**THE CIVIL WAR BEGINS**

By the time Abraham Lincoln was inaugurated President in March 1861, South Carolina and six other states had formed the Confederate States of America. A constitution had been adopted, which permitted slavery, guaranteed states’ rights, and did away with the protective tariff.

Lincoln was at once faced with a major crisis. In his First Inaugural Address, he spoke directly to the rebellious South, reminding it that his oath of office required him to “preserve, protect, and defend the Union.” But his appeal fell on deaf ears. The Confederates had seized most of the forts, post offices, and arsenals of the federal government in states which had seceded. Only two forts remained in Union hands. One was Fort Sumter, located in the harbor at Charleston, South Carolina. Confederate President Jefferson Davis demanded that federal troops evacuate Sumter. When Major Robert Anderson, the fort’s commander, refused to leave, the Confederates ringed the harbor with cannons. The fort’s supply of food and other necessities soon ran low, and President Lincoln, acting against the advice of his Cabinet, ordered a U.S. ship to take in needed supplies. President Davis regarded Lincoln’s decision as an act of war. He instructed his commander at Charleston to open fire on Fort Sumter. After a 34-hour bombardment, Major Anderson surrendered.

The shelling of Fort Sumter in April 1861 marked the beginning of the Civil War. When news of the attack reached the North, it brought a determined reaction. Lincoln called for 75,000 volunteers to enlist in the Union Army. The entire North was united in its support of the President. But the call to arms prompted four more Southern states to secede and join the Confederacy.

Comparing Strengths and Weaknesses

When the Civil War began, people in the Union states expected a quick victory. President Lincoln himself asked for volunteers to serve in the army for only three months. A close look at the strengths and weaknesses of the two sides makes it easy to see why the odds favored the Union over the Confederacy.

For each of the areas of comparison, decide whether the Union and Confederacy were strong or weak in that particular category. For a strong rating, give the Union or Confederacy 3 or 2 points. Give 1 or 0 points for a weak rating. For example, in the first area of comparison – population – the Union had many more people than the Confederacy. This meant the Union was capable of putting a larger army on the battlefield. It would be reasonable to give 3 points to the Union, and just 1 point to the Confederacy.

After you have awarded points to each side in all 10 areas of comparison, look again at the categories and decide which three probably had the greatest effect on the outcome of the war. For example, the “size of the navy” (number 8) would be more important than “farm acreage” (number 4). For the three areas that you decide are of greatest importance, change the scoring by multiplying the points for each side by 3. Therefore, if you gave the Union 3 points for “size of the navy” and the Confederates 1 point, the numbers would be changed to 9 points for the Union and 3 for the Confederacy.

After changing the points in the three important categories, add up the points for both sides. Your totals should show whether the Union or the Confederacy had the advantage in the Civil War.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Area of Comparison** | **Union** | **Confederacy** |
| **Population** | 22,000,000 including 4,000,000 between the ideal fighting ages of 15 and 40.\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ | 9,000,000 including 3,500,000 slaves; only about 1,140,000 white men between 15 and 40.\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ |
| **Area of Comparison** | **Union** | **Confederacy** |
| **Presidential Leadership** | Abraham Lincoln had a talent for managing men; he acted with confidence, and was determined to keep the Union together; used troops to put down draft riots; and jailed those who opposed the war; prevented “border states” from seceding.\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ | Jefferson Davis did not have Lincoln’s energy and authority; he had trouble getting eleven Confederate States to support the decisions of the central government; he failed to convince Great Britain and France, which needed Southern cotton, to enter the war on the side of the Confederacy.\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ |
| **Railroad mileage** | Extensive rail system capable of moving men and materials wherever they were needed.\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ | Had only 28% of the country’s railroads.\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ |
| **Farm acreage** | 65% in the North\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ | 35% in the South\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ |
| **Iron and Steel Production** | 93% in the North\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ | 7% in the South\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ |
| **Factories** | Had most of the country’s factories and skilled workers; turned out all of the weapons, ammunition, woolen clothing, shows, and other supplies that it needed; could produce 5,000 rifles a day.\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ | Few factories and skilled workers; Confederate soldiers often lacked shoes, proper clothing, and adequate supplies; never as well equipped as the North; factories could make only 300 rifles a day; dwindling resources weakened the people’s will to fight.\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ |
| **Finances** | Strong banking system; controlled 70% of the nation’s wealth; increased tariff rates on imports, and used an income tax to raise money.\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ | Had only 30% of the nation’s wealth; foreign bankers refused to make large loans; some states resisted taxation by the Confederate government; paper money was nearly worthless by the end of the war.\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ |
| **Size of the Navy** | The Union navy was already established; it had far more warships and merchant vessels; set up a blockade which disrupted the South’s foreign trade.\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ | Few warships and merchant ships; could not break the Northern blockade and get needed supplies.\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ |
| **Area of Comparison** | **Union** | **Confederacy** |
| **Officers and Soldiers** | Few experienced officers; city dwellers and factory workers needed considerable training to become good soldiers.\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ | Many of the country’s best officers joined the Confederate Army; Southerners were more skilled with guns and horses, and used to rugged outdoor life.\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ |
| **Familiarity with Land** | Often lacked familiarity with the land, because most battles were fought in the South.\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ | Knew the land well; was fighting to defend its homeland.\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ |
|  | **Total Union Points:****\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** | **Total Confederacy Points:****\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** |

**Northern Strategy to Win the War**

Abraham Lincoln’s main purpose in fighting the Civil War was to save the Union. When the war began, plans had to be drawn up for defeating the South. Only in this way could the country be reunited.

Pretend that you are the general who commands the Union Army. You have decided to draw up a list of ideas which will help the North defeat the South. Write your plans on a SEPARATE SHEET OF PAPER. Be specific. Do not use general statements like, “Kill a large number of Confederate Soldiers.” Instead day, “Use the larger Union Army to invade the South and capture Richmond, the Confederate capital.” Many of your ideas can be based on facts in the list of strengths and weaknesses of the North and South above. Also, use the map below and your own judgement and imagination. Your list should contain at least 20 ideas.

Your plans will greatly affect the outcome of the war. Each of the ideas that you think of could earn you either 2, 5, or 10 points, according to a list which will be distributed later. The total points you earn will determine the percentage of battles the Union Army will win during the Civil War, as given in the rating table next to the map.



My Strategy List:

1. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
7. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
8. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
9. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
10. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
11. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
12. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
13. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
14. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
15. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
16. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
17. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
18. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
19. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
20. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Northern Strategy**

Compare the ideas below with the ones on your list. Fill in the spaces with the points you have earned. Your ideas must be the same or similar to those given here. At the bottom of the page, give yourself 2 points for each idea that did not earn you 10 points or 5 points. Add up your points, and note the percentage of battles the Union Army would have won if you had been in command during the Civil War.

**10 points each**

\_\_\_\_\_\_ 1. Blockade the Southern coast.

\_\_\_\_\_\_ 2. Divide the Confederacy into several parts to disrupt communication and trade.

\_\_\_\_\_\_ 3. Capture Richmond, the capital of the Confederate States of America.

\_\_\_\_\_\_ 4. Find capable officers to command the Northern armies.

\_\_\_\_\_\_ 5. Cut important Southern railroads by destroying track and bridges.

\_\_\_\_\_\_ 6. Pressure Great Britain and France to remain neutral, instead of helping the South.

\_\_\_\_\_\_ 7. Protect the Union capital at Washington, D.C.

\_\_\_\_\_\_ 8. Guard against an invasion of the North.

\_\_\_\_\_\_ 9. Gain control of the Mississippi River.

\_\_\_\_\_\_ 10. Be aggressive – fight major battles to take advantage of your larger, better-equipped army.

**5 points each**

\_\_\_\_\_\_ 1. Gain control of important rivers (other than the Mississippi River).

\_\_\_\_\_\_ 2. Capture other Southern cities besides Richmond.

\_\_\_\_\_\_ 3. Convert factories to the production of war materials.

\_\_\_\_\_\_ 4. Encourage slave uprisings and/or encourage blacks to join the Union Army.

\_\_\_\_\_\_ 5. Develop new and better weapons.

\_\_\_\_\_\_ 6. Destroy Southern cropland.

\_\_\_\_\_\_ 7. Improve the training of soldiers.

\_\_\_\_\_\_ 8. Use railroads to move troops and supplies where they are needed.

\_\_\_\_\_\_ 9. Provide for a draft to be sure enough soldiers are available for duty.

\_\_\_\_\_\_ 10. Take action against people in the North who oppose the war.