

Civil War

Section 3 - The War in the West

1. What happened to confederate troops in Kentucky and Missouri?
2. How did General Ulysses S. Grant get his nickname "Unconditional Surrender" Grant?
3. Who were the Union general and Confederate general at the Battle of Shiloh?
4. Where were Union forces going when this battle occurred?
5. What was the result of the battle? Who won? How many casualties did both sides take? Why were people unhappy with Grant? How did Lincoln respond?
6. Why was Vicksburg important to the Confederacy? How did Grant reach Vicksburg?
7. What is a "siege?" and how did Grant take the city? On what day did it fall? What else happened on that day? What did the Union now control?
8. What happened at the Battle of Chickamauga Creek?
9. What 2 goals had The Union reached by 1863? Which one still remained?
10. Why did The Union keep all of the stars on the flag in 1863?

The War in the West

SETTING THE SCENE

Read to Learn . . .

- ★ the importance of rivers in the war in the West.
- ★ why the Union wanted to take over Vicksburg and Chattanooga.

Terms to Know

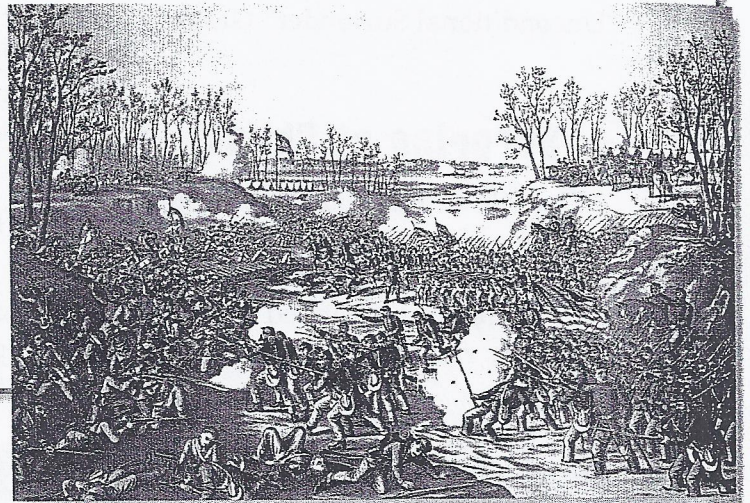
- ★ siege

People to Meet

- ★ Ulysses S. Grant
- ★ Albert Sidney Johnston
- ★ William Tecumseh Sherman

Places to Locate

- ★ Shiloh, Tennessee
- ★ Vicksburg, Mississippi
- ★ Chattanooga, Tennessee



► BATTLE OF SHILOH

Although the Union armies lost battles in the West, they won every major campaign. In little more than two years, they cut the Confederacy in two.

In 1861 the war in the West was devoted to a struggle for control of the border states. In spite of strong pro-Confederate minorities, both Kentucky and Missouri were cleared of Confederate troops.

★ Taking the Mississippi Valley

In the following year, the Confederacy was squeezed from both the north and the south as both sides fought to control the

Mississippi River. The Union advance began when General **Ulysses S. Grant** attacked two Confederate forts on the Kentucky-Tennessee border.

Confederates had built Fort Henry on the Tennessee River and Fort Donelson on the Cumberland River, hoping to stop Union troops from using the rivers to travel south. In February 1862, Grant amassed 15,000 soldiers and a squadron of ironclad gunboats and captured Fort Henry. Most of the Confederate troops fled to Fort Donelson. Grant and his troops pursued them.

On February 14, 1862, Union gunboats shelled the fort. The next day the Yankees attacked and surrounded the fort. On

February 16, the fort's commander, realizing that the fort would soon fall, asked for the best terms of surrender that Grant would accept. Grant replied, "No terms except unconditional and immediate surrender can be accepted." In other words the Rebels had to give up everything. The fort commander agreed, and about 13,000 Confederate soldiers surrendered. The Union victory broke the Confederates' first line of defense in the Mississippi Valley and opened the South for invasion. When Northerners heard the news, they celebrated and nicknamed their new hero "Unconditional Surrender" Grant.

★ Surprise at Shiloh

The fall of Fort Donelson opened the way for a Union advance south toward a railroad center at Corinth, Mississippi. From there Grant planned to move west along the railroad to capture Memphis, Tennessee.

The bloody two-day battle of **Shiloh** on the Tennessee-Mississippi border in April 1862, though, slowed the Union advance. General **Albert Sidney Johnston** planned to surprise and attack Grant's troops. The size of Johnston's army equaled the Union forces. Therefore, Johnston chose to attack before Union reinforcements arrived. He told his troops, "Tonight we will water our horses in the Tennessee River."

Early on April 6, Grant heard guns but thought little of it. Scouts who went to investigate reported, "The Johnnies are there thicker than Spanish needles in a fence corner." Soon after, the Rebels overran the camp and pushed the Yankees toward the river.

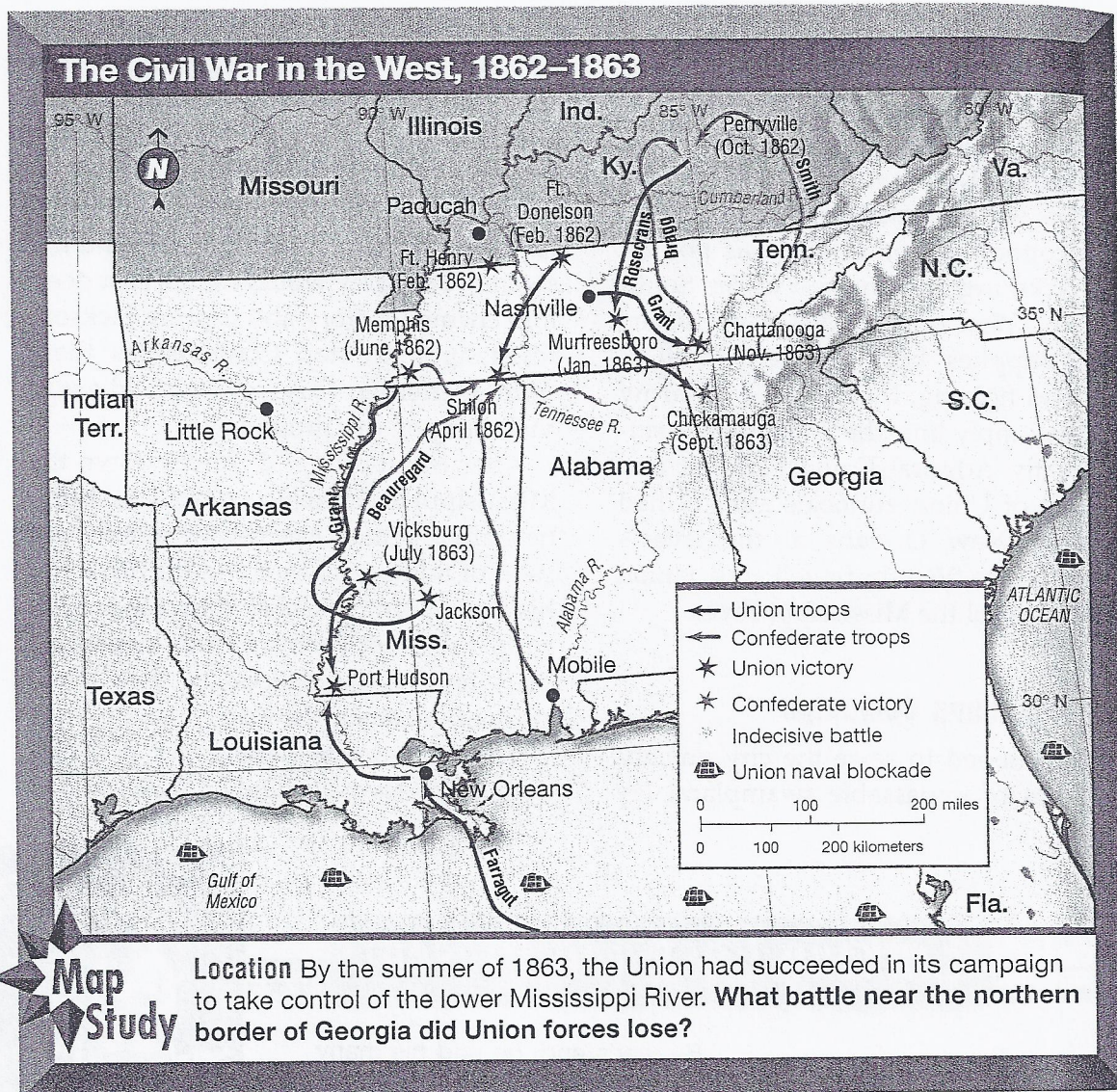
The Northern Troops Rally

Some Union troops refused to fall back, obeying Grant's order to "maintain that position at all costs." A handful of soldiers from the 53rd Ohio regiment stood their



**Picturing
History**

▲ **GENERAL GRANT AND HIS STAFF** General Ulysses S. Grant often met with members of his staff to discuss battle strategy. **What did the Union accomplish by defeating the Confederates at Fort Donelson?**



ground, along with General Benjamin Prentiss and his division. Prentiss's soldiers repelled wave after wave of Southerners and even killed General Johnston. Union soldiers fired so fast and hard that the Confederates dubbed the area the "Hornets' Nest."

By nightfall, 25,000 Union reinforcements reached the tired and beaten troops holding out at Shiloh. The next day Grant used his much larger force to defeat the Confederates. The Rebels limped back to Corinth.

Grant's forces had stopped the Confederates from retaking western Tennessee. Grant suffered 13,000 casualties. The South lost nearly 11,000. When Grant looked at

the battlefield littered with bodies he said, "It would have been possible to walk across the clearing in any direction stepping on dead bodies without a foot touching the ground." When Northern critics urged Lincoln to replace Grant because of the heavy Union losses, Lincoln refused, saying, "I can't spare this man—he fights." Lincoln perceived that Grant represented the best hope for the Union cause.

★ Capturing the South's Highways

By the end of 1862, Union armies occupied all of western Tennessee and moved

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south into Mississippi. Only the strategically important city of **Vicksburg, Mississippi**, blocked Union control of the Mississippi River and success of the Union's western strategy. A stream of food, cotton, and other supplies poured into Vicksburg and the rest of the South from the West on the Mississippi River. These supplies kept Southern soldiers alive and fighting. If Grant and his army cut that supply line, the South would suffer greatly. Admiral David Farragut and his fleet of Union gunboats already had captured New Orleans at the river's mouth. Once Vicksburg fell, the Union would control the Mississippi River.

The Vicksburg Campaign

Grant hoped to seize the city quickly, but acres of impassable swampland lay

between his army and Vicksburg. In late 1862 and early 1863 Grant made several attempts to capture the city but failed. Finally in May 1863, Grant embarked on one of the most daring campaigns in military history. He planned to go around the swamp. His army would march east deep into enemy territory and capture Jackson, Mississippi, to stop Confederates there from interfering. This way he could get to Vicksburg on dry ground.

After transporting his forces down the Mississippi River to just below Vicksburg, he started inland. Against the established rules of military science and the advice of his staff, Grant cut loose from his base of supplies. Grant permitted the Union soldiers only as much food as they could carry or get along the way.

The Confederate commander of Vicksburg at first stayed behind his fortifications,

Linking Past and Present

Through the Camera's Eye

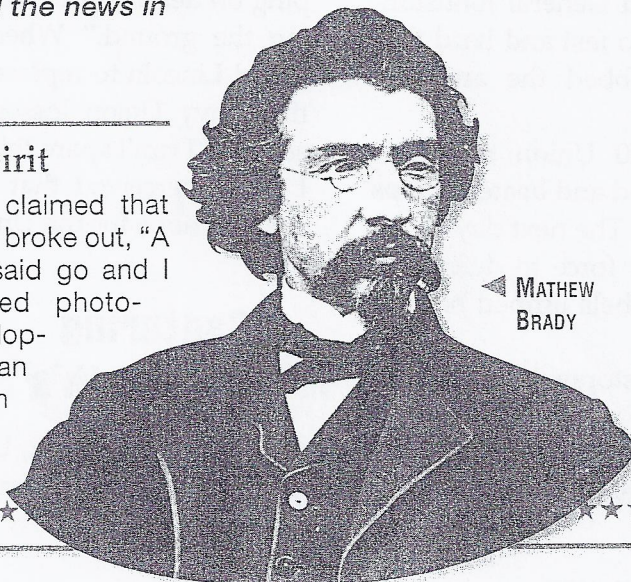
Mathew Brady captured the Civil War forever on film. He was one of America's first photojournalists—photographers who record the news in photographs.

Then

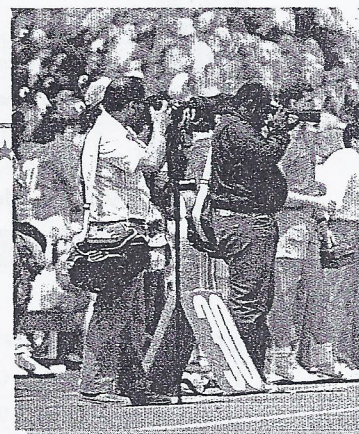
Moved by a Spirit

Mathew Brady claimed that when the Civil War broke out, "A spirit in my feet said go and I went." He packed photographic and developing equipment in an old delivery wagon and traveled with the Union army.

By war's end, he and his many assistants had recorded the battles, the camps, and the lives and deaths of Union soldiers in more than 10,000 photos. Brady called the camera "the eye of history."



◀ MATHEW BRADY



▲ MODERN PHOTOJOURNALISTS

Now

Every Picture Tells a Story

Today photojournalists travel all over the world to cover news and sporting events. They zoom their photos back to newspapers and magazines via computers. Many risk their lives to cover wars and natural disasters. Much of our view of the world is based on their photographs.

★★★ AMERICA'S FLAGS ★★★



Confederate Battle Flag, 1861 During Civil War battles, soldiers had difficulty distinguishing between the Confederate

and Union flags. As a result, Southern soldiers began to carry this battle flag. Though it never became the official symbol of the Confederate States of America, the battle flag was the only flag that many Southern soldiers ever saw.

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thinking Grant was trying to trick him into taking to the field. Moving quickly, Union forces reached Jackson almost without opposition. Then Grant turned and fought his way back west to the outskirts of Vicksburg. In 17 days his troops had marched 180 miles (290 km) and won five battles against larger forces.

Grant tried to take the city by storm but failed. He then began a siege, or a blockade of the city. The siege would force Confederate soldiers and citizens to stay in the city while cutting off all their food and supplies. They would have to surrender or starve.

Federal gunboats and artillery shelled the city day and night for more than six weeks. The terrified population of Vicksburg dug in and hid in caves to escape Union shells. Starving residents ate horses, mules, and dogs. As the bombardment continued, a woman wrote in her diary:

“ We are utterly cut off from the world, surrounded by a circle of fire. . . . The fiery shower of shells goes on day and night. . . . A shell came tearing through the roof, burst upstairs, tore up that room; . . . the pieces coming through both floors down into the cellar. . . . ”

Hungry and battered, the Confederates surrendered on July 4, 1863, the day after the Southern defeat at Gettysburg. The Union split the South in half and now controlled the Mississippi River. The collapse of the Confederacy would soon follow.

Chickamauga and Chattanooga

Union forces now attempted to cut the Confederacy again—through eastern Tennessee and Georgia. They aimed to capture **Chattanooga**, a rail center on the Tennessee-Georgia border. While Grant's army began to occupy Vicksburg, other Union troops chased General Braxton Bragg and his Confederates from Chattanooga. By mid-September, though, the Confederates rallied and beat the Yankees in a bloody battle at nearby **Chickamauga Creek**. This would prove to be the Confederates' last important victory in the Civil War.

The Union army pulled back to Chattanooga. The Confederates boxed them in and waited for them to surrender. Inside Chattanooga the Union soldiers, without

Footnotes to History

A Soldier's ID Heavy death tolls in battle led Civil War soldiers to devise the first dog tags for identification if they were killed. Soldiers printed their names and addresses on handkerchiefs or paper, which they pinned to their clothing before going into battle.

food, began to starve. An Indiana private described their rations as "One cracker for each meal. We generally eat them up in three days and starve the other two."

The Union could not afford to lose an army regiment. Trains carrying relief troops sped from the East, and Grant's troops arrived from the West to bolster the forces. To feed the trapped army, Grant opened up a "cracker line"—the soldiers' name for a supply route. Then he turned his attention to defeating the Confederates.

The Rebels held the hills and ridges around Chattanooga. On November 24, Union troops under General Hooker scrambled up a ridge called Lookout Mountain and routed a small Confederate force. The next morning the Union soldiers cheered to see the Stars and Stripes waving from the mountaintop.

Meanwhile, General **William Tecumseh Sherman** and his Union troops attacked the flank of the main Confederate force on Missionary Ridge. Grant wanted to divert the enemy's attention away from Sherman. He ordered soldiers to charge halfway up the steep Missionary Ridge. The soldiers, frustrated and angry from their defeat at Chickamauga, did not stop halfway as ordered. They continued up the steep slopes in one of the most remarkable charges in military history. Chanting "Chickamauga! Chick-

★★★ AMERICA'S FLAGS ★★★



Seventeenth Flag of the Union, 1863 The Union flag of 1863 held 35 stars. Like all the Union flags of the

Civil War, it retained stars for the seceded Southern states. Thus it supported Lincoln and the North's claim that the Union could not be broken.

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amauga!" they reached the top and scattered the confused Confederates.

★ Success in the West

The Confederate army retreated to Georgia. The Union had achieved two of its three goals. First, their naval blockade had cut off European supplies to the South. Second, by taking control of the Mississippi River, the Union had split the Confederacy. Southerners had lost the rivers and railways that carried food from western farms to eastern troops. The South had lost the war in the West. In addition, the North had cut the Confederacy through Tennessee. Now Northerners could carry out the final step of the plan that General Scott proposed years ago—invading the Deep South.

★ SECTION 3 REVIEW ★

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Checking for Understanding

1. Identify Ulysses S. Grant, Albert Sidney Johnston, William Tecumseh Sherman.
2. Define siege.
3. Why were rivers important to Confederate and Union armies in the West?
4. What war goals had the North achieved after the Battle of Chattanooga?

Critical Thinking

5. Drawing Conclusions Would the North and South have gone to war if they had known how many soldiers would be killed?

ACTIVITY

6. Imagine you are General Grant. Write a letter to the family of a Union soldier who died during battle.