

The Civil War Timeline

Abraham Lincoln: The Civil War

The Civil War began on April 12, 1861, when Fort Sumter (in South Carolina) was captured by the Confederacy.

The Northern states (called the Union) fought the Southern states (called the Confederacy). The North was against slavery (and wanted to prohibit new US states from being slave states); the South was for slavery (and wanted new US states to be able to be slave states, and not have to obey the US Government's laws to stop the extension of slavery). Generals Robert E. Lee and T. J. "Stonewall" Jackson fought for the South; Gen. Ulysses S. Grant helped the North win.

The Civil War was brutal, deadly, and destructive; over 600,000 people died in the war.

In 1862, Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation, a document that eventually freed the US slaves.

In 1863, Lincoln gave the Gettysburg Address, a short, inspirational speech, on the Gettysburg (PA) battlefield.

Lincoln was re-elected President in 1864. While attending a play at Ford's Theater on April 14, 1865, Lincoln was shot; he died the next morning. The North won the war in 1865.

