

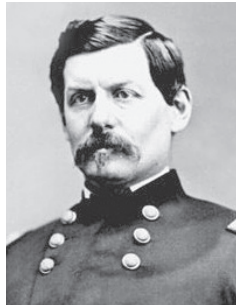
Lesson 53

Civil War East and West: 1861–1862

A. Peninsula Campaign

¹After the Battle of Bull Run, President Lincoln realized that adjustments needed to be made.

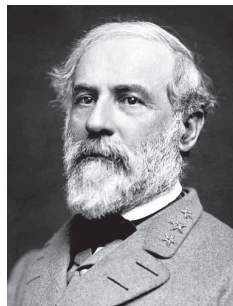
²Most people thought the war would be won quickly, so volunteers had only signed up for 90-day tours of duty. ³Now, new volunteers and draftees would serve enlistments of one to two years. ⁴Lincoln also named a new general to lead the Union's Army of the Potomac. ⁵George McClellan was a Mexican War veteran who had a good reputation for training men for war.



Gen. George
McClellan

⁶The Confederate army retreated south to Richmond after its victory at Bull Run so McClellan concluded he had plenty of time to train his Union soldiers to be better prepared for the next battle. ⁷By the fall 1861, he had assembled and drilled a fighting force of about 190,000 men. ⁸Lincoln urged his new general to move out of Washington, D.C., and take up the fight. ⁹However, McClellan refused to fight, fearing that he was still at a disadvantage over his enemy. ¹⁰Lincoln was frustrated. ¹¹"He's got the slows," the president declared. ¹²In January, 1862, Lincoln and his Secretary of War, Edwin Stanton, ordered McClellan to go on the offensive against the rebels.

¹³It still took another three months, but finally the Army of the Potomac moved towards the CSA's capital city of Richmond in the spring. ¹⁴General McClellan moved his troops down the Potomac River and Chesapeake Bay to the mouth of the James River to begin his Peninsula Campaign. ¹⁵Union troops marched upriver to within a few miles of Richmond, Virginia, but stopped when they were attacked by the rebels under General "Stonewall" Jackson. ¹⁶General Robert E. Lee, also a Mexican War veteran, then maneuvered McClellan into the forests outside of the city in a fight called the Seven Days' Battle. ¹⁷Even though the North still outnumbered the South in these battles, McClellan panicked and retreated. ¹⁸Lincoln ordered McClellan and his men back to Washington.



Gen. Robert E.
Lee

B. Antietam and Fredericksburg

¹⁹With Union troops in retreat, Lee and Jackson struck north, fighting Union troops just outside the Union's capital at Bull Run (2nd battle of Bull Run). ²⁰Then Lee tried an even bolder move. ²¹He crossed the Potomac River into Maryland hoping to attack Washington, D.C. from a different angle. ²²A winning battle here would have scattered the Union's government and possibly brought the South recognition and aid from Great Britain or France. ²³Lincoln ordered McClellan to leave his base and meet the enemy at a place upriver called Antietam.

²⁴At Antietam on September 17, 1862, McClellan met Lee's troops in a day-long fight. ²⁵Once again the North had the advantage over the South in the number of troops available. ²⁶By late afternoon, Union forces cut through Confederate lines, but McClellan stalled and did not pursue the retreating Confederate troops. ²⁷Lee later counterattacked and more fighting ensued. ²⁸The battle ended with Lee retreating south back across the Potomac. ²⁹The threat to Washington, D.C., was over but at great cost. ³⁰Antietam became the

Battles of the East, 1862



bloodiest day in U.S. military history. ³¹Over 22,000 Americans were killed or wounded in a one day battle that essentially ended in a draw. ³²That was 5,000 more than the number of casualties of the entire two-year long Mexican War.

³³Lincoln, frustrated that McClellan again lost a chance to end the war, fired him in November.

³⁴General Ambrose Burnside now took command.

³⁵Eager to show Lincoln that he was up to the task, Burnside took 122,000 troops south to chase Lee's army of 78,000. ³⁶They met at Fredericksburg, Virginia. ³⁷Lee held Mayre's Heights just out of town and Burnside's attempts to take the hills were devastating to the Union. ³⁸The Union army suffered over 12,700 casualties that day—over twice as many as the Confederate States of America. ³⁹Lincoln soon replaced Burnside with General Joseph "Fighting Joe" Hooker.

C. War in the West

⁴⁰Across the Appalachians, the Union army was finding a bit more success. ⁴¹The border states of Missouri and Kentucky were under control by 1862. ⁴²This allowed a relatively unknown Union general, Ulysses S. Grant, to make a thrust into CSA territory. ⁴³Grant was yet another Mexican War veteran who reenlisted when the Civil War broke out. ⁴⁴In February 1862, as McClellan was

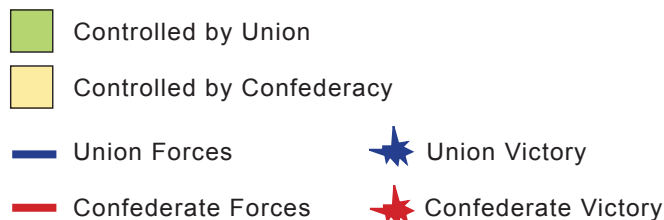


Gen. Ulysses S. Grant

stalling for time in Washington, D.C., Grant led his Northern army in two successful battles in northern Tennessee at Fort Henry and Fort Donelson. ⁴⁵He then headed further south where he met a rebel army under command of General Albert Johnston at Shiloh. ⁴⁶By the end of the bloody battle there, Grant had won yet another victory and Johnston was dead. ⁴⁷Grant next marched west and took control of the upper Mississippi River.

⁴⁸The battle of Shiloh was important for another reason. ⁴⁹The Confederate States of America had moved troops north out of New Orleans, Louisiana, to help fight against Grant. ⁵⁰This left New Orleans open to a sea assault by Union Navy Admiral David Farragut. ⁵¹Union forces captured the city in April of 1862, then moved north to take Baton Rouge, Louisiana. ⁵²These battles gave the U.S. control over the mouth of the Mississippi River. ⁵³All that remained for Union control of the entire river was a small town called Vicksburg, Mississippi.

Battles of the West, 1862



Fun Fact Feature

When the Civil War broke out, the entire male student body of one Southern university formed a Confederate company called the “University Greys.” They fought together in many battles, including Gettysburg, and suffered a 100% casualty rate. That means every single soldier in the University Greys was killed or wounded during war. After the war, the university’s sports teams were known as the “Rebels” and the Confederate flag flew at many sporting events. Can you name this university? [Hint: It was in one of the states that appears on the last map in this lesson].

1. Who became the new general of the Army of the Potomac after the North’s defeat at Bull Run?

a. Robert E. Lee
b. George McClellan
c. Ambrose Burnside
d. Joseph Hooker

Which sentences best support the answer?

2. What did many of the officers of both the North and South have in common about their previous war experience?

3. Which general did a frustrated President Lincoln say had “the slows”?

a. Ulysses S. Grant
b. Joseph Hooker
c. Ambrose Burnside
d. George McClellan

Which sentences best support the answer?

4. Which Civil War battle was the single bloodiest day in American war history?

a. Antietam
b. the Peninsula campaign
c. Fredericksburg
d. Shiloh

Which sentence best supports the answer?

5. Why was General McClellan replaced as head of the Union’s Army of the Potomac in 1862?

a. He lost the Battle of Antietam.
b. On several occasions, he failed to engage or pursue the enemy when he had numerical advantages.
c. He led his men on an impossible charge up the hill at the Battle of Fredericksburg.
d. Lee’s army killed him at the Seven Day’s Battle.

Which sentences best support the answer?

6. What city was General Robert E. Lee attempting to ultimately capture when he crossed the Potomac River in September, 1862?

a. Washington, D.C.
b. Antietam, Maryland
c. Fredericksburg, Virginia
d. Richmond, Virginia

Which sentence best supports the answer?

7. Which one of these Union army generals won successful battles in Tennessee in 1862?

a. George McClellan
b. Ambrose Burnside
c. Joseph Hooker
d. Ulysses S. Grant

Which sentence best supports the answer?

8. The 1863 political cartoon (below) was labelled “Master Lincoln Gets a New Toy.” What are the symbols and the message of the cartoon?

Symbols:

Message:

9. What important city did Admiral David Farragut capture for the Union in 1862?
- Shiloh, Tennessee
 - Richmond, Virginia
 - New Orleans, Louisiana
 - Charleston, South Carolina

Which sentence best supports the answer?

10. The victories of Grant and Farragut in 1862 nearly gained the Union control of what place?
- Chesapeake Bay
 - Potomac River
 - Mississippi River
 - Appalachian Mountains

Which sentence best supports the answer?



Fun Fact Finale

When the Civil War broke out, the entire male student body of one southern university formed a Confederate company called the “University Greys.” They fought together in many battles, including Gettysburg, and suffered a 100% casualty rate. That means every single soldier in the University Greys was killed or wounded during war. After the war, the university’s sports teams were known as the “Rebels” and the Confederate flag flew at many sporting events. This was the University of Mississippi, sometimes referred to as “Ole Miss.”