

VS.7a

Virginia: Contributions to a New Nation and the Civil War

Because of economic differences between the North and South, they were unable to resolve their conflicts and the South seceded from the United States of America.

Terms to Know

- *secede*: to withdraw or break away from a group or organization
- *secession*: the withdrawal of southern states from the Union
- *abolitionist*: a person who is against the practice of slavery
- *revolt*: uprising against (government)
- *enslaved*: people who were considered property of their owners/had no civil rights

Some Issues that Divided the United States after the American Revolution and before the Civil War

The economy in the northern part of the United States was industrialized, while in the southern part it was agricultural and relied on slave labor.



In the early 1800s, industries developed in the North along the eastern coast of the United States, where there were many rivers and waterfalls to power machines. Factories began using mass production and standardized parts. This meant that factories could make products faster and in greater numbers than ever before.

In the South, farmers produced tobacco, corn, and other crops throughout the 1700s. Growing tobacco and cotton required a lot of labor in the fields. More and more slaves were brought to work on the southern plantations. In 1790, fewer than 70,000 slaves lived in the South. In 1830, there were approximately 2 million slaves.



The economy in the northern states was more industrialized using machines, while in the southern region, it was agricultural and relied more on slave labor.

The northern states (industrialized/factories) wanted any new state created from western territories to become a free state, while the southern states (agricultural/farming) wanted any new state in the western territories to become a slave state.

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Nat Turner (*Abolitionist*) led a revolt against plantation owners in Virginia.

Nat Turner was born in 1800 in Southampton County, Virginia. In 1831, Nat Turner and his small band of fellow slaves led a rebellion in Southampton County, Virginia. For two days, they went from farm to farm and killed nearly 60 white men, women, and children from slave-owning families. Turner hid in the woods for six weeks before he was finally caught.



Harriet Tubman (*Abolitionist*)

Harriet Tubman escaped from slavery in Maryland in 1849. She returned to the South many times and helped over 300 other slaves gain their freedom. Harriet Tubman supported a secret route that helped enslaved people escape to the North. The secret route that the escaped slaves took became known as the Underground Railroad. Escaped slaves hid during the day and traveled by night. They had to avoid patrols that were looking for runaway slaves. People who showed slaves the way to freedom were called Conductors.



John Brown (*Abolitionist*) led a raid on the United States Armory (Arsenal) at Harpers Ferry, Virginia.

In 1859, an abolitionist named John Brown led a raid on the United States Armory (Arsenal) at Harpers Ferry, Virginia. He planned to distribute the weapons stored there and start a slave rebellion. He was unsuccessful. (Please note: In 1859, Harpers Ferry was located in Virginia. West Virginia did not exist until 1863.)



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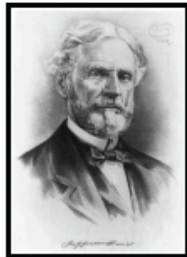
After Abraham Lincoln became President of the United States in 1860, seven southern states seceded from the Union. Later, other southern states, including Virginia, seceded to form the Confederate States of America.

Abraham Lincoln was firmly opposed to the spread of slavery to other states. To preserve the Union (the United States of America), he pledged to leave slavery alone where it already existed. However, if no new "slave" states were admitted to the Union, "free" states would soon be a majority in Congress. The South would lose its political power. Some southern states talked about seceding from the Union if Lincoln was elected.



When Lincoln won the election, South Carolina decided to secede.

By March of 1861, seven southern states (South Carolina, Mississippi, Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Texas, Louisiana) seceded to form the Confederate States of America. Representatives of these seven states met at Montgomery, Alabama, and formed a provisional government. Montgomery, Alabama was the first capital city of the Confederacy. Jefferson Davis, a United States Senator from Mississippi, was made President of the Confederate States of America.



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Battle at Fort Sumter

A large number of northerners and southerners alike wanted to avoid a "war between the states" formally known as the Civil War. In many southern states, only a small majority voted for secession. Many northerners would have let the seceding states depart from the Union rather than go to war. But President Abraham Lincoln had promised not to let Union property be taken by the Confederates. The Confederate takeover of Fort Sumter in South Carolina, which was a Union garrison or fort, made armed conflict inevitable. The conflict began at Fort Sumter, South Carolina, in 1861.



Conflict grew between the eastern counties of Virginia that relied on enslaved people and western counties that were against slavery. The disagreement between the two regions of the state led to the formation of the new state of West Virginia.



The eastern counties of Virginia grew tobacco and cotton, that relied heavily on enslaved people working the fields. The western counties were against slavery. After many disagreements between these two regions, the western counties of Virginia chose to form the new state of West Virginia in 1863.



Virginia: Contributions to a New Nation and the Civil War

Part 1: Virginia played a significant role in the Civil War and became a major battleground between Union and Confederate troops.

Once Virginia seceded from the United States of America, the capital city of the Confederacy was changed from Montgomery, Alabama to Richmond, Virginia. Because of this change, much of the Civil War was fought between the Capitol of the Confederacy (in Richmond, Virginia) and the Capitol of the United States (in nearby Washington, D.C.).

Some Major Civil War Battles/Events Fought in Virginia

In 26 major battles and more than 400 military conflicts of the Civil War, more men fought and died in Virginia than in any other state.

Battle of Bull Run or Manassas (July of 1861)

Bull Run is a small stream located 30 miles southwest of Washington, D.C. The Battle of Bull Run or Manassas was the first major clash of the Civil War in Virginia that occurred on July 21, 1861. Confederate General Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson and his men played a major role in stopping the Union advances.

Sea Battle of the USS Monitor and the USS Merrimack /CSS Virginia (March of 1862)

President Abraham Lincoln used the Union Navy to blockade southern seaports to disrupt the Confederacy's military transportation route. A key sea battle between two ironclad ships, the Monitor (Union/North) and the Merrimack (Confederate/South, also known as the Virginia), took place in Virginia waters near Norfolk and Hampton. The four-hour battle was fought to a draw, with neither ship being seriously damaged. The battle revolutionized naval warfare.



(FYI: USS Merrimack was originally a Union frigate throughout most of its existence. The Union Navy abandoned the frigate at the Norfolk Naval Yard. To prevent the Confederates from using the ship, the Union Army sank it. The Confederates raised the ship, made major changes, and renamed it the ironclad CSS Virginia. They used it against the Union ironclad USS Monitor.)

Virginia: Contributions to a New Nation and the Civil War

Part 2: Virginia played a significant role in the Civil War and became a major battleground between Union and Confederate troops.

Battle of Fredericksburg (December of 1862)

General Robert E. Lee, Commander of the Army of Northern Virginia, defeated the Union forces. *It was a major Union defeat with more than 12,000 Union casualties.*

The Siege of Petersburg (1864-1865)



In 1864, General Ulysses S. Grant moved toward Richmond through a siege of Petersburg. Confederate General Robert E. Lee and his troops dug and stayed in trenches for almost ten months. Ulysses S. Grant successfully captured Petersburg. On April 2, 1865, General Robert E. Lee realized that Richmond would also fall to the Union armies. He sent word to Confederate President Jefferson Davis to leave Richmond, the capital city of the Confederacy.

Battle of Richmond (1865)

Since the Capitol of the Confederacy was located in Richmond, Virginia, Union forces attacked it constantly. Union General Ulysses S. Grant captured Richmond on April 3, 1865. *But before the Confederate soldiers left, they set fire to their own arsenal (armory) to keep weapons out of Union hands. The fire spread out of control and destroyed at least half of the city.*

The Civil War ended in the home of Wilmer McLean at Appomattox Court House, Virginia, where Confederate General Robert E. Lee surrendered his army to Union General Ulysses S. Grant on April 9, 1865.



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Some Civil War Leaders/Confederacy

Robert E. Lee (Confederacy/Southern states)

Robert Edward Lee lived from 1807-1870. He was born in Westmoreland County, Virginia. Unlike many Southerners, Lee did not believe in slavery and did not favor secession. Long before the Civil War, he had freed the few slaves he had inherited. Lee had difficulty in deciding whether to stand by his state of Virginia, which just seceded, or to remain with the Union.



Even though President Lincoln offered Robert E. Lee the Field Command of the United States Army, he refused it, indicating that he would not fight against his fellow Southerners. After his decision, he was given command of the Confederate Army of Northern Virginia in June. Lee rejected Union advances at the Battle of Fredericksburg. Beginning in July of 1864, Lee and his troops held out against Grant for almost ten months in the Siege of Petersburg. Early in 1865, Lee became General-in-Chief of all Confederate armies, but the South was near collapse. He surrendered on April 9, 1865 to Ulysses S. Grant in the Wilmer McLean home at Appomattox Court House, Virginia.



Jefferson Davis (Confederacy/Southern states)

Jefferson Davis lived from 1808-1889. He was the President of the Confederacy from 1861 to 1865. As President of the Confederacy, he assumed strong centralized power, which weakened the States' Rights Policy for which the South had seceded. Jefferson Davis was captured in 1865 by Union forces. He was imprisoned for two years and was released in 1867 without going to court for a trial.

Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson (Confederacy/Southern states)

Thomas Jonathan Jackson lived from 1824-1863. He was a Confederate General in the Civil War. He was born in Clarksburg, Virginia (now West Virginia). He played a major role in the Battle of Bull Run or Manassas. That is where he earned his nickname when he and his brigade stood "like a stone wall." At Chancellorsville (May 1863), Stonewall Jackson was mistakenly shot by a Confederate soldier and later died of pneumonia.



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Some Civil War Leaders/Union

Abraham Lincoln (Union/Northern states)

Abraham Lincoln lived from 1809-1865. He was the 16th President of the United States. He was born in Hardin County (now Larue County), Kentucky in a log cabin in the backwoods. Lincoln was almost entirely self-educated. He settled in New Salem, Illinois and worked as a storekeeper, surveyor, and postmaster while studying law. In 1836, Lincoln became a lawyer. He ran for Senator in 1855, but failed. He ran again in 1858 against Stephen A. Douglas and failed. Although he lost the election, he had by now made a name for himself since he regarded slavery as wrong and opposed its extension.



In 1860, he was elected President of the United States. To the southern states, Lincoln's election was a signal for secession. By Inauguration Day, seven states (South Carolina, Mississippi, Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Texas, and Louisiana) had seceded and four more (Virginia, Tennessee, North Carolina, and Arkansas) seceded after he issued a summons to the militia.

On January 1st of 1863, he moved to free the slaves in the South by issuing the Emancipation Proclamation. The Emancipation Proclamation stated that all slaves of the Confederacy were from that moment "forever free." Lincoln saw the end of the Civil War, but did not live to implement his plan for Reconstruction. While attending a play at Ford's Theater in Washington, D.C., he was shot and killed by actor John Wilkes Booth.

Ulysses S. Grant (Union/Northern states)



Ulysses Simpson Grant was born in Point Pleasant, Ohio. He lived from 1822-1885. He was the Commander-in-Chief of the Union Army in the Civil War. After several Civil War battles, President Lincoln made him Commander-in-Chief in March of 1864. He received Robert E. Lee's surrender in the Wilmer McLean home at Appomattox Court House on April 9, 1865. He was made full General in 1866, the first citizen after George Washington to hold that rank. He was the 18th President of the United States (1869-1877).

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Whites, enslaved African Americans, free African Americans, and American Indians participated in the Civil War.

Terms to Know

- *enslaved*: people who were considered property of their owners and had no civil rights
- *free*: African Americans who owned their own business and property, but were denied most civil rights

Most white Virginians supported the Confederacy during the Civil War. They were fighting to maintain their way of life. Enslaved African Americans were forced by their owners to continue to raise crops in the fields and to provide labor for the Confederate Army. Although free African Americans could own businesses and property, they felt their civil rights would best be protected by supporting the Confederacy. Most American Indians did not take sides during the Civil War.



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Virginia: Reconstruction and Life in Virginia Today

Virginia's land and economy were in ruins after the Civil War. Virginians faced serious problems in rebuilding the state after the war.

Terms to Know

- **Reconstruction**: the time period following the Civil War in which Congress passed laws designed to rebuild the country and bring the southern states back into the Union
- *sharecropping*: an agreement where people could rent farmland, grow crops, and promise to pay back the landowner with crops when they were harvested

Virginians faced numerous problems during Reconstruction.

- Millions of freed slaves needed housing, clothing, food, and jobs.
- Virginia's economy was in ruins.
 - Money had no value.
 - Banks were closed.
 - Railroads, bridges, plantations, and crops were destroyed.
- Virginia had no functioning government and was no longer a part of the United States of America.



Virginians had to work hard to resolve problems during Reconstruction.

- Congress created the *Freedmen's Bureau* in 1865. This government agency provided food, schools, and medical care for freed African Americans and others in the South.
- A new system of farming called sharecropping developed because plantation owners lacked money to pay workers. The former slaves needed land and work. Sharecropping allowed freed men and farmers to rent land from a landowner by promising to pay the landowner with a share of the crops when harvested.