War Changes Course

Trace how causes, strategies, and turning points shaped the Civil War.

8.C.12 "Analyze the course and consequences of the Civil War. Analyze major issues of the presidential election of 1860 and its immediate consequences..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two reasons the war began, circle two Union methods for weakening Confederate forces, and number Antietam, Gettysburg, and Vicksburg in the order they happened.

From Secession to Surrender

1. In 1860, the national Democratic Party split over slavery's expansion, while the new Republican Party opposed its spread into western territories. Abraham Lincoln won the presidency without carrying a southern state. At Cooper Union earlier that year, he had argued against slavery's expansion and urged Americans not to break the Union over the issue. Several southern states seceded; their declarations named threats to slavery as a central reason. They formed the Confederate States of America and chose Jefferson Davis as president. In April 1861, Confederate guns fired on the federal fort at Sumter, South Carolina, starting the war.

2. The Union had more people, factories, and railroads, but Confederate forces could defend familiar ground and hope northern voters would tire of fighting. The Union's Anaconda Plan aimed to blockade southern ports and control the Mississippi River, choking off supplies. In September 1862, Union troops stopped General Robert E. Lee's invasion at Antietam. The battle gave Lincoln the opening to announce the Emancipation Proclamation. Issued in 1863, it declared enslaved people free in areas still rebelling against the Union. It did not immediately free everyone, but it made ending slavery a stated war goal.

3. Black soldiers, including the 54th Massachusetts Regiment, helped the Union fight for that goal. In July 1863, Union victory at Gettysburg ended Lee's second invasion of the North. That month, General Ulysses S. Grant took Vicksburg, giving the Union control of the Mississippi and splitting the Confederacy. Later, General William T. Sherman attacked railroads, supplies, and other resources that supported Confederate armies; civilians also suffered. In April 1865, Lee surrendered to Grant at Appomattox Courthouse. Grant allowed soldiers to return home and men who owned horses to use them for spring planting.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did the party split in 1860 reveal a division that also drove southern secession?

2. How did the Union's Anaconda Plan differ from the Confederacy's plan for outlasting the Union?

3. Why did Antietam matter to Lincoln's war goals, and what limit did the Emancipation Proclamation have?

4. How did the Union victories at Gettysburg and Vicksburg each weaken the Confederacy?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a four-sentence newspaper report explaining how the Union's goals and methods changed from 1861 to 1865. Use at least three specific events or policies from the passage, and explain one consequence for enslaved people or civilians.

ANSWER KEY

War Changes Course

GRADE 8 · 8.C.12

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline two reasons the war began, circle two Union methods for weakening Confederate forces, and number Antietam, Gettysburg, and Vicksburg in the order they happened. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did the party split in 1860 reveal a division that also drove southern secession?	**The parties divided over slavery's expansion, and southern secession declarations named threats to slavery as a central reason for leaving the Union.**
2	How did the Union's Anaconda Plan differ from the Confederacy's plan for outlasting the Union?	**The Union planned to blockade ports and control the Mississippi to cut off supplies. Confederate forces aimed to hold their ground until northern voters tired of the war.**
3	Why did Antietam matter to Lincoln's war goals, and what limit did the Emancipation Proclamation have?	**Antietam stopped Lee's invasion and gave Lincoln an opening to announce the proclamation, making freedom a stated war goal. It did not immediately free everyone.**
4	How did the Union victories at Gettysburg and Vicksburg each weaken the Confederacy?	**Gettysburg ended Lee's invasion of the North. Vicksburg gave the Union control of the Mississippi River and split the Confederacy.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

After Confederate forces fired on Fort Sumter in 1861, the Union fought to preserve the nation. Its Anaconda Plan tried to cut off southern supplies by blockading ports and controlling the Mississippi River. After Antietam, Lincoln announced the Emancipation Proclamation, making freedom for enslaved people in rebelling areas a stated goal, though freedom did not arrive everywhere at once. Later, Sherman attacked railroads and supplies supporting Confederate armies, a method that also harmed civilians.

For the marking job, accept slavery's expansion, threats to slavery, or the attack on Fort Sumter as reasons the war began. Accept the Anaconda Plan and Sherman's attacks as Union methods; the event order is Antietam, Gettysburg, Vicksburg.