

# The Civil War

## Lesson 2 Early Years of the War, *Continued*



### Marking the Text

5. In the text at the right, underline three towns that Union soldiers took as they fought to get control of the Mississippi River.



### Reading Progress Check

6. How did the loss of New Orleans affect the Confederacy?

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### Marking the Text

7. In the text at the right, underline the sentence that describes the Union's goal in the East.



### Reading Progress Check

8. Why was it important for the Confederacy to defend Richmond?

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The army stopped 20 miles (32 km) away, near Shiloh Church. More Union soldiers arrived to **reinforce**, or make stronger, Grant's force.

The Confederates attacked first. The Battle of Shiloh lasted two days. Both sides lost many soldiers. There were more than 23,000 **casualties** (KA•zhuhl•teez)—people killed, wounded, or captured. In the end, the Union won.

Union soldiers moved on to Corinth. They surrounded it. No food or supplies could reach Corinth. The Confederates withdrew and Union troops entered the town on May 30. On June 6, they took Memphis, Tennessee. It seemed they would control the Mississippi River soon.

The Union navy also won an important battle. On April 25, the navy captured New Orleans, Louisiana. New Orleans was the largest city in the South. With Louisiana in Union control, the Confederacy could no longer use the Mississippi River to carry its goods to sea. The Union only had to capture Vicksburg, Mississippi, to have full control of the Mississippi River.

## War in the Eastern States

**Guiding Question** *How did the Union respond to important defeats in the East in 1862?*

In the East, the Union tried hard to capture Richmond, Virginia. That was the Confederate capital. Confederate soldiers fought hard to protect it. The South had good military leaders, such as General Robert E. Lee and General "Stonewall" Jackson. They knew the land well. They inspired their soldiers. They won important battles:

- the Seven Days' Battle (1862)
- the Second Battle of Bull Run (1862)
- Fredericksburg (1862)
- Chancellorsville (1863)

Lee moved his troops into Maryland. He had planned to continue into Pennsylvania. Lee split his army into four parts. He told each part to move in a different direction. He wanted to confuse Union General McClellan. Lee's plan did not work. A Confederate officer lost his copy of the plan, and it fell into McClellan's hands. On September 17, 1862, the two sides fought the Battle of Antietam near Sharpsburg, Maryland. The Union won this battle.

Antietam was the deadliest single day of fighting in the war. About 6,000 men died and 17,000 more were injured. Lee went back to Virginia after the battle. His plan to invade the North had failed.

## The Civil War

### Lesson 2 Early Years of the War, *Continued*

## The Emancipation Proclamation

**Guiding Question** *What was the effect of the Emancipation Proclamation?*

Abolitionists, including Frederick Douglass and Horace Greeley, wanted Lincoln to make the Civil War a fight to end slavery. They said slavery was wrong. They said it was the reason for the split between North and South. They believed Britain and France would be less willing to support the South if Lincoln said the Civil War was a war to end slavery. The South needed Britain's and France's support.

At the start of the war, Lincoln believed that saving the Union was more important than ending slavery. He also feared losing the border states by acting against slavery. As the war went on, his attitude changed.

The Constitution did not give Lincoln power to end slavery. It did give him the power to take property from an enemy during a war, though. Enslaved people were considered to be property. On September 22, 1862, Lincoln said he would issue the **Emancipation Proclamation**. This order said that all enslaved people in Rebel-held territory would be freed on January 1, 1863.

The Emancipation Proclamation did not free any enslaved people right away. It affected only places held by the Confederacy. Lincoln had no power there. Also, the proclamation did not free enslaved people in the border states. Still, the proclamation was important. In it, the U.S. government said that slavery is wrong. If the Union won the war, slavery would end.

### **Ab** Defining

**9.** What was the *Emancipation Proclamation*?

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### Reading Progress Check

**10.** How did the Emancipation Proclamation change the focus of the war?

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## Writing

### Check for Understanding

**1. Expository** Explain the Northern generals' plan to use the Mississippi River to defeat the South.

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**2. Expository** How did the Emancipation Proclamation affect slaves in the South?

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