After the Fighting

Lee's surrender and the terms that sent soldiers home

8.C.12.4.E "Describe Lee's surrender at Appomattox Courthouse and the conditions of Grant's surrender terms."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline details that show why and how Lee surrendered, and circle Grant's conditions for the Confederate soldiers. Use your marks to explain what happened at Appomattox Court House.

A Meeting at Appomattox Court House

1 By early April 1865, Union forces had cut off General Robert E. Lee's retreat across Virginia. His Army of Northern Virginia was exhausted, short of food, and unable to break through Union lines near Appomattox Court House. On April 9, Lee met Union General Ulysses S. Grant at the home of Wilmer McLean. The two commanders sat down to settle how Lee's army would surrender. Their meeting ended a major campaign, though other Confederate armies had not yet surrendered and the Civil War was not officially over.

2 Grant wrote terms that would let defeated soldiers go home rather than remain in prison camps. Confederate troops had to turn over their weapons, artillery, and other public property to Union officers. They would be allowed to return home after giving their word, called a parole, not to fight the United States again unless properly exchanged. Grant said U.S. authorities would not disturb them as long as they kept that promise and obeyed the laws where they lived. Officers could keep their sidearms, private horses, and personal baggage.

3 During their meeting, Lee raised a practical problem: many of his men owned horses they needed for spring planting. Grant agreed to let soldiers who owned horses take them home. Lee accepted the surrender terms, and the Union army supplied food to hungry Confederate troops. The Confederates laid down their arms, and officials recorded the soldiers' paroles. Rather than being held in prison camps, the men could leave for home. Grant's conditions helped end their fighting while giving them a way to resume civilian life.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What circumstances led Lee to meet Grant, and where did they meet?

2. What did Confederate troops have to surrender, and what promise allowed them to go home?

3. Under what conditions would U.S. authorities leave the paroled soldiers undisturbed?

4. How did Grant's terms address officers' belongings and soldiers' need to farm?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Imagine you are a newspaper reporter writing on April 9, 1865. Write a four- or five-sentence report explaining how Lee surrendered, at least two conditions of Grant's terms, and why one condition mattered to soldiers returning home.

ANSWER KEY

After the Fighting

GRADE 8 · 8.C.12.4.E

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline details that show why and how Lee surrendered, and circle Grant's conditions for the Confederate soldiers. Use your marks to explain what happened at Appomattox Court House. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What circumstances led Lee to meet Grant, and where did they meet?	**Union forces had cut off Lee's retreat, and his army was exhausted, hungry, and unable to break through. The generals met at Wilmer McLean's home near Appomattox Court House.**
2	What did Confederate troops have to surrender, and what promise allowed them to go home?	**They had to surrender weapons, artillery, and other public property. They had to promise not to fight the United States again unless properly exchanged.**
3	Under what conditions would U.S. authorities leave the paroled soldiers undisturbed?	**The soldiers had to keep their parole and obey the laws where they lived.**
4	How did Grant's terms address officers' belongings and soldiers' need to farm?	**Officers could keep their sidearms, private horses, and personal baggage. Soldiers who owned horses could take them home for spring planting.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Today at Appomattox Court House, Lee met Grant after Union troops blocked his army's retreat. Lee accepted terms requiring his soldiers to surrender their weapons and promise not to fight the United States again unless exchanged. Officers could keep their sidearms and personal baggage, while soldiers who owned horses could take them home. The Union army also provided food to the hungry men. For a soldier hoping to plant crops this spring, bringing a horse home could make it possible to work his fields.

Accept responses that accurately describe the meeting and distinguish the surrender of public property from the belongings and horses Grant allowed people to keep. Students may explain the value of parole, food, or horses to soldiers returning home.