

War Erupts

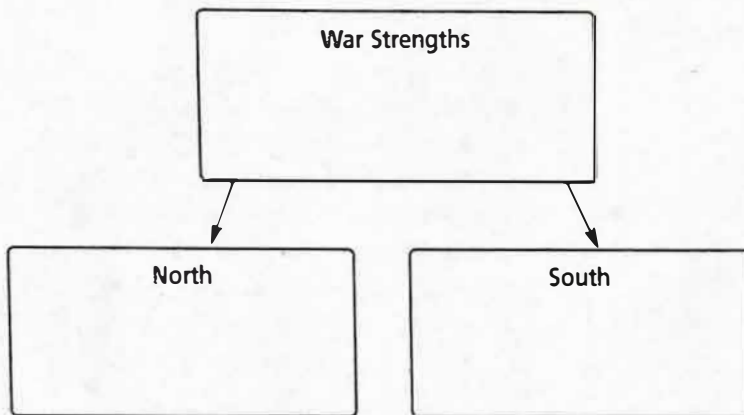
Before You Read

In the last chapter, you read about how the nation broke apart over the divisive issue of slavery.

In this section, you will learn about the early years of the Civil War.

As You Read

Use the diagram below to take notes on the advantages of the North and South as the war began.



First Shots at Fort Sumter; Lincoln Calls Out the Militia

Southern states began seceding from the Union. State officials took over most of the federal forts inside their borders. Major Robert Anderson attempted to hold on to **Fort Sumter** in the harbor of Charleston, South Carolina. However, his troops soon ran low on supplies.

President Lincoln knew that supplying the fort might lead to war. But if he withdrew the troops, he would be giving in to the rebels. He decided to send supplies. Confederate leaders responded by attacking the fort on April 12, 1861. Major Anderson soon surrendered. With this battle, the Civil War had begun.

President Lincoln called on Northerners to put down the Southern rebellion. As a result, many Northern men joined the army. States such as Kentucky, Virginia, North Carolina, Tennessee, and Arkansas reacted angrily to the president's call to

arms. They did not want to fight against their neighbors. These states seceded from the Union. They sent their men to fight for the Confederacy.

The Confederacy was happy to have Virginia on its side. Virginia was a large and wealthy state. In addition, Virginia was the home of **Robert E. Lee**. Lee was a talented and respected military leader. The Confederacy soon moved its capital to Richmond.

1. Why was Virginia important to the Confederacy?

Choosing Sides; Strengths and

Delaware, Maryland, Kentucky, and Missouri were known as **border states**. These were slave states that

TERMS & NAMES

Fort Sumter Federal fort in harbor of Charleston, South Carolina

Robert E. Lee Confederate military leader

border state Slave state that bordered the North

King Cotton Title showing cotton's importance to the South

Anaconda Plan Union's plan to surround and defeat the South

blockade The preventing of goods or people from entering or leaving an area

First Battle of Bull Run Early battle that ended with a Confederate victory

bordered the North. Because of their resources and location, these states could tip the scales toward one side in the war.

Keeping Maryland in the Union was especially important to the North. If Maryland seceded, then Washington, D.C., would be cut off from the Union. Pro-Union leaders quickly gained control of the Maryland legislature. As a result, the state stayed in the Union. Kentucky, Missouri, and Delaware also stayed in the Union. In the end, 24 states made up the Union. Eleven states joined the Confederacy.

The Union appeared to have a significant war advantage—in both manpower and resources. The North had more than twice as many citizens as the South. In addition, more than 80 percent of the nation's factories were located in the North. The North also had President Lincoln, a very able leader.

The Confederacy had some advantages, too. It began the war with able generals, including Robert E. Lee. In addition, Southern soldiers were ready to fight hard to defend their homes and families.

2. What were the South's greatest war advantages?

The Confederate Strategy

The South did not want to conquer the North. The Confederacy only wanted to be independent. Confederate leaders hoped the North would soon tire of war and accept Southern independence.

The Confederacy hoped to win foreign support in the war. Southerners looked to King Cotton to win this support. Cotton was king in the South because of its importance in the world market. The South grew most of the cotton for Europe's textile mills. When war broke out, Southern planters withheld cotton from the market. They hoped that this would force France and Britain to aid the Confederate cause. However, these nations had a surplus of cotton. As a result, Europe did not get involved in the war.

3. How did the South hope to win European support?

The Union Strategy

The North's goal was to bring the Southern states back into the Union. To do this, the North developed an offensive strategy known as the Anaconda Plan. Under this plan, the North would squeeze the Southern economy like a giant anaconda snake smothering its prey.

The plan called for a naval blockade of the South's coastline. In a blockade, armed forces prevent the transportation of goods or people into or out of an area. The plan also called for the Union to gain control of the Mississippi River. This would split the Confederacy in two.

4. What were the key elements in the Anaconda Plan?

Battle of Bull Run

In the summer of 1861, Lincoln ordered an invasion of Virginia. His goal was to conquer Richmond. After marching into Virginia, Northern troops clashed with Southern soldiers near a river called Bull Run. In the North, this battle became known as the First Battle of Bull Run.

The Confederates won the battle. The rebel victory thrilled the South and shocked the North. The North realized it had underestimated its opponent. As a result, President Lincoln began preparing for a long war.

5. How did each side react after the Battle of Bull Run?