

IN DEPTH

# North Versus South

In 1861, the United States was divided between the Union and the Confederacy.



## A Nation at War

Why were the two sides fighting? The main reason was that white Southerners feared President Abraham Lincoln would outlaw slavery. They argued that without free labor, their economy would fail. At the time, there were four million people of African descent enslaved in the South.

Most of the fighting in the Civil War had taken place in the South. But in June 1863, Confederate general Robert E. Lee led his army north, into Pennsylvania. They were shadowed by Union general George G. Meade.

## Gettysburg

On July 1, the two armies collided in the town of Gettysburg. After two days of heavy fighting, the Union army held the high ground. Lee was desperate.

With his commander General James Longstreet at his side, Lee rode out to survey the enemy. They gazed across the open fields at Cemetery Ridge. There, thousands of Union troops were firmly dug in.





**REENACTORS AT GETTYSBURG** fire blanks at each other from close range.

4

# Hand-to-Hand Combat

**Union and Confederate soldiers fight to the death with bayonets and swords.**

Led by General Lewis A. Armistead, about 300 Confederate soldiers from Virginia surged toward a low stone wall that shielded many Union defenders.

Facing the Virginians were Union soldiers of the 71st Pennsylvania Regiment. They were dug in behind a bend in the wall that became known as “The Angle.” Nearby, a Union artillery team manned two cannons.



# What Is Slavery?

**Slavery is the brutal practice of one person owning another person as property.**

As early as 1450, people in Africa were captured, forced onto merchant ships, and brought to America to be sold as slaves. In the 1600s, colonial planters in Jamestown, Virginia, were the first in what is today the United States to practice slavery. Slavery spread throughout the country, mainly in the South. The Civil War officially ended slavery in the United States in 1865. However, the issues and feelings raised by that shameful era are still part of our lives today.



## **BROKEN FAMILIES**

Often, enslaved families were broken up when children or parents were sold to another owner.



## **ABOLITIONISTS**

were the people who opposed slavery as morally wrong. They lived mainly in the North.

## **NO RIGHTS**

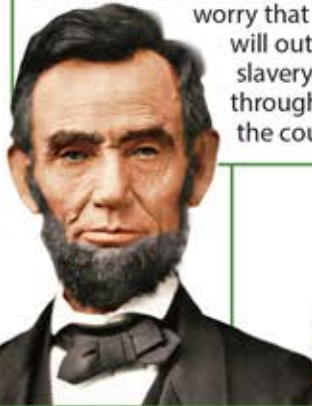
Enslaved people had no rights and no control over their lives. They worked without pay and lived under horrible conditions. On plantations, enslaved workers toiled in the blazing sun 15 or more hours a day. Many workers were whipped and tortured by their cruel bosses. They had no one to turn to for help.



# Timeline: The Civil War

**November 6, 1860:**

Abraham Lincoln is elected president. White Southerners worry that he will outlaw slavery throughout the country.



**July 18, 1861:**

37,000 Union soldiers march on the Confederate capital at Richmond, Virginia. Three days later, they are defeated by Confederates at Bull Run Creek.



**April 6-7, 1862:**

More than 100,000 soldiers fight at the Battle of Shiloh; 23,000 are wounded or killed.



**April 25, 1862:**

Union warships capture the port of New Orleans.

**December 13, 1862:**

Union troops are defeated by Lee at the Battle of Fredericksburg.



**March 12, 1864:**

President Lincoln gives General Ulysses S. Grant command of the entire Union military. Grant sets out to destroy Lee's army.

**April 3, 1865:**

Union troops capture Richmond.

**April 9, 1865:**

Lee surrenders to Grant at Appomattox Court House.

1860

1861

1862

1863

1864

1865

**December 20, 1860:**

South Carolina secedes, or breaks away, from the Union. Other states follow.

**February 1861:**

Southern states form their own nation: the Confederate States of America.



**September 17, 1862:**

General Robert E. Lee marches north and invades Maryland. Union general George McClellan halts him at Antietam.

**July 4, 1863:**

The Union celebrates its victory at Gettysburg, as well as the surrender of Vicksburg, Mississippi, after a 48-day siege.



**April 12, 1861:**

War begins when Confederate cannons fire on Fort Sumter, a Union fortress in South Carolina.



**September 22, 1862:**

President Lincoln issues the Emancipation Proclamation, declaring all enslaved people held in Confederate territory "forever free."



**July 1, 1863:** The armies of Union general George G. Meade and Confederate general Robert E. Lee clash at Gettysburg.



**April 14, 1865:**

President Lincoln is assassinated.