How Victory Took Shape

People, decisions, and resources in the Civil War

8.H.23 "Identify the factors and individuals which influenced the outcome of the Civil War, and explain the significance of each."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline three factors or decisions and circle three people who influenced the war's outcome. Number each mark, then write the same number beside the words that explain why it mattered.

What Helped the Union Win?

1. In 1861, both sides expected a short Civil War, but the fighting lasted four years. The Union had more people, factories, and railroad track than the Confederacy. Its factories produced weapons and supplies, while its railroads moved troops and food. The Union navy also blockaded Southern ports, making it harder for the Confederacy to sell cotton abroad and import weapons. These advantages did not guarantee victory. Confederate armies fought effectively, and the Union still had to turn its resources into victories on the battlefield.

2. President Abraham Lincoln made a decision that changed the war's purpose and strengthened the Union. His Emancipation Proclamation, issued in 1863, declared freedom for enslaved people in areas rebelling against the United States. It did not free everyone at once, but it allowed Black men to join the Union military. Nearly 180,000 Black soldiers served in the Union Army during the war. Their service added fighters and helped the Union weaken slavery, a system that supported the Confederate economy. Lincoln also kept the Union focused on preserving the nation.

3. In 1864, Lincoln placed General Ulysses S. Grant in command of all Union armies. Grant kept pressure on General Robert E. Lee's army in Virginia, limiting its chances to recover between battles. At the same time, General William T. Sherman led Union forces through Georgia, capturing Atlanta, an important railroad and supply center. Sherman's success raised Northern confidence during Lincoln's 1864 reelection campaign. By April 1865, Lee's army could no longer continue fighting and surrendered to Grant at Appomattox Court House. Other Confederate armies surrendered afterward, ending the war.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did the Union's factories and railroads help its armies fight a long war?

2. Why did the Union blockade of Southern ports make the war harder for the Confederacy?

3. How did Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation strengthen the Union's war effort?

4. Why did Sherman's capture of Atlanta matter to the Union beyond taking a city?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Choose one leader and one resource or decision from the passage. In four or five sentences, explain how they could work together to help the Union win. Include a specific detail about each and explain why the combination mattered.

ANSWER KEY

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GRADE 8 · 8.H.23

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline three factors or decisions and circle three people who influenced the war's outcome. Number each mark, then write the same number beside the words that explain why it mattered. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did the Union's factories and railroads help its armies fight a long war?	**Factories produced weapons and supplies, while railroads moved troops and food.**
2	Why did the Union blockade of Southern ports make the war harder for the Confederacy?	**The blockade made it harder for the Confederacy to sell cotton abroad and import weapons.**
3	How did Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation strengthen the Union's war effort?	**It allowed Black men to join the Union military. Their service added fighters and helped weaken slavery, which supported the Confederate economy.**
4	Why did Sherman's capture of Atlanta matter to the Union beyond taking a city?	**Atlanta was an important railroad and supply center, and its capture raised Northern confidence during Lincoln's reelection campaign.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Grant kept pressure on Lee's army in Virginia, leaving it little time to recover between battles. The Union's factories produced weapons and supplies for its armies. Those supplies could help Grant's troops continue fighting as he pressed Lee. Together, Grant's strategy and the Union's ability to supply its armies helped turn a long war in the Union's favor.

Accept explanations that connect a named leader to a distinct resource or decision using accurate details from the passage. The response should explain how the two influences worked together, not simply list them.