

Resources and Resolve

Compare the advantages and limits each side carried into the Civil War.

SS.8.A.5.5 "Compare Union and Confederate strengths and weaknesses."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each Union strength, circle each Confederate strength, and write U or C beside every weakness to show which side it limited.

Two Sides at War

- ① When war began in 1861, the Union had major advantages in people, factories, railroads, and money. Its larger population supplied more soldiers and workers. Northern factories made rifles, uniforms, railroad equipment, and other war goods. A broad rail network moved troops and supplies quickly. The federal government also had an established navy and easier access to loans. These resources gave Union leaders a strong base for fighting a long war, even though they still had to defeat armies on Southern land.
- ② The Confederacy held important strengths of its own. Many white Southerners believed they were defending their homes and independence, which could strengthen commitment. Confederate forces often fought on familiar ground and could use shorter routes inside their territory. Several capable commanders, including Robert E. Lee and Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson, won early victories. Yet the South had fewer people, fewer factories, fewer railroads, and less money than the North. Enslaved people were forced to support the Southern economy, but slavery also caused a fundamental injustice and did not create broad military strength.
- ③ Each side also faced problems that shaped its strategy. Union armies had to invade and control a vast area, while many Northern voters grew tired of casualties. The Confederacy hoped its cotton would persuade Britain or France to help, but no European power recognized it. The Union navy blockaded Southern ports, reducing trade and supplies. Over time, the North's larger pool of soldiers and industrial resources helped it replace losses. Confederate shortages became more severe, and the Union's advantages proved decisive by 1865.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 Which side had the stronger ability to produce and transport war supplies? Give two details from the passage that support your answer.

2 Compare a Union challenge with a Confederate advantage connected to fighting in Southern territory.

3 How did the difference in population affect each side's ability to continue a long war?

4 How did Union naval strength become a Confederate weakness over time?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Complete the chart. For each side, choose one strength and one weakness from the passage, then write a sentence explaining how those factors affected that side's chance of winning a long war.

SIDE	ONE STRENGTH	ONE WEAKNESS	EFFECT ON A LONG WAR

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline each Union strength, circle each Confederate strength, and write U or C beside every weakness to show which side it limited. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Which side had the stronger ability to produce and transport war supplies? Give two details from the passage that support your answer.	The Union. Northern factories made war goods, and its broad rail network moved troops and supplies quickly.
2	Compare a Union challenge with a Confederate advantage connected to fighting in Southern territory.	Union armies had to invade and control a vast area. Confederate forces often fought on familiar ground and could use shorter routes inside their territory.
3	How did the difference in population affect each side's ability to continue a long war?	The Union's larger population gave it more soldiers and workers and helped it replace losses. The Confederacy had fewer people, so it had a smaller pool of soldiers and workers.
4	How did Union naval strength become a Confederate weakness over time?	The Union navy blockaded Southern ports, reducing Confederate trade and supplies. This made Confederate shortages more severe.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

SIDE	ONE STRENGTH	ONE WEAKNESS	EFFECT ON A LONG WAR
Union	Large population and factories	Union armies had to invade and control a vast area.	The Union could replace losses and make supplies, so its strength outweighed this challenge in a long war.
Confederacy	Familiar ground and capable commanders	Fewer people, factories, railroads, and money	These shortages made it harder for the Confederacy to keep fighting over time.

Accept equivalent strengths and weaknesses stated in the passage. In the chart, accept reasonable explanations that connect resources, manpower, transportation, morale, territory, or shortages to each side's ability to sustain the war.