

The Civil War

Section 5



MAIN IDEAS

1. The Union tried to divide the Confederate Army at Fredericksburg, but the attempt failed.
2. The Battle of Gettysburg in 1863 was a major turning point in the war.
3. During 1864 Union campaigns in the East and South dealt crippling blows to the Confederacy.
4. Union troops forced the South to surrender in 1865, ending the Civil War.

Key Terms and People

Battle of Gettysburg three-day battle that Confederates lost

George Pickett general who carried out Lee’s orders to charge the Union line

Pickett’s Charge disastrous attempt by Pickett’s troops to storm Cemetery Ridge

Gettysburg Address speech in which Lincoln renewed his commitment to winning the war

Wilderness Campaign series of battles in which Grant tried to take Richmond

William Tecumseh Sherman Union general who cut a path of destruction across Georgia

Total War strategy in which both civilian and military resources are destroyed

Appomattox Courthouse the place where General Lee surrendered to General Grant

Academic Vocabulary

execute to perform, carry out

Section Summary

FREDERICKSBURG AND CHANCELLORSVILLE

In late 1862 Confederate troops under the command of General Robert E. Lee won a battle at Fredericksburg, Virginia. In the spring of 1863, they again defeated Union troops at Chancellorsville.

BATTLE OF GETTYSBURG

Hoping a Confederate win on Union soil would break the Union’s spirit, Lee headed into Union territory. The **Battle of Gettysburg**, which started July 1, 1863, was the consequence of Lee’s decision.

How did the Battle of Gettysburg start?

Section 5, continued

The first day, Lee’s troops pushed General Meade’s soldiers back. The Union troops had to dig in on top of two hills outside the town. On the second day, Confederate troops tried to take the hill called Little Round Top but failed.

On the third day, Lee ordered General **George Pickett** to lead a charge on Cemetery Ridge.

Pickett’s Charge was a disaster. Over half the Confederates were killed, and Lee retreated. Never again would his troops reach northern land.

President Lincoln helped dedicate a new cemetery at Gettysburg. On November 19, 1863, he delivered the **Gettysburg Address**.

How long did the Battle of Gettysburg last?

Who won the Battle of Gettysburg?

UNION CAMPAIGNS CRIPPLE THE CONFEDERACY

The **Wilderness Campaign** was a series of battles fought in Virginia, around Richmond. Although he lost more men than Lee, Grant also had more reinforcements. As a result of the battles, Grant was winning the war. However, at Petersburg, Lee’s defenses did not allow Grant to **execute** his attack and capture Richmond.

Why was the capture of Richmond such an important goal for the Union?

To assure his re-election, Lincoln needed a victory. General **William Tecumseh Sherman** provided it by capturing Atlanta, Georgia. This victory helped Lincoln get re-elected in a landslide.

How did General William Sherman help President Lincoln get re-elected?

Sherman did not stop at Atlanta. He ordered his troops to cut a path of destruction through Georgia, practicing **total war** all the way to the ocean.

THE SOUTH SURRENDERS

On April 9, 1865, at **Appomattox Courthouse**, Lee officially surrendered to Grant. The long, bloody war was over, but the question of how the United States could be united again remained.

How long did the Civil War last?

CHALLENGE ACTIVITY

Critical Thinking: Make a Time Line Use dates and events in this section to make a time line of the Civil War.