

Civil War Turning Points

Identify major events and explain how they shaped the war.

SS4H5.c "Identify major battles, campaigns, and events: Fort Sumter, Gettysburg, the Atlanta Campaign, Sherman's March to the Sea, and Appomattox Court House."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the five named battles, campaigns, or events. Write 1 through 5 beside them to show the order in which they happened.

Events That Changed the War

- ① In April 1861, Confederate troops fired on Fort Sumter, a United States fort in Charleston Harbor, South Carolina. The soldiers inside surrendered after the attack. President Abraham Lincoln then called for volunteers to fight for the Union. Fort Sumter marked the beginning of the Civil War. It showed that the conflict over slavery and the Union had become a war between armies.
- ② In July 1863, the Battle of Gettysburg took place in Pennsylvania. Union soldiers stopped Confederate General Robert E. Lee's army from moving farther north. The Union victory was a major turning point because Lee could not invade the North again. In 1864, General William T. Sherman led the Atlanta Campaign. Union forces fought to capture Atlanta, an important railroad and supply center in Georgia.
- ③ After Atlanta fell in September 1864, Sherman began his March to the Sea. His army traveled from Atlanta to Savannah, damaging railroads, supplies, and other resources that helped the Confederate army. In April 1865, Lee surrendered to Union General Ulysses S. Grant at Appomattox Court House, Virginia. The surrender led to the end of major fighting in the Civil War.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 What happened at Fort Sumter, and why was this event important?

2 Why was the Battle of Gettysburg a major turning point?

3 What did Union forces try to do during the Atlanta Campaign, and why was Atlanta important?

4 Name the two major events that happened after Atlanta fell. What happened in each event?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write a five-sentence Civil War event chain in your own words. Name all five events in order, and tell what happened or why each event mattered.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline the five named battles, campaigns, or events. Write 1 through 5 beside them to show the order in which they happened. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What happened at Fort Sumter, and why was this event important?	Confederate troops fired on Fort Sumter, and the fort surrendered. This event marked the beginning of the Civil War.
2	Why was the Battle of Gettysburg a major turning point?	Union soldiers stopped Lee's army from moving farther north. Lee could not invade the North again.
3	What did Union forces try to do during the Atlanta Campaign, and why was Atlanta important?	They fought to capture Atlanta. It was an important railroad and supply center in Georgia.
4	Name the two major events that happened after Atlanta fell. What happened in each event?	Sherman's March to the Sea went from Atlanta to Savannah and damaged resources that helped the Confederate army. At Appomattox Court House, Lee surrendered to Grant, leading to the end of major fighting.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Fort Sumter was attacked in 1861, beginning the Civil War. At the Battle of Gettysburg, Union soldiers stopped Lee's army from moving farther north. During the Atlanta Campaign, Union forces captured an important Georgia city. Sherman's March to the Sea damaged resources that supported the Confederate army. At Appomattox Court House, Lee surrendered, leading to the end of major fighting.

Accept equivalent wording that correctly identifies the events and their order. For the event chain, require all five named events in chronological order and an accurate detail about each one.