

The North Wins the Civil War

Before You Read

In this section, you will learn how the Union finally won the war.

Please read each section and answer the question(s) at the end of the section. **EACH ANSWER IS WORTH 5 POINTS**

TERMS & NAMES

Pickett's Charge Confederate attack on Union lines at Gettysburg

Robert E. Lee Confederate general

Ulysses S. Grant Union general

William Tecumseh Sherman Union general who won significant victories

Appomattox Court House

Location of South's surrender

The Road to Gettysburg; The Battle of Gettysburg

Confederate forces had failed in their first attempt to invade the North. In September 1862, Union forces turned back Southern troops at the bloody Battle of Antietam. Soon, however, Confederate leaders decided to head north once again. They hoped that a Confederate victory in the North would make people in the North tired of the war. In turn, this might lead to calls for peace. Southern leaders also hoped that a victory in the North would lead to help from countries in Europe.

In June 1863, Confederate forces crossed into southern Pennsylvania. They met Union troops near the town of Gettysburg. The **Battle of Gettysburg** raged for three days. An important moment came when General George Pickett attacked the middle of

the Union line. It proved to be a deadly mistake.

Pickett's Charge, as it was called, was torn to pieces by Union troops. The Confederates retreated. As was the case after the Battle of Antietam, Union forces failed to chase after the Confederate general, **Robert E. Lee**.

The Union victory at Gettysburg was a turning point of the war. The North had lost 23,000 men, more than 28,000 Confederate soldiers lay dead or wounded. With such losses of soldiers, General Lee's hopes for a Confederate victory in the North were gone.

1. Why was Gettysburg considered a turning point of the war?

The Siege of Vicksburg

The day after Pickett's Charge, Union general Ulysses S. Grant defeated rebel troops at the Siege of Vicksburg. Grant had gained control of much of the Mississippi River by 1863. Vicksburg was the last Confederate stronghold on the river. Grant began his attack on Vicksburg in May 1863. His troops surrounded the city and prevented the delivery of food and supplies. After a month and a half, the starving Confederates finally surrendered.

Grant's victory at Vicksburg fulfilled a major part of the *Anaconda Plan*. The Union now had complete control of the Mississippi River. As a result, the South was split in two. With victories at Vicksburg and Gettysburg, the tide of war turned in favor of the North.

2. How did the Union's victory at Vicksburg fulfill the Union's Anaconda Plan?

Sherman's Total War

Unlike other Union generals, Ulysses Grant was willing to follow and fight General Lee. This impressed President Lincoln. In March 1864, Lincoln made General Grant commander of all the Union armies. Grant quickly made a plan to defeat the Confederacy. He would pursue Lee's army in Virginia. Meanwhile, Union forces under William Tecumseh Sherman would push through the Deep South to Atlanta and the Atlantic Coast.

As he marched through the South, Sherman waged total war. This was war not only against the enemy troops. It was also against everything that supported the enemy. His troops tore up rail lines, destroyed crops, and burned towns.

Sherman's victories were important for Lincoln. In 1864, Lincoln was involved in a tough reelection

campaign. Many Northerners were tired of the war. With Sherman's successes, Northerners suddenly could sense victory. This optimism helped Lincoln to win reelection.

3. What did Sherman's troops do as they marched from Atlanta to the Atlantic Ocean? How did this affect the Confederacy

Grant's Virginia Campaign; Surrender at Appomattox

After marching through Georgia, Sherman moved north through the Carolinas. His plan was to link up with Grant's troops in Virginia. Since May 1864, Grant and his troops had been fighting bloody battles against Lee's forces. The Union general's goal was to keep fighting toward Richmond and eventually conquer the Confederate capital.

During Grant's Virginia campaign, the battlefield losses for both sides were huge. In one battle, Grant lost 7,000 men in the first few minutes of fighting. In June 1864, Grant's troops reached the edge of Richmond. There, the two sides battled for ten months. In the end, Lee could not hold out. The Union army marched into Richmond on April 3, 1865.

On April 9, 1865, Lee and Grant met at Appomattox Court House in Virginia. There, the two men arranged a surrender. Grant offered *generous* terms. After handing over their weapons, the Confederates were free to return home. After four long years, the Civil War was over.

4. What caused General Lee to finally surrender?

5. What were General Grant's terms of surrender?
