

Civil War Turning Points

Trace causes, major events, and consequences in a history text.

SS4H5 "Explain the causes, major events, and consequences of the Civil War."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline one cause, circle two major events, and number two consequences in the order they happened. Your marks will help you trace how the Civil War began, unfolded, and changed the nation.

A Nation Divided

- ① Before the Civil War, the United States was divided over slavery. Enslaved people were forced to work without freedom, mainly in Southern states. Many Northern people and abolitionists wanted slavery ended. Southern leaders depended on enslaved labor and feared losing power. Arguments over whether slavery could spread into new western territories made the conflict grow stronger.
- ② In 1860, Abraham Lincoln was elected president. He opposed the spread of slavery into territories. Soon, eleven Southern states left the Union, a step called secession. In 1861, Confederate forces fired on Fort Sumter in South Carolina. This attack began the war between the Union, or Northern states, and the Confederacy, made up of the seceding Southern states.
- ③ The war lasted four years and caused terrible loss. President Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation in 1863, declaring freedom for enslaved people in Confederate-held areas. The Union victory in 1865 kept the United States together. The Thirteenth Amendment ended slavery in the nation, but formerly enslaved people still faced unfair laws, violence, and struggles for equal rights.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 What disagreement was one cause of the Civil War?

2 What happened at Fort Sumter, and why was it important?

3 How did the Union victory affect the United States?

4 Name two consequences described in the last paragraph.

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write exactly three sentences that trace one cause, one major event, and one consequence of the Civil War. Use a cause in the first sentence, an event in the second sentence, and a consequence in the third sentence.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline one cause, circle two major events, and number two consequences in the order they happened. Your marks will help you trace how the Civil War began, unfolded, and changed the nation. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What disagreement was one cause of the Civil War?	People disagreed about slavery, including whether it could spread into new western territories.
2	What happened at Fort Sumter, and why was it important?	Confederate forces fired on Fort Sumter in 1861. The attack began the Civil War.
3	How did the Union victory affect the United States?	The Union victory kept the United States together.
4	Name two consequences described in the last paragraph.	Accept any two: slavery ended through the Thirteenth Amendment; formerly enslaved people faced unfair laws; they faced violence; they struggled for equal rights.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Disagreement about the spread of slavery was a cause of the Civil War. Confederate forces fired on Fort Sumter, beginning the war. After the Union won, the Thirteenth Amendment ended slavery, although equal rights were still denied to many formerly enslaved people.

Accept equivalent cause, event, and consequence statements supported by the passage. For Part 3, check that the student includes one accurate cause, one accurate event, and one accurate consequence in three sentences.