Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ HW – The Civil War

Due: Thursday 12/13/12

**• Choosing Sides**

In early 1861 President Lincoln approved military action to preserve the Union after Fort Sumter had been attacked by Confederate soldiers. Seven states had seceded, or left the Union, and formed their own government known as the Confederate government. Four states—Virginia, North Carolina, Tennessee, and Arkansas—joined the Confederacy after Lincoln approved military action. The capitals of the Union (Washington, D.C.) and the Confederacy (Richmond, Virginia) were only 100 miles apart. The ***border states,*** four Union states that permitted slavery, were still debating

which side to support. Three of the states (Missouri, Kentucky, and Maryland) were leaning toward secession and joining the Confederacy.

The North needed the border states to remain in the Union because of their strategic locations. Maryland was especially important because important railroad lines and the Union capital were located in Maryland. It was also close to the Confederate capital, Richmond, Virginia. Missouri was located along parts of the Mississippi River and major routes to the West. Kentucky controlled the Ohio River. Delaware was close to the city of Philadelphia.

President Lincoln had to be careful not to anger the border states for fear of losing them to the Confederacy. He decided to use his power to suspend constitutional rights, such as freedom of speech, and arrest supporters of secession. His plan worked. The border states stayed in the Union, although some citizens joined the Confederate army. Groups of citizens in Tennessee and Virginia were against secession, including people in the Appalachian region. They established a separate state called West Virginia, which was admitted into the Union in 1863.

**• Comparing North and South**

Each side had advantages and disadvantages. How they were used would decide the outcome of the war. The advantages of the North included more people, more industry, more resources, more money, more ships, more trains, and a larger railroad system. The North also had Abraham Lincoln. The advantages of the South included the support of the people, familiar territory, and military leadership.

The major disadvantage of the North involved the difficulty of invading unfamiliar territory full of people who opposed them. The disadvantages of the South included a smaller population from which to pull together an army, fewer factories to make weapons and supplies, less food production than the North, and fewer trains and tracks for delivering food and supplies. The belief in states’ rights ended up hurting the South. The individual states did not give the Confederates enough power to be an effective force.

Both sides had different goals. The North wanted to bring the Southern states back into the Union. As the war progressed, the North also wanted to end slavery in the South. The South wanted to be recognized as a separate, independent country. The North’s plan included three main strategies: to ***blockade,*** or close, Southern ports, to control the Mississippi River, and to capture the capital city of Richmond. They hoped these strategies would cut off supplies and money to the South. At times the Southern leaders went on the ***offensive*** and attacked Northern cities. Their main strategy was to defend Southern territory until the North gave up, however.

**• American People at War**

Americans were at war with one another. People from the same families or communities were often on opposing sides. Military leaders from both sides had gone to school together at the United States Military Academy at West Point. Now they were fighting one another.

The soldiers were young. Almost half of them were younger than 21. The majority of them came from farms. They were called to serve for 90 days. When the war did not end, they served much longer. African Americans were not allowed to join the Union army until later in the war. By the end of the war, about 2.1 million Union soldiers called ***Yankees*** fought for the North. This number includes almost 200,000 African Americans. About 850,000 Confederate soldiers called ***Rebels*** fought for the South. About 10,000 Hispanic soldiers fought in the Civil War. Neither side expected

the war to last long. Northern General William Tecumseh Sherman was one of the few who correctly predicted that the war would be long and difficult.

**• Emancipation**

The goal of the North was to keep the Union together. At first abolishing slavery was not a goal of the North. Lincoln was opposed to slavery and said he would prevent the expansion of slavery. He did not want to make abolishing slavery a goal of the Civil War for fear of losing the support of the slaveholding border states.

The goals of the North began to change, however, because many Northerners believed slavery was helping the Southern war efforts. Northerners felt that by weakening slavery, they would weaken the war efforts of the South. Congress passed laws in 1861 and 1862 that freed enslaved people held by people in the Confederacy. Lincoln hoped that Britain and France would decide not to help the South if the North fought slavery. He also wanted the president to be the one to end slavery instead of the Republican Congress.

Lincoln decided to free, or ***emancipate,*** enslaved workers in Southern states by signing the Emancipation Proclamation in 1863. The Union did not control Confederate states at the time, so no one was really freed. Lincoln hoped that enslaved African Americans would hear about the Proclamation and run away from their slaveholders. If enslaved African Americans made it safely into Union territory, they would be free. Lincoln’s plan worked. Britain and France refused to recognize the Confederacy. African Americans in the North were thrilled with the proclamation. In 1864 Republicans in Congress proposed the Thirteenth Amendment to abolish slavery in the United States. The Thirteenth Amendment was approved, or ***ratified,*** in 1865.

**• Opposition to the War**

Politicians and American citizens protested the war. They disagreed with policies of the military leaders or the way the war disrupted their lives. Northern Democrats were divided over the war. One group supported Lincoln. The “Peace Democrats,” also called “Copperheads,” supported negotiations instead of war. The Peace Democrats gained more support when the Union was doing badly. The Peace Democrats were suspected of helping the South. President Lincoln gave permission to arrest anyone who interfered with the war effort, without ***habeas corpus,*** the right to a hearing before

being jailed.

People grew tired of the war. It was harder to find volunteers for the military. The Confederate Congress passed a law in 1862, making it legal to ***draft,*** or require men to serve in the military for three-year terms. Men could avoid the draft if they found someone willing to take their place. Later laws were passed that allowed certain groups, such as slaveholders of more than 20 enslaved laborers, freedom from the draft. People protested that poor citizens were fighting a war to protect the slavery system of the rich. The North paid volunteers who signed up for the military a ***bounty,*** or fee. When that did not work, the North began to draft men like the South did. Southerners could avoid the draft by finding a substitute or paying the government $300. The draft laws caused citizens to start four days of riots and violence. Angry

protesters set fires, went on stealing sprees, and killed in protest of the draft. The Army of the Potomac was called in to end the riots. More than 100 people were killed during the rioting. Because of all of the violence, Jefferson Davis, president of the South, arrested people without habeus corpus, just as Lincoln had done. This angered even more Southerners who valued their freedom.

**• War and the Economy**

The war caused both sides extreme financial problems. The North fared better than the South because of greater resources. Both sides were left in debt, however. Both sides had to borrow money, raise taxes, and print paper money to pay for the war. Paper money in the North was called ***greenbacks.*** Income taxes were imposed on both sides in 1861. People paid a percentage of the amount of money they earned during the year. Prices rose faster than a person’s income. This period of ***inflation*** hurt every citizen. Prices increased while income decreased or stayed the same. People could not

afford the things they were used to. People in the North made a profit during the war. Union troops bought food from Northern farmers. Northern factories made weapons, ammunition, and clothing. The farmers sold their crops to feed the large Northern military.

The South was devastated by the war. Its few factories were busy trying to manufacture weapons and ammunition. The South was unable to provide other necessary goods they had imported before the war. Food was scarce. People were hungry. There were severe shortages of many goods. The prices of goods in the South rose at a much higher rate than prices in the North. The South suffered much destruction from the fighting within its boundaries. Cities were burned, railroads were torn up, farmland was overgrown. Soldiers worried about how their families were coping with the challenges. Many deserted, or left without permission, to go home and take care of their families.

**• The Tide of War Turns**

Union General Meade was directed to protect Washington and Baltimore from the Confederates. In 1863 the two armies accidentally ran into each other near Gettysburg. The Northerners were surprised and outnumbered. The Battle of Gettysburg lasted for three days. The Northerners retreated to Cemetery Ridge. General George Pickett led a Confederate attack on the third day across wide-open land. Half the Confederate soldiers were killed during Pickett’s Charge. Lee blamed himself.

At the same time, another battle was being fought at Vicksburg, Mississippi. The Union needed to control Vicksburg in order to control the Mississippi River. The North under the command of Ulysses S. Grant defeated Confederate troops at Vicksburg and again at Gettysburg. This was a major turning point in the war. President Lincoln’s famous Gettysburg Address was a two-minute speech he made at a cemetery dedication ceremony at Gettysburg in November 1863. Lincoln’s words inspired Americans to refocus on their shared goals.

**• Victory for the North**

Grant continued the attacks at Petersburg. The Confederates were weak. They were sick and hungry. Their forces were weakened by deserters and casualties. In April 1865 the Confederates broke lines and Lee withdrew his troops. On the same day, they also lost their capital, Richmond. They burned the city so that the Union had nothing to control.

The Union army blocked the Confederates’ escape. Lee surrendered in Virginia at the Appomattox Court House. Grant let the Confederates keep their horses and go home after they turned in their weapons. He even ordered that the Confederate troops be given three days’ worth of food. Confederates in North Carolina surrendered several days later. Jefferson Davis was captured in Georgia. The Civil War finally ended. The North won.

More than one-half million soldiers died in the Civil War. The war caused billions of dollars in damage. Most of the destruction was in the South. The effects of the war lasted for generations. Millions of African Americans were freed at last. The North saved the Union. The power of the federal government over states’ rights was determined once and

for all.

**1.** What role did the border states play in the war?

**2.** What were the strategies of the North and South?

**3.** Who were the brave soldiers who fought for the North and South?

**4.** What was the Emancipation Proclamation?

**5.** Why did many Americans oppose the draft?

**6.** How did the Civil War affect the economies of the North and South?

**7.** How did the Civil War end?