

Turning Points Explained

Trace how major Civil War events changed the conflict and its aftermath.

8.8.C "explain significant events of the Civil War, including the firing on Fort Sumter; the battles of Antietam, Gettysburg, and Vicksburg; the Emancipation Proclamation; Lee's surrender at Appomattox Court House..."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the name of each major event. Write numbers 1 through 7 beside the underlined events in the order they happened, then notice how the nearby sentences explain each event's effect.

Events That Changed the War

- ① In April 1861, Confederate forces fired on Fort Sumter, a U.S. fort in Charleston Harbor, South Carolina. After 34 hours of bombardment, the fort's commander surrendered. No soldiers died during the bombardment, but the attack had enormous meaning. It turned a political crisis over slavery and secession into open war. President Abraham Lincoln called for troops, and four more slave states joined the Confederacy. Both sides began preparing for a struggle far longer and costlier than many people expected.
- ② In September 1862, the Battle of Antietam stopped Confederate General Robert E. Lee's first invasion of the North. It was the bloodiest single day of the war. The Union result gave Lincoln a chance to announce the Emancipation Proclamation. Taking effect on January 1, 1863, it declared freedom for enslaved people in areas under rebellion. It changed the Union's purpose and allowed Black men to enlist. In July 1863, Union victories at Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, and Vicksburg, Mississippi, halted another Confederate invasion and gave the Union control of the Mississippi River.
- ③ On April 9, 1865, Lee surrendered the Army of Northern Virginia to Union General Ulysses S. Grant at Appomattox Court House, Virginia. Grant's generous terms let Confederate soldiers return home after giving up their weapons and promising not to fight again. Other Confederate forces soon surrendered, ending major fighting. Five days later, John Wilkes Booth shot Lincoln at Ford's Theatre in Washington, D.C. Lincoln died the next morning. His assassination shocked the nation and left Vice President Andrew Johnson to lead the difficult work of Reconstruction.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 Why was the firing on Fort Sumter significant even though no soldiers died during the bombardment?

2 How did the Union result at Antietam lead to a major change in the Union's war goals?

3 How did Gettysburg and Vicksburg weaken the Confederacy in two different ways?

4 What did Lee's surrender at Appomattox Court House end, and how did Lincoln's assassination affect the nation afterward?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write a five-sentence explanation that traces how at least three events from the passage changed the Civil War from its beginning to its aftermath. Name the events in chronological order, explain a result of each event, and use the word *because* and the word *therefore*.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline the name of each major event. Write numbers 1 through 7 beside the underlined events in the order they happened, then notice how the nearby sentences explain each event's effect. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Why was the firing on Fort Sumter significant even though no soldiers died during the bombardment?	It turned the crisis over slavery and secession into open war. Lincoln called for troops, and four more slave states joined the Confederacy.
2	How did the Union result at Antietam lead to a major change in the Union's war goals?	The result at Antietam gave Lincoln a chance to announce the Emancipation Proclamation. It declared freedom for enslaved people in rebellious areas, made ending slavery a Union purpose, and allowed Black men to enlist.
3	How did Gettysburg and Vicksburg weaken the Confederacy in two different ways?	Gettysburg halted another Confederate invasion of the North. Vicksburg gave the Union control of the Mississippi River.
4	What did Lee's surrender at Appomattox Court House end, and how did Lincoln's assassination affect the nation afterward?	Lee's surrender led other Confederate forces to surrender and ended major fighting. Lincoln's assassination shocked the nation and left Andrew Johnson to lead Reconstruction.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Fort Sumter turned secession into open war because Confederate forces fired on a U.S. fort. The attack led Lincoln to call for troops, so the conflict grew. After Antietam, Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation, making the destruction of slavery a Union war aim. Therefore, Black men could enlist in the Union forces. Finally, Lee's surrender at Appomattox Court House ended the major fighting.

Accept equivalent explanations that connect each event to its effect as stated in the passage. For the open response, check chronological order, at least three named events, an effect for each, five sentences, and both required transition words.