

# The Civil War

## Lesson 5 The War's Final Stages

### ESSENTIAL QUESTION

*Why does conflict develop?*

### GUIDING QUESTIONS

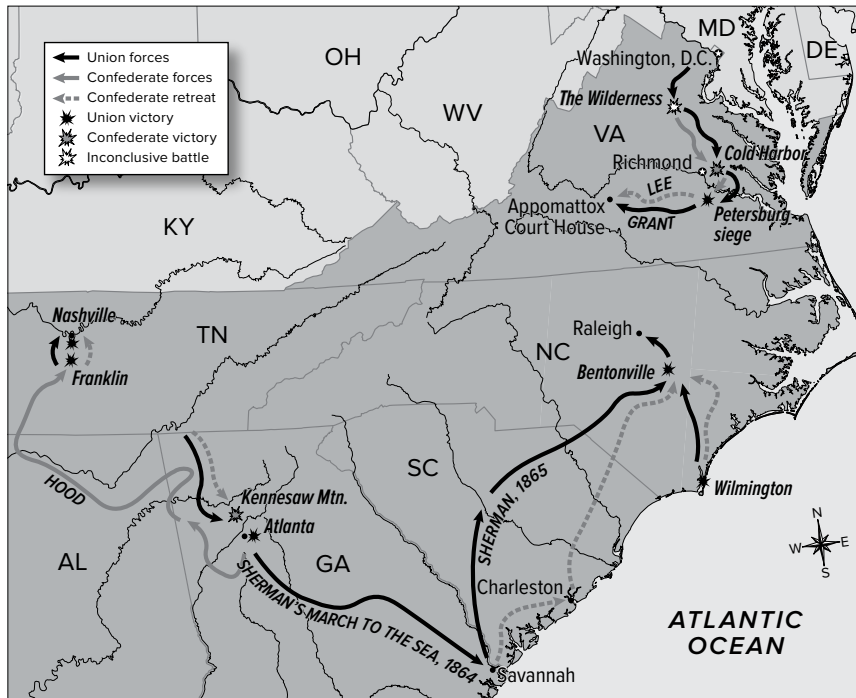
1. *What events occurred at the end of the war?*
2. *What is total war?*

### Terms to Know

**resistance** refusal to give in

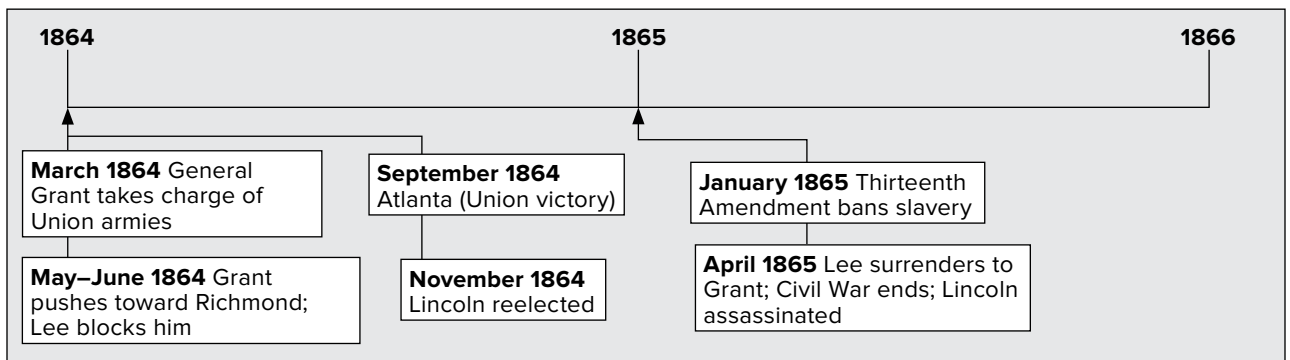
**total war** a strategy of bringing war to the entire society, not just the military

## Where in the world?



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## When did it happen?



**The Civil War**

**Lesson 5** The War’s Final Stages, *Continued*

**The Union Closes In**

By 1864, the Union army had surrounded the South. Union ships blocked the Southern coast. The Union also controlled the Mississippi River. This cut off supplies to the South. The South seemed ready to fall.

In March 1864, Lincoln put General Ulysses S. Grant in charge of all Union armies. Grant decided to attack from all sides. His armies would march to Richmond, Virginia, the Confederate capital. At the same time, Union General William Tecumseh Sherman would attack the Deep South.

Grant began moving closer and closer to Richmond in May 1864. Lee tried to stop him. They fought in three major battles in May and June of 1864. It would be the six bloodiest weeks of the war.

The Battle of the Wilderness took place in a heavily wooded area. It was about halfway between Washington, D.C., and Richmond. Lee had only about 60,000 men. Grant had more than 100,000. Grant lost 17,000 men and the Confederates lost 8,000. On the third day, there was no clear winner. Grant then headed south toward Richmond.

The next battles were fought near Richmond at Spotsylvania Court House and Cold Harbor. In just 30 days, Grant lost 50,000 soldiers. People in the North who were against his actions called him a “butcher.” Lincoln stood by him. “I can’t spare this man,” he said. “He fights.” The Confederate army also lost men. Because their army was smaller, those losses were even more harmful.

After Cold Harbor, Grant moved his troops to Petersburg, Virginia. It was a railroad center. The Confederates needed it to move soldiers and supplies. Grant attacked the city, but Confederate troops held out for nine months. Petersburg did not fall until April 1865.

In July 1864, General Sherman and his troops circled Atlanta. Confederate soldiers put up major **resistance**. However, Sherman took the city on September 1.

While Sherman was in Georgia, David Farragut led a fleet of Union ships into Mobile Bay in Alabama. The Confederates had forts on both sides of the bay. The water was full of mines. Still, the Union won. The fleet had blocked the last Southern port east of the Mississippi.



**Explaining**

1. What was Grant’s plan for winning the war?

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**Mark the Text**

2. Underline the names of three battle locations on the way to Richmond.



**Drawing Conclusions**

3. Why was Farragut’s victory in the South important?

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## The Civil War

### Lesson 5 The War's Final Stages, *Continued*



#### Mark the Text

4. Underline the reason why the Union army wanted to move into Florida.



#### Identifying

5. What was the purpose of the Thirteenth Amendment?

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#### Reading Check

6. Why did it seem that Lincoln might not be reelected in the early part of 1864?

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#### Identifying Central Issues

7. Why did General Sherman choose to use *total war* in the South?

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In February 1864, Union soldiers landed in Jacksonville. They moved into the state's center. The Union wanted to cut off Florida's supplies from the rest of the Confederate states. The Union and Confederate armies fought a furious battle at Olustee Station. It was about 13 miles (21 km) east of Lake City. The Battle of Olustee forced the Union soldiers to retreat to Jacksonville.

In March 1865, the Confederates won one of their last important battles of the war. The Battle of Natural Bridge took place in southern Leon County, Florida. The Confederate army was able to stop Union soldiers from taking the state capital of Tallahassee.

So many soldiers were dying in 1864 that many Northerners just wanted the war to end. It seemed like they might not vote for Lincoln in the November election. If Lincoln lost, the war would likely end. However, the Confederacy would then become a separate country. This kept hope alive in the South.

Then the Union blocked Mobile Bay and took Atlanta. Northerners began to believe they could win. They reelected Lincoln after all. In the South, people were losing hope.

When Lincoln was reelected, many people thought it sent a clear message. The message was that Northerners wanted to end slavery for good. On January 31, 1865, Congress passed the Thirteenth Amendment. This amendment banned slavery in the United States.

### The War Ends

After Sherman took Atlanta, his soldiers burned the city. Then they marched across Georgia to the Atlantic Coast. As they went, the troops tore up railroad lines. They burned cities and fields and killed livestock. This march across Georgia became known as Sherman's March to the Sea.

In his March to the Sea, Sherman used what is called **total war**. Total war means fighting the enemy's army but also destroying their land and people. Sherman wanted to show the Southern people that war was terrible. He hoped that this would help to end the war.

After reaching the coast, Sherman's troops turned north to join Grant's forces near Richmond. As they went, thousands of African Americans left their plantations to follow his army. They felt that the army protected them as they marched toward freedom.

## The Civil War

### Lesson 5 The War's Final Stages, *Continued*

On April 2, 1865, Petersburg finally fell to Grant's forces. When President Davis heard that Lee had retreated, he knew Grant would come to Richmond next. Davis and other Confederate leaders left the city.

The war finally ended on April 9, 1865. Lee's starving troops were surrounded at the town of Appomattox Court House, Virginia. Lee knew it was over. He surrendered to Grant. The terms of the surrender were not harsh. Lee's officers could keep their small guns. Any soldier with a horse could keep it. Grant gave the Confederate troops food, and then they were allowed to go home.

More people died in the Civil War than in any other war in American history. It cost billions of dollars. Much of the South was destroyed, and it would take many years to rebuild.

The North's victory had saved the Union. It also made it clear that the federal government was stronger than the states. It freed millions of African Americans from slavery. It also left the nation with many problems to solve. How would the Southern states be brought back into the Union? How would African Americans be treated in the South? Americans would try to answer these questions during a period known as Reconstruction.

//////////////////// Glue Foldable here //////////////////////

#### Check for Understanding

Name two important Union victories that helped ensure Lincoln's reelection.

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Why did Sherman burn and destroy the South?

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#### Analyzing

8. Name three things that happened as a result of the North's victory in the war.

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#### Reading Check

9. Why did General Lee finally surrender?

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10. Place a three-tab Foldable along the dotted line to cover Check for Understanding. Write *Final Stages of the Civil War* on the anchor tab. Label the tabs *Mobile Bay*, *Lincoln Reelected*, and *Sherman's March to the Sea*. Use both sides of the tabs to list two facts about each. Use your Foldable to help answer Check for Understanding.