, which formed an abolitionist platform. In 1856, Lincoln joined the Republican Party and attended the state convention.

In 1858, Senator Douglas was up for re-election and the Republicans nominated Lincoln to oppose him. During his nomination acceptance speech, Lincoln made his most radical remarks about slavery in the United States, where he stated the country could not continue as half-slave and half-free. This speech is known as his 'House Divided' speech. Lincoln won the popular vote. However, at this time, U.S. Senators were elected by the state legislators. In 1858, the Illinois state legislature was predominantly Democratic and they re-elected Democratic Senator Douglas.

His senate campaign brought Lincoln national recognition and he was asked to speak throughout the United States. His speeches impressed many leaders of the Republican Party. In May 1860 at the Republican National Convention in Chicago, Lincoln was nominated as the Republican candidate for President. The Democratic convention was more contentious, creating a split in the party over the issue of slavery. Although Senator Stephen Douglas was nominated at the convention, many southern Democrats walked out and later nominated John Breckinridge of Kentucky. The split in the Democratic Party assured that Lincoln would win the Presidential election.

Southern militants threatened to secede if Lincoln was elected and held to their promise when he was. South Carolina was the first stated to leave the Union in December 1860. By February 1861, Mississippi, Florida, Alabama, Georgia, Louisiana, and Texas also seceded. These states formed the Confederate State of America, known as the Confederacy. Lincoln was not sworn in as President until March 4, 1861, and was unable to intervene. Outgoing President Buchanan did nothing to stop secession. In his inaugural speech, Lincoln tried to alleviate Southern fears by stating he would not interfere with slavery in states where it already existed. However, he did not support a state's right to secede and vowed to protect all federal property wherever it was located.

Fort Sumter, a federal fort located in the harbor of Charleston, South Carolina, was short on supplies and was blocked from entering Charleston, so Lincoln decided to send supplies. Lincoln had hoped the ships could land peacefully, so he notified the South Carolinian Governor, who then informed Confederate President Davis. The Confederacy responded by demanding the surrender of Fort Sumter. Major Robert Anderson, who commanded the fort, refused and on April 12, 1861, Confederate General Pierre Gustave Toutant

Beauregard opened fire on the fort. Lincoln's supply ships were unable to land, and two days later Anderson surrendered the fort. Lincoln declared the Confederacy a rebellion against the Union and asked the loyal states to provide militia for military action. He also called a special session of Congress to convene on July 4. The Northern states immediately rallied behind the President, but the call for military action caused North Carolina, Tennessee, and Arkansas, as well as part of Virginia to join the Confederacy. Kentucky, Missouri, and Maryland remained as part of the Union but sympathized with the South. These three states along with the newly created state of West Virginia became the Border States.

Lincoln's initial focus for the war was to preserve the Union. He felt that at issue was the future of democracy throughout the world and that it is elections ('ballots not bullets') that should determine the succession of leaders. The North, which was better equipped, believed that it would be an easy victory, but the first Union offensive in July 1861 ended in defeat. It would be over a year before the Union had its first major victory in September 1862.

During his second year in office, Lincoln focused on the issue of abolishing slavery. However, he was concerned with retaining the support of the Border States that still had slavery. On April 16, 1862, Lincoln signed a bill that abolished slavery in Washington D.C. with compensation for the owners. Later in the year, on September 22, he issued the Proclamation of Emancipation. It declared that on January 1, 1863, all slaves residing in rebellious states would be free. Slavery would remain in states loyal to the Union or those that rejoined the Union. Lincoln was able to appease the Border States. News of the Emancipation Proclamation traveled throughout the South, which had 3.5 million slaves out of a total population of 9.5 million.

In July 1863, Confederate General Lee invaded Pennsylvania and the two armies met at the Battle of Gettysburg. General Meade of the Union army repelled the Confederate army and Lee retreated. The North had suffered severe casualties and in November 1863 dedicated the sight as a military cemetery. At the dedication ceremony President Lincoln delivered his infamous Gettysburg Address. In March 1864, Lincoln promoted Ulysses S. Grant to lieutenant general and commander in chief of all Union armies. It was also a Presidential election year and Lincoln retained the Republican nomination. Union victories under Lt. General Grant helped ensure Lincoln's re-election.

Even before victory appeared imminent, Lincoln considered the problem of restoring the Southern states to the Union. On December 8, 1863, he offered his Proclamation of Amnesty and Reconstruction to the Southern people. With the exception of a few leaders, southerners were offered amnesty if they took an oath to support the Union. Any new government would be recognized if it eliminated slavery. Congressional leaders wanted stiffer penalties for the South, but Lincoln vetoed their efforts. The war ended on April 9, 1865, when General Lee surrendered to General Grant at Appomattox Court House, Virginia.

On Good Friday, April 14, 1865, Lincoln and his wife went to see a play at the Ford Theatre. John Wilkes Booth, an actor who vehemently opposed Lincoln's policies, walked into Lincoln's box at the theater and shot the President in the head. Booth escaped that night but was killed 12 days later while resisting arrest. Although the doctors worked throughout the night, Lincoln died on Saturday, April 15, 1865.

ULYSSES S. GRANT (1822-1885)

"Grant, Ulysses
S(impson)." Microsoft®
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In 1822, Hiram Ulysses Grant was born in a two-room cabin in Point Pleasant, Ohio, to Jesse Root Grant, a tanner, and Hannah Simpson Grant. When Ulysses was one year old, the family moved to nearby Georgetown. When he was 17, his father secured his admission to the U.S. Military Academy at West Point through U.S. Congressman Thomas L. Hamer of Ohio. He became Ulysses Simpson Grant through Congressman Hamer's error in writing Ulysses' name. Grant graduated in 1843. For two years he served in various posts in Missouri and Louisiana, then fought in the Mexican War (1846-1848).

While stationed in Missouri, Grant married Julia Dent in 1848. They would have four children: three boys, Frederick, Ulysses, Jr., and Jesse, and a daughter, Ellen. In 1852 he was transferred to the Pacific Coast, which made him miserable. Because of the expense and hardship of the trip and cost of living in California, his family did not go with him. He tried to supplement his army pay, but all these enterprises were failures. He took to drinking heavily and quarreled with his commander. In 1854, he was made to resign, with a rank of captain.

Returning to Missouri in 1855, Grant and his family settled on 80 acres that his father-in-law had given to Julia. Grant cleared the land, built a log house, farmed, and hauled wood to sell in St. Louis. Again he failed to make a profit. Grant had started working in his brothers' leather shop in Galena, Illinois, when the Confederate States of America seceded from the federal Union and the Civil War broke out. Loyal to the Union, Grant applied to serve as an officer in the army. In June 1861 Governor Richard Yates appointed Grant colonel of the rebellious 21st Illinois volunteer regiment. Grant led them against pro-Confederate guerrillas in Missouri. Grant was then made brigadier general in command of the volunteers district at Cairo, Illinois.

In early 1862, aided by Commodore Andrew H. Foote's gunboats, Grant captured Fort Donelson, on the Cumberland River, and Fort Henry, on the Tennessee River. The Confederate commander, Brigadier General Simon B. Buckner yielded to Grant's hard conditions of "no terms except unconditional and immediate surrender." Buckner's surrender of 14,000 men made Grant a national figure. This victory also won him promotion to major general of volunteers.

At the Battle of Shiloh in Tennessee (April 1862), while waiting for General Don C. Buell and the Army of the Ohio to join his own Army of the Tennessee for a major offensive, Grant was caught unaware by a Confederate attack. He had not fortified his position, and his forces suffered severe losses before Buell's army arrived and helped turn back the attack. Some accused Grant of having been drunk or grossly negligent at Shiloh. Major General Henry W. Halleck took over command of the Union offensive. Humiliated, Grant thought of resigning. President Abraham Lincoln also was pressed to remove Grant. Instead, in the summer of 1862, Lincoln called Halleck to Washington as general in chief and made Grant commander of all Union forces in western Tennessee and northern Mississippi.

In the autumn of 1862, Grant began a drive on Vicksburg, Mississippi, a Confederate stronghold. After several unsuccessful attempts during the

Siege — isolation of the city from supplies or reinforcements to compel it to surrender.

winter, Grant devised a new strategy of attack. In April 1863 he marched his army around Vicksburg and on May 12 he captured Jackson, Mississippi, the capital of the state, directly east of Vicksburg. Then he turned toward Vicksburg. On May 16 and 17, Grant defeated General John C. Pemberton and drove him back within the city. Grant's assault on the Confederate forces in Vicksburg failed, however, and he resorted to a siege that lasted six weeks. On July 4, 1863, bottled up on land and prevented by Union gunboats from escaping across the river, Pemberton surrendered his 30,000 men to Grant. Grant's capture of Vicksburg and the Union victory at Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, on the same day brought great joy to the North. Grant was made a major general in the regular army. He was promoted again after assisting General William S. Rosecrans at the Battle of Chickamauga.

In mid-October 1863, Grant was promoted to supreme commander in the West. With 60,000 troops at his command, Grant resumed the offensive and engaged Confederate General Braxton Bragg in the Battle of Chattanooga. On November 25, the third day of action, his men took Missionary Ridge, forcing the Confederate army to retreat. Grant's victory at Chattanooga cleared Tennessee of Confederate troops and opened the way for an invasion of the lower South.

On March 9, 1864, President Lincoln promoted Grant to lieutenant general and made him supreme commander of all Union forces. Now that he was in full command, Grant developed an overall strategy for the Union forces. Rather than capture cities or territory, he decided to go after the principal Southern armies. Early in May, Grant led the Army of the Potomac across the Rapidan River in Virginia, where from May 5 to May 6 he engaged General Lee's army in the swampy, wooded sector known as the Wilderness. For the next month, Grant's men fought a series of battles against Lee's men, climaxing at Cold Harbor on June 3, where they suffered colossal casualties. On that day alone Grant lost 7000 men. His total losses for the month were nearly 60,000.

After Cold Harbor, Lee took up a strongly entrenched position at Richmond, the capital of Virginia and of the Confederacy. Grant now altered his strategy. Instead of making a direct attack on Lee's well-defended position, he decided to proceed against Petersburg, the railroad and supply link between Richmond and the rest of the South. A great assault from June 15 to June 18 failed to take Petersburg. From the middle of June 1864 to early April 1865, Grant besieged Petersburg, slowly starving out Lee's men. Meanwhile, General Thomas destroyed the Confederate Army of Tennessee at Nashville. General Philip H. Sheridan devastated the Shenandoah Valley, and General Sherman marched through Georgia and South Carolina, destroying everything in his path that could be of use to the Confederate Army.

By the end of March 1865, Sheridan had joined Grant in Virginia, and on March 29, with an army of more than 100,000 under his immediate command, Grant began the final campaign against Lee. The end came on April 9, at the village of Appomattox Court House, Virginia, when General Lee surrendered to Grant. Because Lee was now commander in chief of all the Confederate armies, his surrender effectively ended the war.

In 1866 Grant was given the grade of full general, a rank held previously only by George Washington. He supervised the demobilization of the army

and administration of the Reconstruction acts, aimed at restoring the Southern states to full membership in the Union.

Because of Grant's great popularity as a war hero, he was courted by several politicians for support. At the Republican National Convention in 1868, Grant's name was the only one presented to run for the office of president. He was unanimously nominated, with House Speaker Schuyler Colfax as running mate. Opposing the Grant-Colfax Republican ticket was the Democratic slate of Governor Horatio Seymour of New York, for president, and George H. Pendleton of Ohio, for vice president. Grant did little active campaigning but easily defeated Seymour for the presidency.

Grant's mastery as a commander of the army was not translated to his Presidency. He had little understanding of the definition or limits of the office, issuing orders that could not always be executed. Moreover, for his Cabinet, Grant picked, for the most part, largely incompetent personal friends, unqualified former army associates, unscrupulous businessmen, or shady politicians.

Despite the short comings of his first term, Grant was nominated and won reelection in 1872. Grant's second administration was even less successful than the first. A series of scandals in government was unearthed. Although Grant was implicated in none of them, the improprieties committed by officials in his government and by members of his party in Congress reflected on the President.

Grant's followers planned to nominate him for a third presidential term in 1876, but the leaders of the Republican National Convention opposed his renomination. They named Governor Rutherford B. Hayes of Ohio as the party's nominee, and he won the election. Grant left office in March 1877, with a desire to see the world. On May 17 he sailed with his family for Liverpool, England, on the first leg of a journey around the world. Everywhere he was well received, not as the former president of the United States, but as the hero of the Civil War.

After two years of travel, Grant returned home. He was still interested in a third term as president, but at the convention in 1880 the nomination went to James A. Garfield. Grant's political career was at an end. Grant had given up an assured income for life when he resigned from the army to become president. Not until 1885 did Congress vote to restore Grant's rank of full general with an appropriate salary. By that time he was fatally ill. He was moved to Mount McGregor, near Saratoga, New York, in an effort to restore his health. There he began to write his recollections of the war years, the *Personal Memoirs of U. S. Grant* (1885-1886). They were completed only a week before he died of throat cancer in 1885.

John Russell Young's *Around the World With General Grant* (1879) provides an account of some of Grant's impressions and conversations.

His body's last resting place is the great mausoleum known as Grant's Tomb, overlooking the Hudson River in New York City.

"McClellan, George Brinton." *Microsoft® Encarta® Encyclopedia 2001.* © 1993-2000 Microsoft Corp. All rights reserved.

GEORGE B. MCCLELLAN (1826-1885)

George Brinton McClellan was born in Philadelphia, December 3, 1826, and educated at the University of Pennsylvania and the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, New York. At the outbreak of the Civil War, he was commissioned major general in the regular army and, after the First Battle of Bull Run, commanded the Army of the Potomac, the troops in and around Washington, D.C. In November 1861 he was appointed commander in chief of the Union army.

In 1862 President Abraham Lincoln believed that the Union troops should move directly against the Confederates at Manassas, Virginia, but McClellan disagreed and advanced on Richmond from the east. During the ensuing Peninsular campaign, the Union army was generally successful, but their failure to take Richmond, the Confederate capital, gave new impetus to the South. The president was dissatisfied with the campaign, and McClellan was superseded by Henry Wager Halleck as commander in chief. McClellan was then ordered to evacuate the peninsula and go to the aid of the troops near Manassas. He arrived too late to be of assistance, however, and after the defeat of the Union army in the Second Battle of Bull Run, he was again placed in active command of the Army of the Potomac. In September 1862 he fought at Antietam. He stopped the Confederate attempt to invade the North, but because of heavy Union losses, he was again relieved of his command. He took no further part in the war.

In 1864 McClellan was nominated by the Democratic Party as its candidate for president on a peace platform, but he was defeated by Lincoln. McClellan served as governor of New Jersey from 1878 to 1881, and he died in Orange, New Jersey, October 29, 1885.

WILLIAM T. SHERMAN (1820-1891)

William Tecumseh Sherman was born on February 8, 1820, in Lancaster, Ohio, and educated at the U.S. Military Academy. After an undistinguished military career he resigned from the army in 1853 to become a partner in a banking firm in San Francisco. He was president of a military college in Alexandria, Louisiana (now Louisiana State University) from 1859 to the beginning of 1861, when Louisiana seceded from the Union. At the outbreak of the Civil War in 1861, he offered his services to the Union Army and was put in command of a volunteer infantry regiment, becoming a brigadier general of volunteers after the First Battle of Bull Run. Sherman led a division at the Battle of Shiloh on April 6 and 7, 1862, and was rewarded for his part in the victory by being promoted to major general of volunteers. In December of that year he failed in an attempt to seize the Confederate stronghold of Vicksburg, on the Mississippi River, but in 1863 he fought under General Ulysses S. Grant in the campaign that ended in the capture of that city in July. He was given command of the Army of Tennessee in the fall of 1863 and fought in the Battle of Chattanooga.

In 1864 Sherman was made supreme commander of the armies in the West and was ordered to move against Atlanta, Georgia. During the opening months of the campaign, he lost the Battle of Kennesaw Mountain, and he did not capture Atlanta until almost three months later, on September 1.

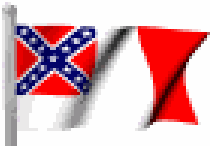
"Sherman, William Tecumseh." *Microsoft® Encarta® Encyclopedia 2001.* © 1993-2000 Microsoft Corp. All rights reserved.

After ordering the burning of the military resources of the city, he launched his most celebrated military action, known as Sherman's march to the sea, in which, with about 60,000 picked men, he marched from Atlanta to Savannah, Georgia, on the Atlantic coast. After reaching Savannah, Sherman next set out to join forces with Grant in Virginia by marching from Georgia up through North and South Carolina. During Sherman's march, the Northern soldiers pillaged the areas they passed through demolishing military resources along with houses, farms, and railroads. Destruction was especially severe in South Carolina because Union soldiers blamed the state for starting the war. In February 1865 Columbia, the capital of South Carolina, was burned to the ground, although the origins of the fire are unknown. Sherman hoped that the destruction of his march would lower Southern morale and help end the war.

After three months of fighting, Sherman reached Raleigh, North Carolina, and was prepared to continue north to Virginia. However, the war came to an end. Following the surrender of Confederate General Robert E. Lee to Grant on April 9, the Confederate army confronting Sherman surrendered to him at Durham Station on April 26, 1865.

After the war Sherman was commissioned lieutenant general in the regular army and, following Grant's election to the presidency, he was promoted to the rank of full general on March 4, 1869 and given command of the entire U.S. Army. He published his *Memoirs* in 1875 and retired in 1883. The famous phrase "war is hell" is attributed to Sherman.

ON THE CONFEDERATE SIDE



JEFFERSON DAVIS (1808-1889)



Jefferson Davis was born on June 3, 1808, in Christian (now Todd) County, Kentucky, and educated at Transylvania University, Lexington, Kentucky, and at the U.S. Military Academy. After his graduation in 1828, he saw frontier service until ill health forced his resignation from the army in 1835. He was a planter in Mississippi from 1835 to 1845, when he was elected to the U.S. Congress. In 1846 he resigned his seat in order to serve in the Mexican War and fought at Monterrey and Buena Vista, where he was wounded. He was U.S. Senator from Mississippi 1847 - 1851, secretary of war in the cabinet of President Franklin Pierce 1853 - 1857, and again U.S. Senator 1857 - 1861. As a Senator he often stated his support of slavery and of states' rights, and as a cabinet member he influenced Pierce to sign the Kansas-Nebraska Act, which favored the South and increased the bitterness of the struggle over slavery. In his second term as senator he became the acknowledged spokesman for the Southern point of view. He opposed the idea of secession from the Union, however, as a means of maintaining the principles of the South. Even after the first steps toward secession had been taken, he tried to keep the Southern states in the Union, although not at the expense of their principles. When the state of Mississippi seceded, he withdrew from the Senate.

"Davis, Jefferson." *Microsoft® Encarta® Encyclopedia 2001.* © 1993-2000 Microsoft Corp. All rights reserved.

On February 18, 1861, the provisional Congress of the Confederate States made him provisional president. He was elected to the office by popular vote the same year for a 6-year term and was inaugurated in Richmond, Virginia, the capital of the Confederacy, on February 22, 1862. Davis failed to raise sufficient money to fight the American Civil War and could not obtain recognition and help for the Confederacy from foreign governments. He was in constant conflict with extreme exponents of the doctrine of states' rights, and his attempts to have high military officers appointed by the president were opposed by the governors of the states. The judges of state courts constantly interfered in military matters through judicial decisions. Davis was nevertheless responsible for the raising of the formidable Confederate armies, the notable appointment of General Robert E. Lee as commander of the Army of Virginia, and the encouragement of industrial enterprise throughout the South. His zeal, energy, and faith in the cause of the South were a source of much of the tenacity with which the Confederacy fought the Civil War. Even in 1865 Davis still hoped the South would be able to achieve its independence, but at last he realized defeat was imminent and fled from Richmond. On May 10, 1865, federal troops captured him at Irwinville, Georgia. From 1865 to 1867 he was imprisoned at Fortress Monroe, Virginia. Davis was indicted for treason in 1866 but the next year was released on a bond of \$100,000 signed by the American newspaper publisher Horace Greeley and other influential Northerners. In 1868 the federal government dropped the case against him. From 1870 to 1878 he engaged in a number of unsuccessful business enterprises; and from 1878 until his death in New Orleans, on December 6, 1889, he lived near Biloxi, Mississippi. His grave is in Richmond, Virginia. He wrote *The Rise and Fall of the Confederate Government* (1881).

ROBERT E. LEE (1807-1870)

Robert Edward Lee was born on January 19, 1807, in Stratford, Virginia, the son of Lighthorse Harry Lee, and was educated at the U.S. Military Academy. He graduated second in his class in 1829, receiving a commission as second lieutenant in the engineers. He became first lieutenant in 1836, and captain in 1838. He distinguished himself in the battles of the Mexican War and was wounded in the storming of Chapultepec in 1847; for his meritorious service he received his third brevet promotion in rank. He became superintendent of the U.S. Military Academy and later was appointed colonel of cavalry. He was in command of the Department of Texas in 1860, and, early the following year, was summoned to Washington, D.C., when war between the states seemed imminent. President Abraham Lincoln offered him the field command of the Union forces, but Lee declined. On April 20, three days after Virginia seceded from the Union, he submitted his resignation from the U.S. Army. On April 23 he became commander in chief of the military and naval forces of Virginia. For a year he was military adviser to Jefferson Davis, president of the Confederate States of America, and was then placed in command of the army in northern Virginia. In February 1865 Lee was made commander in chief of all Confederate armies; two months later the war was virtually ended by his surrender to General Ulysses S. Grant at Appomattox Court House. His great battles included those of Antietam, Chancellorsville, Fredericksburg, and Gettysburg.

"Lee, Robert E(dward)." *Microsoft® Encarta® Encyclopedia 2001.* © 1993-2000 Microsoft Corp. All rights reserved.

The masterly strategy of Lee was overcome only by the superior resources and troop strength of the Union. His campaigns are almost universally studied in military schools as models of strategy and tactics. He had a capacity for anticipating the actions of his opponents and for comprehending their weaknesses. He made skillful use of interior lines of communication and kept a convex front toward the enemy, so that his reinforcements, transfers, and supplies could reach their destination over short, direct routes. His greatest contribution to military practice, however, was his use of field fortifications as aids to maneuvering. He recognized that a small body of soldiers, protected by entrenchments, can hold an enemy force of many times their number, while the main body outflanks the enemy or attacks a smaller force elsewhere. In his application of this principle Lee was years ahead of his time; the tactic was not fully understood or generally adopted until the 20th century.

Lee applied for but was never granted the official postwar amnesty. He accepted the presidency of Washington College, now Washington and Lee University, in the fall of 1865; within a few years it had become an outstanding institution. He died there on October 12, 1870. Lee has long been revered as an ideal by southerners and as a hero by all Americans. His antebellum home is now known as Arlington House, the Robert E. Lee Memorial, and is a national memorial. In 1975 Lee's citizenship was restored posthumously by an act of the U.S. Congress.

STONEWALL JACKSON (1824-1863)

Thomas Jonathan Jackson was born on January 21, 1824, in Clarksburg, Virginia (now in West Virginia), and was educated at the U.S. Military Academy. Following his graduation (1846) from West Point he participated in the Mexican War. He became an instructor at the Virginia Military Institute (VMI) in 1851. On the outbreak of the American Civil War in 1861, Jackson left VMI to enter the Confederate army. He was immediately commissioned a colonel and within months was given the rank of brigadier general. Jackson earned his popular nickname at the First Battle of Bull Run (1861), where his troops stood against the Union forces "like a stone wall," according to a colleague, Brig. General Barnard E. Bee. While commanding his troops during a campaign in the Shenandoah Valley in the spring of 1862, Jackson executed a remarkable tactical maneuver against three Union armies then menacing Richmond. After driving back the army of General Nathaniel Prentiss Banks, which was advancing from the north, Jackson turned and defeated the armies threatening to attack his rear ranks from the east and west.

Jackson subsequently took part, with General Robert E. Lee, in the defeat of General George McClellan in the Seven Days' Battle at Richmond. In August 1862, Jackson defeated the army of General John Pope, thus ensuring a Confederate victory at the Second Battle of Bull Run. Jackson then crossed the Potomac into Maryland with Lee, who ordered him to capture Harpers Ferry. His task accomplished in September 1862, Jackson rushed north to Antietam Creek to aid Lee, who was under attack by an overwhelming Union force. Jackson commanded the right wing of the victorious Confederate army at Fredericksburg in December 1862. During the Rappahannock campaign in Virginia the following spring, by launching a

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surprise attack on the rear columns of the Union army, Jackson prevented the threatened encirclement of the Confederate forces by the troops of General Joseph Hooker. On May 2, 1863, while leading his forces at Chancellorsville, Jackson was accidentally shot and fatally wounded by his own men.

JOHNSTON, JOSEPH E. (1807-1891)

"Johnston, Joseph E."
Encyclopaedia
Britannica Ultimate
Reference Suite
2004 CD.

Confederate general who never suffered a direct defeat during the American Civil War (1861–65). His military effectiveness, though, was hindered by a long-standing feud with Jefferson Davis.

A graduate of the U.S. Military Academy, West Point, N.Y. (1829), Johnston resigned his commission at the outbreak of the Civil War to offer his services to his native state of Virginia. Given the rank of brigadier general in the Confederate Army of the Shenandoah (May 1861), he was credited in July with the first important Southern victory at the First Battle of Bull Run (Manassas). He was promoted to general, but his dissatisfaction with his seniority was the start of his lengthy differences with Davis, president of the Confederacy. When the Peninsular Campaign began in April 1862, Johnston withdrew to defend the capital at Richmond. Although objecting to the strategy prescribed by Davis, he fought well against the Union forces. Severely wounded at the Battle of Fair Oaks (Seven Pines) in May, he was replaced by General Robert E. Lee.

A year later Johnston assumed control of Confederate forces in Mississippi threatened by the Federal advance on Vicksburg. He warned General John C. Pemberton to evacuate the city, but President Davis counterordered Pemberton to hold it at all costs. Lacking sufficient troops, Johnston could not relieve Pemberton, and Vicksburg fell on July 4, 1863. Bitterly criticized, he nonetheless took command of the Army of the Tennessee in December as the combined armies of the North advanced toward Atlanta, Ga. Subsequent events demonstrated the soundness of Johnston's strategy of planned withdrawal to avoid a defeat by superior forces and the disintegration of the Confederate Army; nevertheless, Davis, dissatisfied with his failure to defeat the invaders, replaced him in July.

Restored to duty in February 1865, Johnston took command of his old army, now in North Carolina, and succeeded in delaying the advance of General William T. Sherman at Bentonville, in March. But lack of men and supplies forced Johnston to order continued withdrawal, and he surrendered to Sherman at Durham Station, N.C., on April 26.

After the war, Johnston engaged in business ventures, wrote his memoirs, served in the U.S. House of Representatives (1879–81), and was named U.S. commissioner of railroads in 1885.

ACTIVITIES

1. Prior to the presentation list what students already know about the Civil War or what their impression are. Revisit the list after the performance.
2. *Echoes of Glory* is a one-man play which depicts two main characters. How does the actor Eric Wolf portray each character? What does he do to let you know when he is in a different character?
3. The Civil War was literally a war of brother against brother. Have students discuss when they've been mad at a sibling. What do they think it would be like to fight a war against their own siblings?
4. Have students research their ancestors. Did any fight in the American Civil War? Collect stories (or letters) about their experience. Have students present these stories (written or orally). Then have them rewrite the stories as if they were writing a fictional work (possibly adding details about the place and time or personality characteristics).
 - * Student could also collect stories from living relatives who fought in other conflicts, such as World War II, Korea, Vietnam, 1991 Gulf War, or current conflicts in Afghanistan and Iraq.
 - * If students have relatives who came to America because of armed conflict in their native countries, they could collect stories about their experiences.
5. General Ulysses S. Grant wrote a memoir about his experience during the Civil War. Students can read his book or another war memoir and do a report.
6. Have a debate concerning whether or not a state has the right to secede. Can use different historical or current events as examples, like the Civil War or the break up of the Soviet Union.
 - * **One side:** Citizens of a country must respect the choice of the majority in a democratic election.
 - * **Other side:** Citizens have the right to self-determination (the right to choose one's own political status) even if it means creating a new nation.
7. Compare the issues surrounding the American Revolutionary War (America's secession from Great Britain) and those of the American Civil War (the South's secession from the North).
8. Have students think about what the United States would be like if the North had let the South secede or if the South had won the Civil War. Would there still be slavery? Why or why not? If not, how long would it have lasted? How would the history of civil rights be different? What else would be different?

9. Flags are a symbol that represents a country (or state). When the Confederate States of America formed, they created a flag to represent this new country. Design a flag to represent your school. What principles do you want it to display? What symbols will you use to present those principles?
10. Research topics:
Missouri Compromise of 1820
Kansas-Nebraska Act of 1854
The Dred Scott Case
Fort Sumter; President Lincoln
General Ulysses S. Grant
General Robert E. Lee
Emancipation Proclamation
Battle of Gettysburg
Wade-Davis Bill of 1864
the abolition movement
the Underground Railroad.
11. Places locally to visit:
Harriet Beecher Stowe House
Cincinnati Historical Society at the Museum Center
Memorial Hall
National Underground Freedom Center.

