

**T**HE CIVIL WAR WAS UNLIKE ANY OTHER war the United States has fought. It was the first and only war where Americans fought one another. The very foundation of the nation hung in the balance. It remains the most defining event in American history, pitting friends against friends and family members against family members.

The elements that caused the war were set in place long before the fighting began. By the early 1800s, the Northern states began to move slowly but steadily from an agricultural economy to an industrial one. The Southern states, on the other hand, remained largely agricultural and rural, with many small farms and large plantations. Much of the Southern economy relied on slave labor.

Slavery had been widespread in the United States for more than 200 years. Beginning in the early 1600s, people in Africa had been captured, loaded onto American and European merchant ships, and brought to America to be sold as slaves. The plantations of the South relied heavily on slave labor to plant and pick cotton, tobacco, and sugar. By 1800, there were nearly 894,000 slaves in the

United States, almost all of them in the South. By this time, slavery had largely disappeared in the North, where many people opposed slavery as morally wrong. Tensions over slavery and its extension into new territories sparked the Civil War, which would last four long years. The war ended in 1865, but many of the issues and feelings it raised are still a part of our lives today.



*Drums carried by soldiers from New York, Vermont, and Massachusetts during the Civil War*



## THE TWO SIDES IN THE CIVIL WAR

### THE UNION

25 States	6 Territories
CALIFORNIA	COLORADO
CONNECTICUT	DAKOTA
DELAWARE	NEBRASKA
ILLINOIS	NEW MEXICO
INDIANA	UTAH
IOWA	WASHINGTON
KANSAS	
KENTUCKY	
MAINE	
MARYLAND	
MASSACHUSETTS	
MICHIGAN	
MINNESOTA	
MISSOURI	
NEVADA*	
NEW HAMPSHIRE	
NEW JERSEY	
NEW YORK	
OHIO	
OREGON	
PENNSYLVANIA	
RHODE ISLAND	
VERMONT	
WEST VIRGINIA*	
WISCONSIN	

\*These two states were admitted into the Union during the Civil War.



### THE CONFEDERATE STATES OF AMERICA

**SOUTH CAROLINA**  
(December 20, 1860)

**MISSISSIPPI**  
(January 9, 1861)

**FLORIDA**  
(January 10, 1861)

**ALABAMA**  
(January 11, 1861)

**GEORGIA**  
(January 19, 1861)

**LOUISIANA**  
(January 26, 1861)

**TEXAS**  
(February 1, 1861)

**VIRGINIA**  
(April 17, 1861)

**ARKANSAS**  
(May 6, 1861)

**NORTH CAROLINA**  
(May 20, 1861)

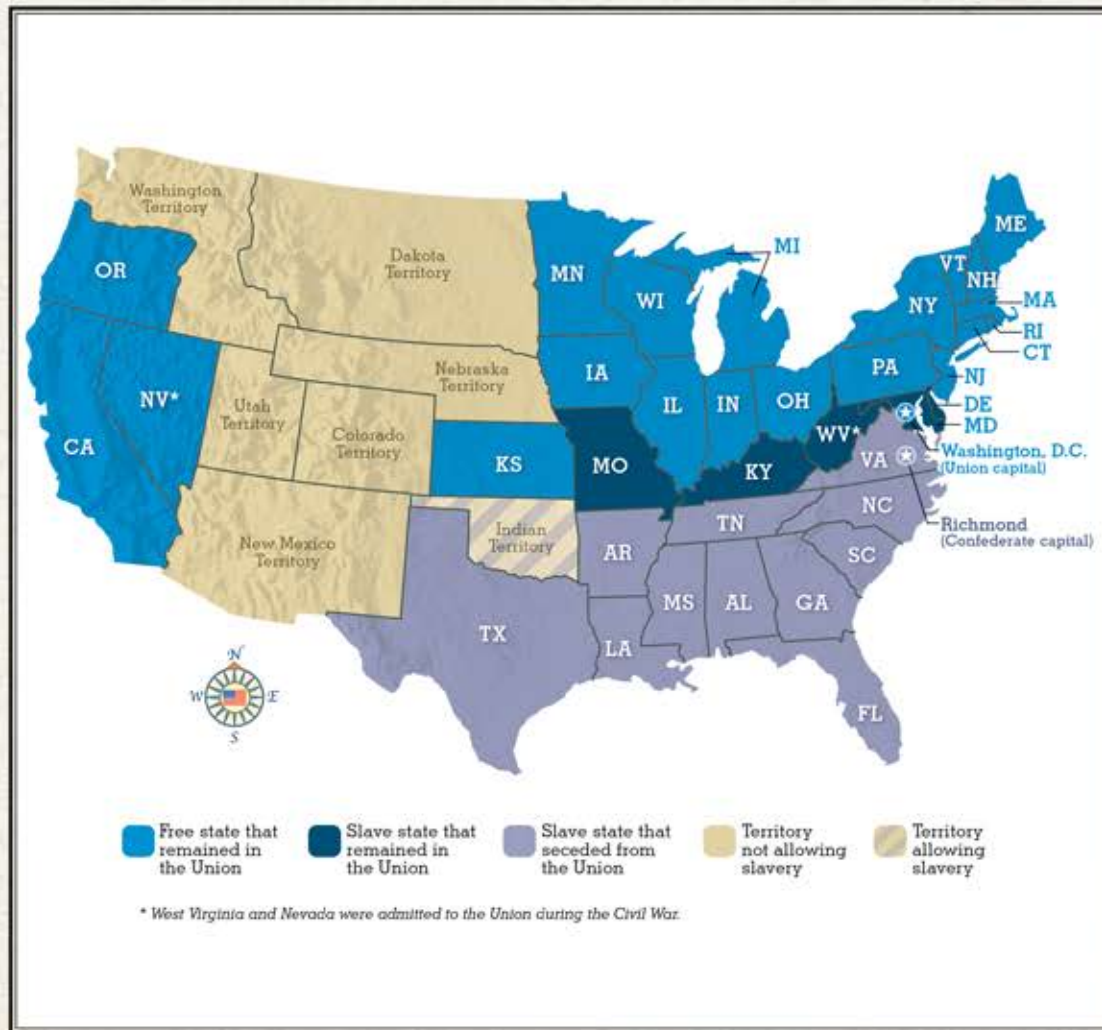
**TENNESSEE**  
(June 8, 1861)

*Dates in parentheses  
show when each state  
seceded from the Union.*

# MAPS

## A NATION DIVIDED: 1861-1865

During the Civil War, the United States was divided into two main sides: the Union in the North and the Confederacy in the South. There were also five “border states,” slave states that remained in the Union.



## MAJOR BATTLES

Most fighting during the Civil War took place in the South, on Confederate soil. A number of major battles were fought at sea, where the Union effectively blocked Confederate access to supplies shipped from Europe.

