

War Beyond Battle

Compare Civil War events by tracing their effects on civilians.

SS.8.A.5.6 "Compare significant Civil War battles and events and their effects on civilian populations."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline words and phrases that show effects on civilians, then write A, V, or S beside each one for Antietam, Vicksburg, or Sherman's March. Use your marks to compare how each event changed civilian life.

Civilians in the Path of War

- ① Civil War battles reached far beyond soldiers. At Antietam, fought near Sharpsburg, Maryland, on September 17, 1862, fighting damaged fields, fences, and homes. After the battle, thousands of wounded men needed care. Local families, churches, and barns became temporary hospitals, while farmers watched their land fill with troops and graves. The Union victory was not decisive, but it stopped the Confederate invasion of Maryland and gave President Lincoln a chance to issue the preliminary Emancipation Proclamation.
- ② In 1863, Union forces surrounded Vicksburg, Mississippi, for 47 days. Confederate soldiers and civilians were trapped inside as shells struck the city. Many residents sheltered in caves dug into hillsides. Food became scarce, and people ate unfamiliar foods, including mule meat, as supplies ran low. When Vicksburg surrendered on July 4, the Union gained control of the Mississippi River. The siege showed how a military plan to capture a key river city could bring hunger, fear, and destruction directly to civilians.
- ③ In late 1864, General William T. Sherman led Union troops from Atlanta to Savannah, Georgia. His March to the Sea was not one battle, but a campaign meant to weaken the Confederacy's ability to fight. Soldiers destroyed railroads, seized or destroyed food, and burned some buildings, especially property connected to the Confederate war effort. These actions disrupted daily life for civilians, including enslaved people seeking Union lines and families left without crops or transportation. Unlike the brief fighting at Antietam, Sherman's campaign caused damage across a wide region for weeks.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 What were two ways the Battle of Antietam affected civilians near Sharpsburg?

2 How did the siege of Vicksburg connect a Union military goal to civilian hardship?

3 Compare Antietam with Sherman's March to the Sea. How did the length and area of each event affect civilians differently?

4 What hardship did civilians at Vicksburg share with civilians affected by Sherman's March, and what was one difference?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write exactly four sentences comparing Vicksburg with Sherman's March to the Sea. Make a claim about which event caused broader civilian disruption, and support your claim with one detail from each event.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline words and phrases that show effects on civilians, then write A, V, or S beside each one for Antietam, Vicksburg, or Sherman's March. Use your marks to compare how each event changed civilian life. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What were two ways the Battle of Antietam affected civilians near Sharpsburg?	Fighting damaged fields, fences, and homes. Families, churches, and barns became temporary hospitals, and farms filled with troops and graves.
2	How did the siege of Vicksburg connect a Union military goal to civilian hardship?	The Union wanted to capture Vicksburg and gain control of the Mississippi River. Civilians trapped in the city faced shelling, hid in caves, and suffered food shortages.
3	Compare Antietam with Sherman's March to the Sea. How did the length and area of each event affect civilians differently?	Antietam was brief fighting near Sharpsburg, where nearby farms and homes were damaged. Sherman's campaign lasted weeks and caused damage across a wide region from Atlanta to Savannah.
4	What hardship did civilians at Vicksburg share with civilians affected by Sherman's March, and what was one difference?	Both faced disrupted daily life and loss of needed resources. At Vicksburg, residents were trapped, shelled, and hungry in one city. During Sherman's March, families across a region lost crops or transportation, and enslaved people sought Union lines.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Sherman's March caused broader civilian disruption than the siege of Vicksburg. The siege trapped city residents, who hid in caves and faced hunger. Sherman's troops moved across a wide region for weeks, destroying railroads and food. Both events harmed civilians, but the March affected more communities because it crossed from Atlanta to Savannah.

Accept equivalent details from the passage and reasonable comparison language. For the open response, accept either claim if the student uses accurate evidence from both Vicksburg and Sherman's March.