

Early Years of the War

Pages 466-472

- 1. Where was the 1st major battle of the Civil War fought at and what was it called?**
- 2. How did General Thomas Jackson get the nickname "Stonewall"?**
- 3. What was the result of the 1st major battle (who won?)?**
- 4. Who did Lincoln put in charge of the Army of the Potomac?**
- 5. Describe a naval blockade. What was it used for and why was it effective?**
- 6. What is an ironclad?**
- 7. Describe what happened in the battle between the *Monitor* and *Merrimack*.**
- 8. What was the North's primary goal in the West?**
- 9. Who was the Union commander in the West? What was his nickname?**
- 10. Describe the Battle of Shiloh.**
- 11. Who led Union Naval forces to capture New Orleans in April 1862?**
- 12. What was the North's major offensive called?**
- 13. Describe what happened when the North tried to take Richmond, Virginia.**
- 14. What did two Union Soldiers find in Frederick, Maryland that was an advantage for the North?**
- 15. Describe the Battle of Antietam.**
- 16. Why did Lincoln replace General McClellan with Ambrose Burnside?**

SECTION 2 Early Years of the War

Guide to Reading

Main Idea

Neither the Union nor the Confederate forces gained a strong advantage during the early years of the war.

Key Terms

blockade runner, ironclad, casualty



Reading Strategy

Classifying Information As you read, describe the outcome of each of these battles on a chart like the one shown.

Battle	Outcome
First Battle of Bull Run (Manassas)	
Monitor v. Merrimack	
Antietam	

Read to Learn

- what successes and failures the North and the South had in the early years of the war.
- how the North's naval blockade hurt the South.

Section Theme

Geography and History The North and the South fought the war differently in different geographic regions.

Preview of Events

1861

July 1861

First Battle of Bull Run (Manassas)

1862

February 1862

Grant captures Fort Henry and Fort Donelson

April 1862

Battle of Shiloh

1863

September 1862

Battle of Antietam

AN American Story

Sunday, July 21, 1861, was a pleasant, sunny day in Washington, D.C. Hundreds of cheerful residents, food baskets in hand, left the city and crossed the Potomac River to spend the day in Virginia. They planned to picnic while watching the first battle between the Union and the Confederate armies. Expecting to see Union troops crush the Rebels, they looked forward to a quick victory. The Confederate soldiers also expected a quick victory. They "carried dress suits with them, and any quantity of fine linen. Every soldier, nearly, had a servant with him, and a whole lot of spoons and forks, so as to live comfortably and elegantly in camp...."

First Battle of Bull Run

This first major battle of the Civil War was fought in northern Virginia, about five miles from a town called Manassas Junction near Bull Run—a small river in the area. Usually called the First Battle of Bull Run, it began when about 30,000 inexperienced Union troops commanded by General Irvin McDowell attacked a smaller, equally inexperienced Confederate force led by General P.G.T. Beauregard.

Civil War cannon



President Lincoln meets General McClellan and other Union officers.

The Yankees drove the Confederates back at first. Then the Rebels rallied, inspired by reinforcements under General Thomas Jackson. Jackson, who was seen holding out heroically “like a stone wall,” became known thereafter as “Stonewall” Jackson. The Confederates unleashed a savage counterattack that forced the Union lines to break.

The Confederates surged forward with a strange, unearthly scream that came to be known as the Rebel yell. Terrified, the Northern soldiers began to drop their guns and packs and run. One observer, Representative Albert Riddle, reported:

“A cruel, crazy, mad, hopeless panic possessed them. . . . The heat was awful. . . . the men were exhausted—their mouths gaped, their lips cracked and blackened with the powder of the cartridges they had bitten off in the battle, their eyes staring in frenzy.”

The Union army began an orderly retreat that quickly became a mad stampede when the retreating Union troops collided with the civilians, fleeing in panic back to Washington, D.C. The Confederates, though victorious, were too disorganized and weakened to pursue the

retreating Yankees. Regardless, the South rejoiced. Edmund Ruffin of Virginia thought it meant “the close of the war.”

A Shock for the North

The outcome of the battle shocked the North. Northerners began to understand that the war could be a long, difficult, and costly struggle. Although discouraged by the results, President Abraham Lincoln was also determined. Within days he issued a call for more volunteers for the army. He signed two bills requesting a total of one million soldiers, who would serve for three years. Volunteers soon crowded into recruiting offices. Lincoln also appointed a new general, George B. McClellan, to head the Union army of the East—called the **Army of the Potomac**—and to organize the troops.

Reading Check Explaining How did the First Battle of Bull Run change people’s views about the war?

War at Sea

Even before Bull Run, Lincoln had ordered a naval blockade of Southern ports. An effective blockade would prevent the South from exporting its cotton and from importing the supplies necessary to continue the war.

Enforcing the Blockade

When the war began, the North did not have enough ships to blockade the South's entire 3,500-mile coastline. Many Confederate ships, called **blockade runners**, could sail in and out of Southern ports. In time, the North built more ships and became better able to enforce the blockade.

The blockade caused serious problems for the South. Although the blockade could never close off all Southern trade, it did reduce the trade by more than two-thirds. Goods such as coffee, shoes, nails, and salt—as well as guns and ammunition—were in short supply throughout the war.

The Monitor Versus the Merrimack

The South did not intend to let the blockade go unchallenged. Southerners salvaged the *Merrimack*, a Union warship that Northern forces had abandoned when Confederate forces seized the naval shipyard in Norfolk, Virginia. The Confederates rebuilt the wooden ship, covered it with thick iron plates, and renamed it the *Virginia*.

On March 8, 1862, this ironclad warship attacked a group of Union ships off the coast of Virginia. The North's wooden warships could not damage the Confederate ship—shells simply bounced off its sides.

Some Northern leaders feared the South would use the ironclad warship to destroy much of the Union navy, steam up the Potomac River, and bombard Washington, D.C. However, the North had already built an ironclad ship of its

own, the *Monitor*. Described as looking like a "tin can on a shingle," the *Monitor* rushed south to engage the Confederate ship in battle.

On March 9, the two ironclads exchanged fire, but neither ship could sink the other. The Union succeeded in keeping the *Merrimack* in the harbor, so it never again threatened Northern ships. The battle marked a new age in naval warfare—the first battle between two metal-covered ships.

Reading Check Explaining What was significant about the battle between the *Merrimack* and the *Monitor*?

War in the West

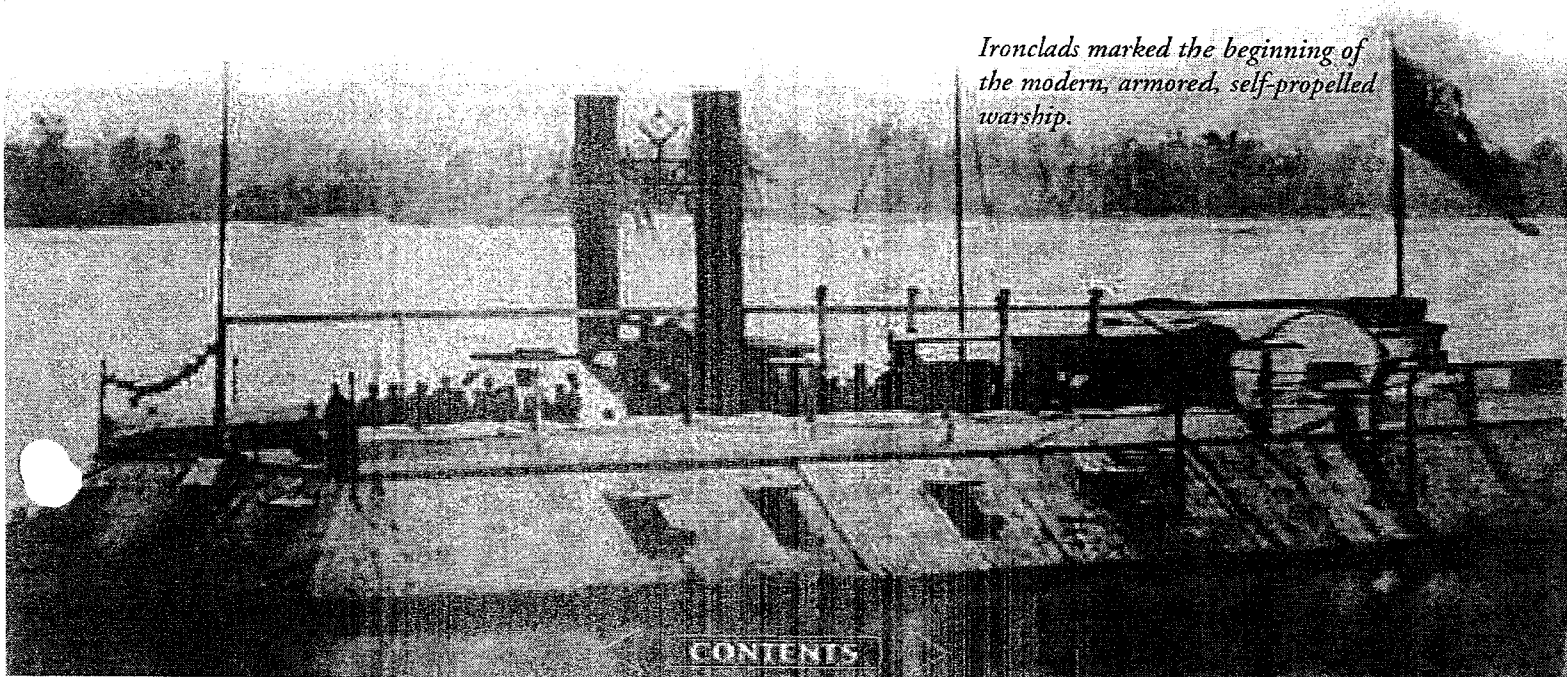
After the First Battle of Bull Run in July 1861, the war in the East settled into a stalemate as each side built its strength. Generals focused on training raw recruits, turning civilians into soldiers. For a while the action shifted to the West.

Early Victories for the North

One of the North's primary goals in the West was to gain control of the Mississippi and Tennessee Rivers. This would split the Confederacy and hinder Southern efforts to transport goods.

The Union launched its operations in the West from Cairo, Illinois. The city was strategically located where the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers meet. In addition, Cairo was only a short distance from the Cumberland and Tennessee Rivers. The Union commander at Cairo was **Ulysses S. Grant**.

Ironclads marked the beginning of the modern, armored, self-propelled warship.



Early in 1862, Grant was ordered to move against Confederate forces under General Albert Sidney Johnson in Kentucky and Tennessee. On February 6, with the aid of a fleet of newly made ironclads under Andrew Foote, Grant captured Fort Henry on the Tennessee River. Ten days later Grant captured Fort Donelson on the Cumberland. When the Confederate commander at Fort Donelson realized he was trapped, he asked Grant for his terms. Grant's reply was,

“No terms except unconditional and immediate surrender can be accepted.”

“Unconditional Surrender” Grant became the North's new hero.

Grant's victories helped secure the lower Tennessee River. They also opened a path for Union troops to march into Tennessee, Mississippi, and Alabama. The victories drove the Confederates out of Kentucky, where the South had been attempting to persuade Kentuckians to secede from the Union.

Geography

The Battle of Shiloh

General Grant and about 40,000 troops then headed south along the Tennessee River toward Corinth, Mississippi, an important railroad junction. In early April 1862, the Union army camped at Pittsburg Landing, 20 miles from Corinth. Nearby was a church named Shiloh. Additional Union forces came from Nashville to join Grant.

Confederate leaders decided to strike first, before the reinforcements arrived. Early in the morning of April 6, Confederate forces led by Albert Sidney Johnston and P.G.T. Beauregard launched a surprise attack on the Union troops. The **Battle of Shiloh** lasted two days, with some of the most bitter, bloody fighting of the war. The first day, the Confederates drove Grant and his troops back to the Tennessee River. The second day, the Union forces recovered. Aided by the 25,000 troops from Nashville and shelling by gunboats on the river, they defeated the Confederates, who withdrew to Corinth.

Names of Battles

Many Civil War battles have two names. The Union named battles after the nearest body of water. The Confederacy named them after the nearest settlement. Therefore, the battle called the Battle of Bull Run (a river) in the North was known as the Battle of Manassas (a settlement) in the South.

The losses in the Battle of Shiloh were enormous. Together the two armies suffered more than 20,000 casualties—people killed or wounded. Confederate general Johnston also died in the bloodbath. One Confederate soldier lamented that the battle “was too shocking [and] too horrible.”

After their narrow victory at Shiloh, Union forces gained control of Corinth on May 30. Memphis, Tennessee, fell to Union armies on June 6. The North seemed well on its way to controlling the Mississippi River.

New Orleans Falls

A few weeks after Shiloh, the North won another important victory. On April 25, 1862, Union naval forces under **David Farragut** captured New Orleans, Louisiana, the largest city in the South. Farragut, who was of Spanish descent, had grown up in the South but remained loyal to the Union. His capture of New Orleans, near the mouth of the Mississippi River, meant that the Confederacy could no longer use the river to carry its goods to sea. Together with Grant's victories to the north, Farragut's capture of New Orleans gave Union forces control of almost all the Mississippi River.

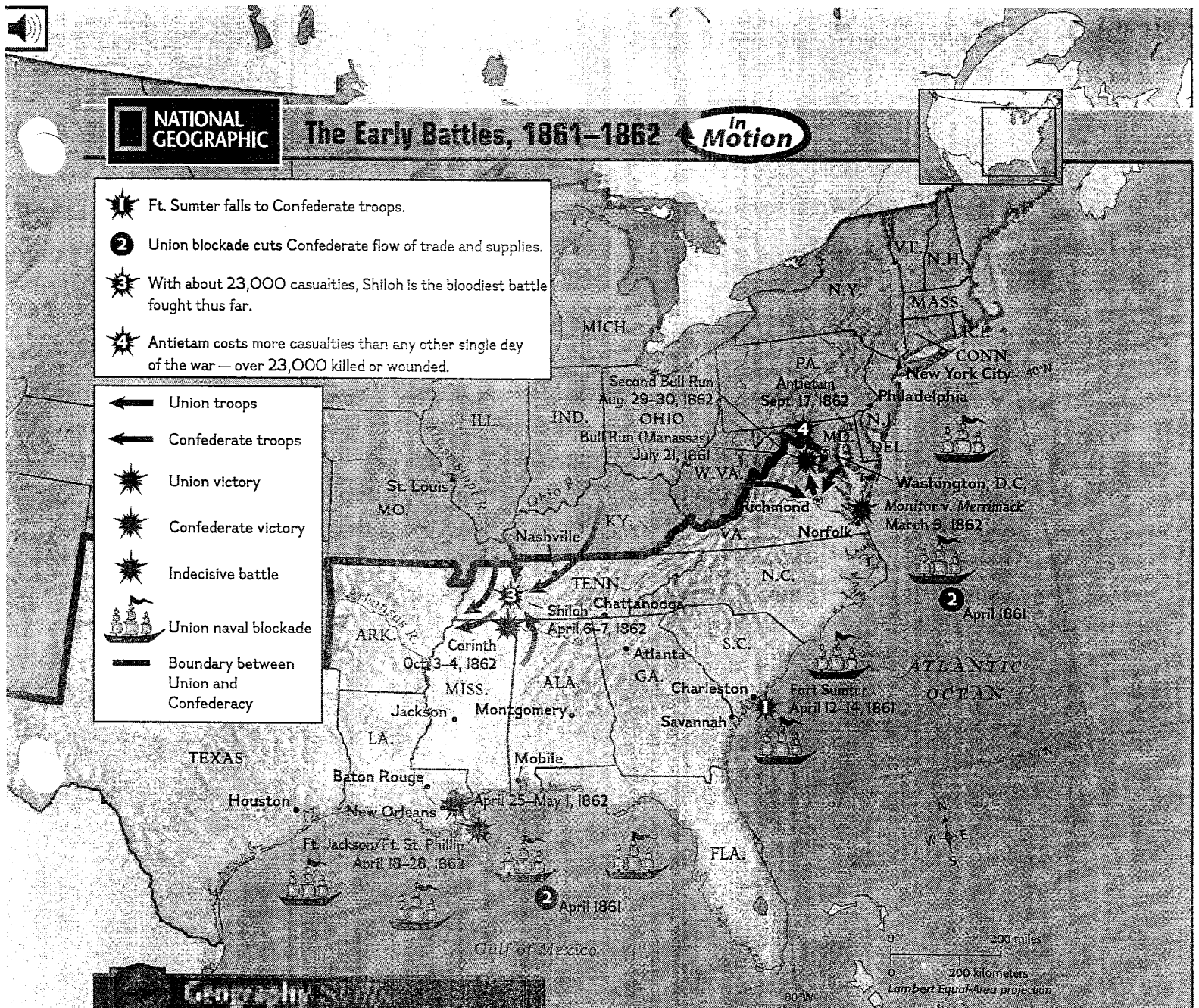
Reading Check Analyzing Why was control of the Mississippi River important to the Union?

War in the East

In the East, General McClellan was training the Army of the Potomac to be an effective fighting force. An expert at training soldiers,

- 1 Ft. Sumter falls to Confederate troops.
- 2 Union blockade cuts Confederate flow of trade and supplies.
- 3 With about 23,000 casualties, Shiloh is the bloodiest battle fought thus far.
- 4 Antietam costs more casualties than any other single day of the war — over 23,000 killed or wounded.

- ← Union troops
- ← Confederate troops
- ☀ Union victory
- ☀ Confederate victory
- ☀ Indecisive battle
- 🚢 Union naval blockade
- Boundary between Union and Confederacy



Geography

1. **Analyzing Information** In what state was the Battle of Shiloh fought?
2. **Summarizing** In what battles were Confederate forces victorious?

Union Defeat at Richmond

Instead of advancing directly overland to Richmond as Lincoln wished, McClellan moved his huge army by ship to a peninsula between the York and the James Rivers southeast of the city. From there he began a major offensive known as the **Peninsular Campaign**. The operation took many weeks. Time passed and opportunities to attack slipped away as General McClellan readied his troops and tried to evaluate the enemy's strength. Lincoln, constantly prodding McClellan to fight, ended one message with an urgent plea: "You must act." Complaining of his difficult situation, McClellan did

not act. His delays allowed the Confederates to prepare their defense of Richmond.

McClellan and his army inched slowly toward Richmond, getting so close that the troops could hear the city's church bells. At the end of June, the Union forces finally met the Confederates in a series of encounters known as the Seven Days' Battles. In these battles Confederate general **Robert E. Lee** took command of the army opposing McClellan. Before the battles began, Lee's cavalry leader, **James E.B. (J.E.B.) Stuart**, performed a daring tactic. He led his 1,200 troops in a circle around the Union army, gathering vital information about Union positions and boosting Southern morale. Stuart lost only one man in the action. General Lee then boldly countered Union advances and eventually drove the Yankees back to the James River. The Union troops had failed to capture Richmond.

Gloom in the North

Reports from Richmond disheartened the North. Despite the good news of Union victories in the West, failure to take the Confederate capital left Northerners with little hope. There was another call for volunteers—300,000 this time—

but the response was slow. The Southern strategy of making the North weary of war seemed to be working.

The defeat had not been complete, however. McClellan's army had been pushed back, but it was larger than Lee's and still only 25 miles from Richmond. When McClellan failed to renew the attack, President Lincoln ordered him to move his army back to northern Virginia and join the troops led by Major General John Pope.

Stonewall Jackson's forces moved north to attack Pope's supply base at Manassas. Jackson's troops marched 50 miles in two days and were then joined by the rest of Lee's army. On August 29, 1862, Pope attacked the approaching Confederates and started the Second Battle of Bull Run. The battle ended in a Confederate victory. Richmond was no longer threatened. Indeed, the situation of the two sides was completely reversed. Lee and the Confederates now stood only 20 miles from Washington, D.C.

The Battle of Antietam

Following these Southern victories, Confederate president **Jefferson Davis** ordered Lee to launch an offensive into Maryland, northwest of

Wounded soldiers at a military hospital at Alexandria, Virginia.





HISTORY Online

Student Web Activity
Visit tarvo11.glencoe.com
and click on **Chapter 16—**
Student Web Activities
for an activity on the
Second Battle of Bull Run.

Washington. He hoped another victory would win aid from Great Britain and France. Lee also issued a proclamation urging the people of Maryland to join the Confederacy, but he received no response.

As Lee's army marched into Maryland in September 1862, McClellan and 80,000 Union troops moved slowly after them. On September 13 the North had an extraordinary piece of good luck. In a field near Frederick, Maryland, two Union soldiers found a copy of Lee's orders for his army wrapped around three cigars. The bundle had probably been dropped by a Southern officer.

Now McClellan knew exactly what Lee planned to do. He also learned that Lee's army was divided into four parts. This provided McClellan with an opportunity to overwhelm Lee's army one piece at a time.

Once again, McClellan was overly cautious. He waited four days before he decided to attack the Confederates. This enabled Lee to gather most of his forces together near Sharpsburg, Maryland, along the Antietam Creek.

The Union and the Confederate armies clashed on September 17 in the **Battle of Antietam**. It was the single bloodiest day of the entire war. A Union officer wrote that

“In the time that I am writing, every stalk of corn in [cornfields to the north] was cut as closely as could have been with a knife, and the slain lay in rows precisely as they had stood in their ranks a few minutes before.”

By the time the fighting ended, close to 6,000 Union and Confederate soldiers lay dead or dying, and another 17,000 were seriously wounded. Although both armies suffered heavy losses, neither was destroyed.

The day after the battle, Lee withdrew to Virginia. The Confederate retreat allowed the Union troops to claim victory. However, McClellan, who had been ordered by President Lincoln to “destroy the rebel army,” did not pursue the Confederate troops. The president, disgusted with McClellan's failure to follow up his victory, removed McClellan from his command in November. Lincoln placed General **Ambrose Burnside** in command.

Antietam had a profound impact on the war. The Army of the Potomac finally gained some confidence, having forced Lee and his soldiers back south. More important, the battle marked a major change in Northern war aims. President Lincoln used the battle to take action against slavery.

Reading Check Summarizing What was the outcome of the Seven Days' Battles?

SECTION ASSESSMENT



Study Central™ To review this section, go to tarvo11.glencoe.com and click on **Study Central™**.

Checking for Understanding

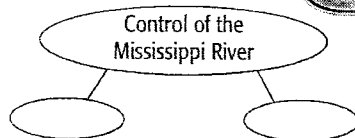
- Key Terms** Use each of these terms in a sentence that will help explain its meaning: **blockade runner, iron-clad, casualty.**
- Reviewing Facts** Explain why the North wanted to blockade the South.

Reviewing Themes

- Geography and History** What was the North's main goal in the western campaign?

Critical Thinking

- Analyzing Information** Why was Union general McClellan not effective as a military commander?
- Drawing Conclusions** Why was control of the Mississippi River important? Use a web like the one shown here.



Analyzing Visuals

- Geography Skills** Study the map on page 470. Who claimed victory at the First Battle of Bull Run? When was the Battle of Shiloh fought?

Art Draw a cartoon that would accompany a front-page newspaper story describing the battle between the *Merimack* and the *Monitor*.