

The Civil War

Lesson 2 Early Years of the War

ESSENTIAL QUESTION

Why does conflict develop?

GUIDING QUESTIONS

1. *What was the outcome of the first major battle of the war?*
2. *How did the Union respond to important defeats in the East in 1862?*
3. *What was the effect of the Emancipation Proclamation?*

Terms to Know

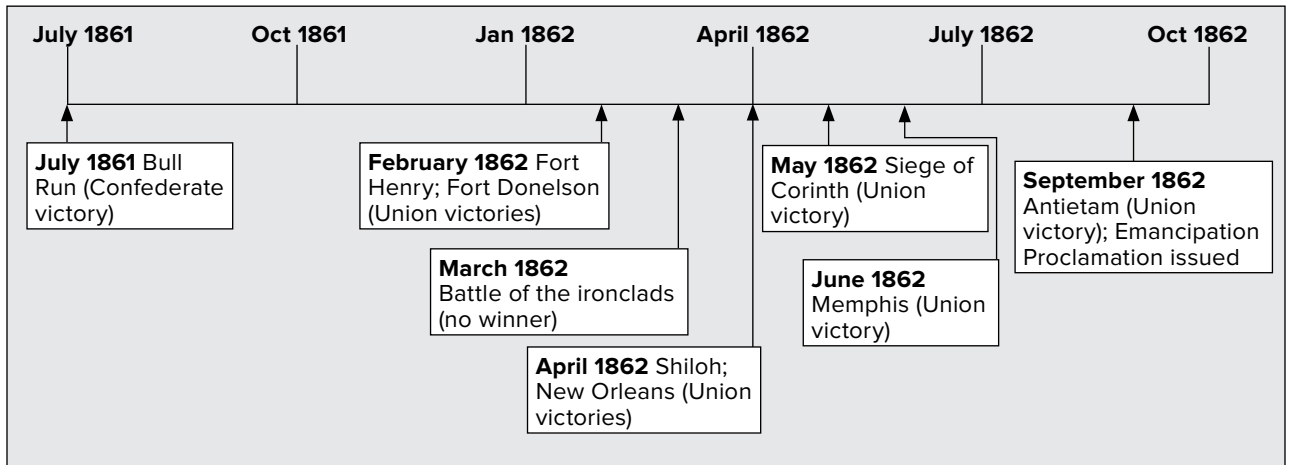
tributary stream or smaller river that flows into a larger river

ironclad a warship equipped with iron plating for protection

casualty a soldier who is killed, wounded, captured, or missing in battle

Emancipation Proclamation formal announcement from President Lincoln, dated January 1, 1863. It freed enslaved people in parts of the South that were in rebellion.

When did it happen?



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What do you know?

In the first column, answer the questions based on what you know before you study. After this lesson, complete the last column.

Now...		Later...
	What was important about April 25, 1862?	
	What happened at Antietam?	

The Civil War

Lesson 2 Early Years of the War, *Continued*

War on Land and at Sea

The first big battle of the Civil War took place on July 21, 1861. It happened in northern Virginia near a small river called Bull Run. About 30,000 Union soldiers attacked a smaller Confederate force. People came from nearby Washington, D.C., to watch the battle.

At first, the Yankees pushed the Confederates back. But General Thomas Jackson inspired the rebels to keep fighting. Jackson held his position “like a stone wall,” so people called him “Stonewall” Jackson. The Confederates began fighting back hard. They forced Union troops to retreat. The crowd that was watching ran away.

The Battle of Bull Run shocked Northerners. They now realized the war would be long and hard. President Lincoln named a new general to head the Union army of the East. The general was George B. McClellan. Lincoln also called for more people to join the army.

The Union did better in the West. In the West, the Union wanted to control the Mississippi River and its **tributaries** (TRIH•byuh•tehr•eez). Tributaries are smaller rivers that flow into a larger river. This would stop Louisiana, Arkansas, and Texas from shipping supplies to the rest of the Confederacy. Union boats and soldiers would be able to move further into the South.

The battle for the rivers began in February 1862. General Ulysses S. Grant and General Andrew Foote led the attacks. They attacked Fort Henry on the Tennessee River. They attacked Fort Donelson on the Cumberland River. They captured both forts. Grant was now a hero in the North.

The Union had set up a blockade of Confederate ports. Southerners had a secret weapon. It was an old Union warship called the *Merrimack*. The Confederates rebuilt it and covered it with iron to protect it. The **ironclad** ship was renamed the *Virginia*.

On March 8, 1862, the *Virginia* attacked Union ships in Chesapeake Bay. The North fired shells at it, but they just bounced off. Northern leaders were afraid of the *Virginia*. Then, the North got an ironclad ship of its own. It was called the *Monitor*. On March 9, the two ships met in battle. The ships could not sink each other, so neither side won.

In early April 1862, General Grant led about 40,000 soldiers toward Corinth, Mississippi, an important railroad junction. The army stopped 20 miles (32 km) away, near Shiloh Church. More Union soldiers arrived.



Explaining

1. What was surprising about the battle at Bull Run?



Critical Thinking

2. Why did the battle of the ironclad ships raise spirits on both sides?

The Civil War

Lesson 2 Early Years of the War, *Continued*

? Reading Check

3. How did the loss of New Orleans affect the Confederacy?

✓ Reading Check

4. What happened after the Battle of Antietam?

FOLDABLES®

5. Use a two-tab Foldable and cut the tabs in half to make four tabs. Place it along the dotted line to cover the heading “The Emancipation Proclamation.” Write *Emancipation Proclamation* on the anchor tab. Label the four tabs *What*, *Where*, *When*, and *Why*. Use both sides of the tabs to write information about President Lincoln’s proclamation.

The Confederates attacked first. The Battle of Shiloh lasted two days. Both sides lost many soldiers. There were more than 23,000 **casualties** (KA • zhuhl • teez)—people killed, wounded, or captured. In the end, the Union won.

Union soldiers moved on to Corinth. They surrounded it. No food or supplies could reach Corinth. The Confederates withdrew and Union troops entered on May 30. On June 6, they took Memphis, Tennessee. It seemed they would control the Mississippi River soon.

The Union navy also won an important battle. On April 25, the navy captured New Orleans, Louisiana. New Orleans was the largest city in the South. With Louisiana in Union control, the Confederacy could no longer use the Mississippi River to carry its goods to sea. The Union only had to capture Vicksburg, Mississippi, to have full control of the Mississippi River.

War in the Eastern States

In the East, the Union tried hard to capture Richmond, Virginia. That was the Confederate capital. Confederate soldiers fought hard to protect it. The South had good military leaders, such as General Robert E. Lee and General “Stonewall” Jackson. They knew the land well. They inspired their soldiers. They won important battles:

- the Seven Days’ Battle (1862)
- the Second Battle of Bull Run (1862)
- Fredericksburg (1862)
- Chancellorsville (1863).

Lee moved his troops into Maryland. He had planned to continue into Pennsylvania. Lee split his army into four parts. He told each part to move in a different direction. He wanted to confuse General McClellan. Lee’s plan did not work. A Confederate officer lost his copy of the plan, and it fell into McClellan’s hands. On September 17, 1862, the two sides fought the Battle of Antietam near Sharpsburg, Maryland. The Union won this battle.

Antietam was the deadliest single day of fighting in the war. Lee went back to Virginia after the battle. His plan to invade the North had failed.

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The Emancipation Proclamation

Abolitionists, including Frederick Douglass and Horace Greeley, wanted Lincoln to make the Civil War a fight to end slavery.

The Civil War

Lesson 2 Early Years of the War, *Continued*

They said slavery was wrong. They said it was the reason for the split between North and South. They believed Britain and France would be less willing to support the South if Lincoln said the Civil War was a war to end slavery. The South needed Britain's and France's support.

Lincoln believed that saving the Union was more important than ending slavery.

The Constitution did not give Lincoln power to end slavery. It did give him the power to take property from an enemy during a war, though. Enslaved people were considered to be property. On September 22, 1862, Lincoln said he would issue the **Emancipation Proclamation**. All enslaved people in Rebel-held territory would be freed on January 1, 1863.

The Emancipation Proclamation did not free any enslaved people right away. It was only for places held by the Confederacy. Lincoln had no power there. Also, the proclamation was not for the border states. Still, the proclamation was important. It said that slavery is wrong. If the Union won the war, slavery would end.

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Check for Understanding

Explain the Northern generals' plan to use the Mississippi River to defeat the South.

How did the Emancipation Proclamation affect enslaved people in the South?

Reading Check

6. How did the Emancipation Proclamation affect the reason for the war?



7. Glue a one-tab Foldable along the dotted line to cover Check for Understanding. Draw a large circle on the tab and label it *Civil War*. Draw two smaller circles inside it. Label the small circles *Mississippi River* and *Slavery*. Inside the circles, list facts that show why both were important to the war. Use the reverse side to write additional information. Use your Foldable to help answer Check for Understanding.