

# **CIVIL WAR TIMELINE ASSIGNMENT**

## **Intro**

The Civil War didn't just begin without decades of tensions, decisions and squirmishes. Your task is to choose the most significant events you think ultimately lead to the Civil War. You will also be choosing events that occurred during the Civil War that defined the War.

## **Your Task**

- Create a timeline that includes 15 events. Ten of the events should be events that lead to the Civil War and five should be defining moments from the war. Use the dates I have given you for your events. For each event there should be:
  - A brief description of the event. (2 points each)
  - The significance of the event. (Why it's important) (5 points each)
  - A color illustration representing the event. (3 points each)
- You must also integrate the following facts into your timeline somehow.
  - Jefferson Davis was the President of the Confederacy.
  - What did the Dred Scott decision do?
  - What was Abraham Lincoln's main goal in fighting the Civil War?
  - Why were the North and South really fighting? Not over slavery.
  - What exactly did the emancipation proclamation do?
- This is a total of **150 points!** It will be due by the end of the period on Wednesday, September 14<sup>th</sup>.

## Dates/Events Leading to the Civil War (Choose 10)

- **1619** English settlers in Virginia purchase 20 Africans from a Dutch ship. The Africans were sold as indentured servants, not slaves. The distinction being an indentured servant may ultimately become free for working for some number of years. It was not long before all Africans arriving were treated as slaves, bought and sold into a lifetime of slavery for them and their descendants.
- **February 1688** The first organized protest against slavery in the new world was drafted by a group of Quakers in Germantown, PA. Known as the Germantown Protest, it argued that Christians should do as they would want to be done to them, that slavery was essentially theft as you were buying something stolen and that adultery is wrong yet slave traders/owners forced adultery on men and women by breaking up marriages when they resold husbands and wives to different owners. How could as Christians, could such actions be condoned?
- **1777** Vermont, an American colony and still not a state, is the first government entity to abolish slavery.
- **1780** Pennsylvania became the first state to abolish slavery with a laws calling for gradual abolition.
- **1783** Massachusetts abolishes slavery and grants voting rights to blacks and Native Americans.
- **1787** Congress passes the Three-Fifths Clause stating that each slave is to be counted as three-fifths of a person for calculating representation in Congress. This act strengthens the power in the House of Representatives for slave states.
- **February 1793** Congress passes the first Fugitive Slave Act. The act allowed for the recovery of runaway slaves and authorized the arrest or seizure of fugitives. The act also created a fine of \$500 for any person who aided a fugitive
- **March 1794** Eli Whitney receives patent for the Cotton Gin. The machine greatly increased the production of cleaned cotton thus making cotton a profitable crop for the first time and increasing the need and production value for slaves.
- **March 1807** Congress passes law banning the importation of any new slaves into the United States effective January 1, 1808.
- **1831** January - William Lloyd Garrison publishes the first issue of the abolitionist journal, the Liberator.  
August - The Nat Turner Rebellion in Southampton County, Virginia. Over 60 whites were killed in the uprising. Turner was on the run for or nearly two months, but was eventually caught and hanged.
- **1834** Slavery abolished throughout the British Empire.
- **1838** Led by black abolitionist Robert Purvis, the Underground Railroad is formally organized.
- **1845** Former slave, Frederick Douglass, publishes his autobiography - Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass.
- **1849** Harriet Tubman escapes from slavery in Maryland. She reportedly returned to the South 19 times and brought out more than 300 slaves.
- **1850** September - Congress implements several measures forming the Compromise of 1850. The measures included California joining the Union as a free state, the territories of New Mexico and Utah are organized with no restrictions on slavery, slave trading is abolished in the District of Columbia effective January 1851 and the Fugitive Slave Act of 1793 is modified and strengthened to allow slaveholders to retrieve slaves in northern states and free territories.
- **1852** Harriet Beecher Stowe publishes Uncle Tom's Cabin as a response to the pro-slavery movement.
- **1854** The Kansas-Nebraska Act passes Congress and thus overturns the Missouri Compromise opening the Northern territory to slavery. Both sides begin to send settlers into the areas in an effort to influence the future status of these areas.
- **May 1856** Massachusetts Senator Charles Sumner delivers a speech attacking slavery supporters in the Senate. He singles out Senator Andrew Butler of South Carolina in his speech. Two days later, South Carolina Representative Preston Brooks, Butler's nephew, attacks Sumner on the Senate floor and beats him with a cane. The House did not expel or censure Brooks for the attack, Sumner took three years to recover.
- **1857** March - Dred Scott Decision - The Supreme Court rules in Scott v. Sandford that blacks are not U.S. citizens, and slaveholders have the right to take existing slaves into free areas of the country.
- **1859** October - John Brown attacks Harpers Ferry, Virginia. Robert E. Lee, then a Federal Army regular leads the troops and captures Brown. John Brown and two of the black members of his band were hanged.
- **1860** **November** - Abraham Lincoln is elected president. Lincoln received 40% of the popular vote and won 59% of the Electoral votes. He was not even on the ballot in the deep south. **December** - On December 20th South Carolina convention passes ordinance of secession thus seceding from the Union.
- **February 1861** February 9th - Jefferson Davis unanimously elected President of the Confederacy by delegates to the Montgomery convention.
- **March 1861** March 6th - The Confederate Congress authorizes an army of volunteers.
- **April 1861** **April 12th, 4:30 am** - South Carolina's Fort Sumter is fired upon by the Confederates - The War Begins.

## Civil War Timeline (Choose 5)

1861	July 2, President Lincoln issues his suspension of habeas corpus in certain cases.
1861	July 22, U.S. Congress passes resolution declaring that the war is being fought to "preserve the Union," not to destroy slavery.
1861	November 1, Lincoln declares George McClellan General-in-Chief of the Union army.
1862	April 25, Union soldiers capture New Orleans.
1862	May 20, Lincoln signs the Homestead Act into law.
1862	July, Congress passes the militia act, authorizing Lincoln to use black soldiers blacks are used only as scouts, laborers, spies, kitchen workers, and nurses until after the Emancipation Proclamation. Until 1864, black soldiers are paid only half of what white soldiers are paid.
1862	August 22, Lincoln issues the "Greeley Letter" in response to Horace Greeley's editorial, "A Prayer of Twenty Millions."
1862	September 17, The Battle of Antietam, Maryland the bloodiest battle of the Civil War. Lee's invasion of the North is halted, and rebels retreat to Virginia. Though the battle is essentially a draw, the battle revives flagging Northern hopes.
1862	September 23, Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation is published, to take effect on January 1, 1863.
1863	January 1, The Emancipation Proclamation takes effect.
1863	March 3, The Conscription Act (Enrollment Act) is passed, demanding enrollment of males ages 20-45 in the Union Army. Payments of \$300 may be used for an exemption.
1863	June 20, Union West Virginia is admitted as the 35th state - its constitution mandates the gradual emancipation of slaves.
1863	July 3, Battle of Gettysburg - major Union victory. Over 50,000 casualties total; halts the Southern advance into Union territory and leads to the retreat of Lee's army.
1863	July 4, Siege of Vicksburg, Mississippi ends - 29,000 rebel troops surrender with the city, giving the Union control of the Mississippi river and splitting the Confederacy in two.
1863	July 13, New York Draft Riots begin - four days of Irish-American mob action.
1863	November 19, Lincoln delivers the Gettysburg Address.
1863	December 8, Lincoln issues the Proclamation of Amnesty and Reconstruction, offering pardons to Confederates who take a loyalty oath.
1864	July 4, Lincoln pocket-vetoes the Wade-Davis bill.
1864	September 2, Sherman burns Atlanta and continues his march to the sea.
1864	November 8, Lincoln defeats Democrat George McClellan in the election of 1864.
1864	December 22, Sherman enters Savannah, completing his march to the sea.
1865	February 1, Congress proposes the 13th Amendment, outlawing slavery and involuntary servitude everywhere in the United States.
1865	March 3, Freedmen's Bureau is founded to aid former slaves
1865	March 4, Lincoln is inaugurated for his second term with Andrew Johnson as vice-president, pledging "malice toward none, and charity for all."
1865	April 8, Lee surrenders to Grant at Appomattox, Virginia.
1865	April 14, Lincoln is assassinated at Ford's Theater by John Wilkes Booth.