

Decisions and Courage

Trace how leaders and heroes shaped the Civil War.

8.8.A "explain the roles played by significant individuals during the Civil War, including Jefferson Davis, Ulysses S. Grant, Robert E. Lee, and Abraham Lincoln..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the words that describe what each named person did, then write P, M, or C beside each underlined detail for political leader, military leader, or courageous individual action.

People Who Shaped the War

- ① During the Civil War, Abraham Lincoln led the United States as president. He worked to preserve the Union, directed national policy, and issued the Emancipation Proclamation, which changed the war by declaring freedom for enslaved people in Confederate-held areas. Jefferson Davis served as president of the Confederate States. He tried to unite the seceded states, manage their government, and support the Confederate war effort. Both presidents made major political decisions, but they led opposing nations with different goals.
- ② On the battlefield, Robert E. Lee commanded the Confederate Army of Northern Virginia. His bold strategy and leadership helped Confederate forces win important early battles, although his army later faced shortages and defeat. Ulysses S. Grant became the leading Union general in 1864. Grant coordinated several Union armies, kept pressure on Lee's forces, and accepted Lee's surrender at Appomattox Court House in 1865. Lee's surrender was a major step toward the war's end in Virginia and beyond.
- ③ Individual courage also shaped the war's story. William Carney, a soldier in the 54th Massachusetts Infantry, carried the United States flag during the 1863 assault on Fort Wagner. Though wounded, he protected the flag and returned it to Union lines. He later received the Medal of Honor. Philip Bazaar, a sailor on the USS Santiago de Cuba, carried dispatches under heavy fire during the 1865 assault on Fort Fisher. His actions also earned the Medal of Honor.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 How did Abraham Lincoln and Jefferson Davis each use the role of president during the Civil War?

2 What did Ulysses S. Grant do as the leading Union general, and what happened when he met Lee at Appomattox Court House?

3 Explain how Robert E. Lee's leadership affected the Confederate Army of Northern Virginia.

4 What courageous action did William Carney take, and what courageous action did Philip Bazaar take?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write exactly four sentences comparing the roles of one military or political leader and one Medal of Honor recipient from the passage. Include one specific action by each person, then explain how their roles were different.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline the words that describe what each named person did, then write P, M, or C beside each underlined detail for political leader, military leader, or courageous individual action. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did Abraham Lincoln and Jefferson Davis each use the role of president during the Civil War?	Lincoln led the United States, worked to preserve the Union, directed policy, and issued the Emancipation Proclamation. Davis led the Confederate States and tried to unite the seceded states, manage their government, and support the Confederate war effort.
2	What did Ulysses S. Grant do as the leading Union general, and what happened when he met Lee at Appomattox Court House?	Grant coordinated several Union armies and kept pressure on Lee's forces. In 1865, he accepted Lee's surrender at Appomattox Court House.
3	Explain how Robert E. Lee's leadership affected the Confederate Army of Northern Virginia.	Lee's bold strategy and leadership helped Confederate forces win important early battles. Later, his army faced shortages and defeat.
4	What courageous action did William Carney take, and what courageous action did Philip Bazaar take?	Carney protected the United States flag and returned it to Union lines after being wounded at Fort Wagner. Bazaar carried dispatches under heavy fire during the assault on Fort Fisher.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Ulysses S. Grant was a Union general who coordinated several Union armies. By keeping pressure on Lee's forces, he helped bring about Lee's surrender. William Carney was a soldier who protected the United States flag after he was wounded at Fort Wagner. Grant shaped military strategy, while Carney showed courage during a dangerous battle.

Accept any accurate comparison using one leader and either Carney or Bazaar. A strong response names a specific action for each person and clearly distinguishes leadership from individual courage.