

Some Civil War Leaders: Confederacy (Southern States)

Robert E. Lee

- 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

- 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

- 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.



Some Civil War Leaders: Union (Northern States)

Abraham Lincoln

- 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

- 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).

