Decisive Battles

Why It Matters  By 1863, the Civil War had produced hundreds of thousands of dead and wounded. As the fighting raged on, there seemed to be no end in sight. But decisive battles at Gettysburg and Vicksburg would change the war’s course and enable the Union to win the Civil War.

The Tide Turns
After the Union victory at the 1862 Battle of Antietam, the war again began to go badly for the North. As before, the problem was poor leadership. When McClellan failed to pursue Lee’s beaten army, Lincoln replaced him with General Ambrose Burnside.

Confederate Victories  Burnside knew McClellan had been fired for being too cautious. So Burnside decided on a bold stroke. In December 1862, he marched his army of 120,000 men directly toward Richmond. Lee massed 75,000 men at Fredericksburg, Virginia, to block their path. Using traditional tactics, Burnside ordered charge after charge. The Union suffered nearly 13,000 casualties in the Battle of Fredericksburg and the Confederates nearly 5,000.

Lincoln next turned to General Joseph Hooker, nicknamed “Fighting Joe.” “May God have mercy on General Lee, for I will have none,” Hooker boasted as he marched the Union army toward Richmond. In May 1863, Hooker’s army was smashed at the Battle of Chancellorsville by a force that was half its size. But the victory was a costly one for the South. During the battle, Stonewall Jackson was shot and wounded. A few days later, Jackson died.

Key Terms and People
- siege
- William Tecumseh Sherman
- total war

Vocabulary Builder

Use the information below to teach students this section’s high-use words.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>High-Use Word</th>
<th>Definition and Sample Sentence</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>encounter, p. 534</td>
<td>v. to meet in an unexpected way; to experience Soldiers who entered the enemy territory did not know what dangers they might encounter.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>exceed, p. 535</td>
<td>v. to go beyond what is expected; to be greater than what was planned The general had expected to win, but his victory exceeded his greatest hopes.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The Tide Turns
p. 533

Instruction

- **Vocabulary Builder** Before teaching this lesson, preteach the High-Use Words *encounter* and *exceed*, using the strategy on TE p. T21.

- **Key Terms** Have students complete the See It–Remember It chart.

- Have students read The Tide Turns using the Paragraph Shrinking technique (TE, p. T23).

- Discuss the problems of leadership in the Union army. Ask: How did these problems lead Lee to initiate an attack on Union soil? (The Union army suffered badly at several battles under different generals, giving Lee confidence that he could win a major victory on Union soil.)

- Ask: How did Grant overcome Vicksburg? (He led a siege until the Confederates gave up.)

- Ask: How did Lincoln take advantage of the Gettysburg victory? (He gave a speech there to honor soldiers and to suggest the healing that should follow when the war ended.)

Independent Practice

Have students begin filling in the study guide for this section.

- **Interactive Reading and Notetaking Study Guide**, Chapter 15, Section 5 (Adapted Version also available.)

Monitor Progress

As students fill in the Notetaking Study Guide, circulate to make sure individuals understand why the battles at Gettysburg and Vicksburg were turning points in the war. Provide assistance as needed.

Answers

(a) Chancellorsville, Fredericksburg, Appomattox Court House, Atlanta, Chattanooga, Corinth, Jackson, Vicksburg; Gettysburg (b) The South suffered more damage than the North because most of the battles took place in the South.

The Battle of Gettysburg

These Confederate victories made Lee bolder. He was convinced that a major victory on Union soil would force northerners to end the war. In June 1863, Lee’s troops crossed Maryland and marched into Pennsylvania. The Union army, which was now commanded by General George Meade, pursued them.

On July 1, some Confederate soldiers approached the quiet town of Gettysburg. They were looking for shoes, which were in short supply in the South because of the Union blockade. Instead of shoes, the Confederates encountered part of Meade’s army. Shots were exchanged. More troops joined the fight on both sides. By evening, the southerners had pushed the Union forces back through Gettysburg.

The next day, more than 85,000 Union soldiers faced some 75,000 Confederates. The center of the Union army was on a hill called Cemetery Ridge. The center of the Confederate position was nearly a mile away, on Seminary Ridge. The fighting raged into the next day as Confederate troops attacked each end of the Union line.

On the afternoon of July 3, Lee ordered an all-out attack on the center of the Union line. General George E. Pickett led about 15,000 Confederates across nearly a mile of open field toward Cemetery Ridge. As they advanced, Union artillery shells and rifle fire rained down on them. Only a few hundred men reached the Union lines, and they were quickly driven back. About 7,500 Confederates were killed or wounded in what is known as Pickett’s Charge.

**Differentiated Instruction**

- **English Language Learners**
- **Less Proficient Readers**
- **Special Needs**

**Analyze Photographs** Ask students to complete the worksheet Civil War Powder Monkey and answer the questions. Have students share what they learned, as well as their impressions of the photograph on the worksheet, with the rest of the class.

**Teaching Resources, Unit 5**, Civil War Powder Monkey, p. 55
In all, the Confederacy suffered more than 28,000 casualties during the three-day Battle of Gettysburg. Union losses exceeded 23,000. For a second time, Lee had lost nearly a third of his troops. “It’s all my fault,” he said as he rode among his surviving soldiers. “It is I who have lost this fight.”

**The Fall of Vicksburg**

On July 4, 1863, as Lee’s shattered army began its retreat from Gettysburg, the South suffered another major blow far to the south and west. Vicksburg surrendered to General Grant. It had been one of the last cities on the Mississippi River to remain in Confederate hands. Unable to take Vicksburg by force, Grant had begun a siege of the city in May 1863. A siege is an attempt to capture a place by surrounding it with military forces and cutting it off until the people inside surrender.

Day after day, Union guns bombarded Vicksburg. Residents took shelter in cellars and in caves they dug in hillsides. They ate mules and rats to keep from starving. After six weeks, the 30,000 Confederate troops at Vicksburg finally gave up. A few days later, the last Confederates in a series of battles in northern Virginia in the spring of 1864. Grant was unable to break through Lee’s troops. But Grant did not retreat. Instead, he continued the attack.

**Grant Versus Lee**

Grant’s huge army hammered at the Confederates in a series of battles in northern Virginia in the spring of 1864. Grant was unable to break through Lee’s troops. But Grant did not retreat. Instead, he continued the attack.

**Cotton and the Red River Campaign**

While Sherman was pursuing his campaign to capture Atlanta, Union General Nathaniel P. Banks was leading the Red River Campaign in Louisiana. The goal was to gain control of Louisiana, Texas, and Arkansas, and prevent southern forces from getting supplies. Union officials also hoped to take cotton, which was abundant in the region, to provide to northern mills. Confederate general Richard Taylor was aware of the Union’s desire to secure cotton, and limited the sale of it to northern buyers. When that proved a failure, Taylor ordered that all baled and seeded cotton be burned.

**History Background**

**Cotton and the Red River Campaign**

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**Checkpoint**

Identify two events that marked turning points in the Civil War.

**Closing In on the Confederacy**

In Ulysses S. Grant, President Lincoln found the kind of commander he had long sought. In 1864, the President gave him command of all Union forces. Grant decided that he must attack Richmond, no matter how large the Union losses.

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Peace at Last
p. 536

Instruction

- Ask students to read Peace at Last together with you. Remind students to look for details that answer the Section Focus Question.
- Discuss the behavior of Lee and Grant at Appomattox. Ask: How can you tell that both men were aware of the toll of the war? (Lee surrendered rather than subject his remaining troops to another defeat. Grant offered generous terms and reminded his men that the rebels were once again fellow countrymen.)
- Display the transparency The Final Battles and have students answer the questions.

Color Transparencies, The Final Battles

Independent Practice

Have students complete the study guide for this section.

- Interactive Reading and Notetaking Study Guide, Chapter 15, Section 5 (Adapted Version also available.)

Monitor Progress

- As students complete the Notetaking Study Guide, circulate to make sure they understand how peace was achieved. Provide assistance as needed.
- Tell students to fill in the last column of the Reading Readiness Guide. Probe for what they learned that confirms or invalidates each statement.

ANSWERS

Take Home Teaching Resources, Unit 5, Reading Readiness Guide, p. 51; Word Knowledge Rating Form, p. 46

Answers

Reading Charts (a) because it would disrupt the balance of political power, giving slave states more votes in Congress (b) total war destroyed the South’s economy and left hundreds of thousands of southerners killed; hundreds of thousands of northerners killed

Reading Skill Victory in Atlanta happened first. It helped Lincoln get reelected.

Checkpoint He burned Atlanta and left a path of destruction 60 miles wide from Atlanta to the Atlantic Ocean.

After seven weeks of fighting, Grant had lost about 55,000 men; the Confederates had lost 35,000. Grant realized that his army could count on a steady stream of men and supplies. Lee, on the other hand, was running out of both.

The two armies clashed at Petersburg, an important railroad center south of Richmond. There, in June 1864, Grant began a siege, the tactic he had used at Vicksburg.

While Grant besieged Lee, another Union army under General William Tecumseh Sherman advanced toward Atlanta. Like Grant, Sherman was a tough soldier. He believed in total war—all-out attacks aimed at destroying an enemy’s army, its resources, and its people’s will to fight. Sherman later said:

“We are not only fighting hostile armies, but a hostile people, and must make young and old, rich and poor, feel the hard hand of war.”

—William T. Sherman, Memoirs, 1886

March to the Sea

The Confederates could not stop Sherman’s advance. The Union army marched into Atlanta on September 2, 1864. Atlanta’s capture gave President Lincoln’s reelection campaign a boost. In the months before the capture of Atlanta, many northerners had grown tired of the war. Support for Lincoln had been lagging. But after Atlanta’s fall, Lincoln won a huge election victory over General George McClellan, the Democrats’ candidate.

In November, Sherman ordered Atlanta burned. He then marched east toward the Atlantic Ocean. Along the way, Union troops set fire to buildings, seized crops and livestock, and pulled up railroad tracks. They left a path of destruction up to 60 miles wide. In February 1865, the army headed north across the Carolinas.

Checkpoint How did Sherman show “the hard hand of war”?

Peace at Last

In March 1865, Grant’s army still waited outside Petersburg. For months, Grant had been extending his battle lines east and west of Petersburg. Lee knew it was only a matter of time before Grant would capture the city.

536 Chapter 15 The Civil War
Lincoln, too, saw that the end of the war was near. In his Second
Inaugural Address in March 1865, he asked Americans to forgive and
forget. “With malice toward none; with charity for all; . . . let us strive
together . . . to bind up the nation’s wounds,” said Lincoln.

**Surrender at Appomattox** On April 2, Grant’s troops finally
broke through Confederate lines. By evening, Richmond was in
Union hands. Lee’s army retreated to the town of Appomattox
Court House. There, on April 9, 1865, his escape cut off, Lee
surrendered.

Grant offered Lee generous surrender terms. The Confederates had
only to give up their weapons and leave in peace. As Lee rode off, some
Union troops started to celebrate the surrender. But Grant silenced them.
“The war is over,” he said. “The rebels are our countrymen again.”

**The War’s Terrible Toll** The Civil War was the bloodiest
conflict the United States has ever fought. About 260,000 Confederate
soldiers gave their lives in the war. The number of Union dead
exceeded 360,000, including 37,000 African Americans. Nearly a half
million men were wounded. Many returned home disfigured for life.

The war had two key results: It reunited the nation and put an
end to slavery. However, a century would pass before African Amer-
icans would begin to experience the full meaning of freedom.

**Comprehension and Critical Thinking**

1. (a) Identify Why are the battles at Gettysburg and Vicksburg
   considered a turning point? (b) Understand Sequence How did
   the advantages of the North at the start of the war continue to
   be advantages?

2. (a) Classify President Lincoln called for “charity for all.” How
   would you classify his words to the country? (b) Distinguish Facts
   From Opinions Write three facts and three opinions Grant might have
   stated about the Civil War.

**Reading Skill** 3. Relate Events in a Sequence What events led to the turning
   point of the Civil War in July 1863? How did those events
   change the war?

**Key Terms** Complete each of the following sentences so that the second part fur-
ther explains the first part and clearly shows your understanding of the
key term.

4. Grant placed Vicksburg under a siege; ______
5. Sherman pursued a total war; ______

**Writing** 6. This section says that the Civil War took more than
620,000 American lives. Research and record the number of Amer-
ican deaths in World War I, World War II, Korea, and Viet-
nam. Compare the total number of American lives lost in these
wars to the number lost in the Civil War. Then, write a para-
tograph to make a point about your findings. Also, credit the
sources of published information you used.

**Progress Monitoring Online**

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**Checkpoint** Why did Lee finally decide to surrender?

**Looking Back and Ahead** With Lee’s surrender, the
long and bitter war came to an end. In the next chapter, you will read
how U.S. leaders tried to patch the Union together again.

**Assess and Reteach**

**Assess Progress** Have students complete Check Your
Progress. Administer the Section Quiz.

**Interactive Reading and Notetaking Study Guide,** Chapter 15, Section 5

To further assess student understanding, use the Progress Monitoring Transparency.

**Progress Monitoring Transparencies,**
Chapter 15, Section 5

**Reteach** If students need more instruction, have them read this section in the Interactive
Reading and Notetaking Study Guide.

**Extend** Explain that in the late 1860s, Memorial Day emerged as a day to honor soldiers
who had died in the Civil War. Today, the holiday honors those whose lives were
sacrificed in all American wars. Ask students to write a Memorial Day speech
explaining why it is important to honor those who have given their lives in Ameri-
can wars. Students should read their speeches aloud to the class.

**Progress Monitoring Online** Students may check their comprehen-
sion of this section by completing the Progress Monitoring Online graphic
organizer and self-quiz.

**Answer** He was surrounded with no escape; he had lost too many men in a long,
bloody conflict and had little hope of rein-
forcements.

4. He cut it off from food and supplies
   until the city surrendered.
5. His aim was to destroy the Confederate
   army, its resources, and the will of the
   South to fight.
6. Students’ paragraphs will vary, but
   should make accurate comparisons
   between the loss of American lives in
   the Civil War and in the other wars.

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