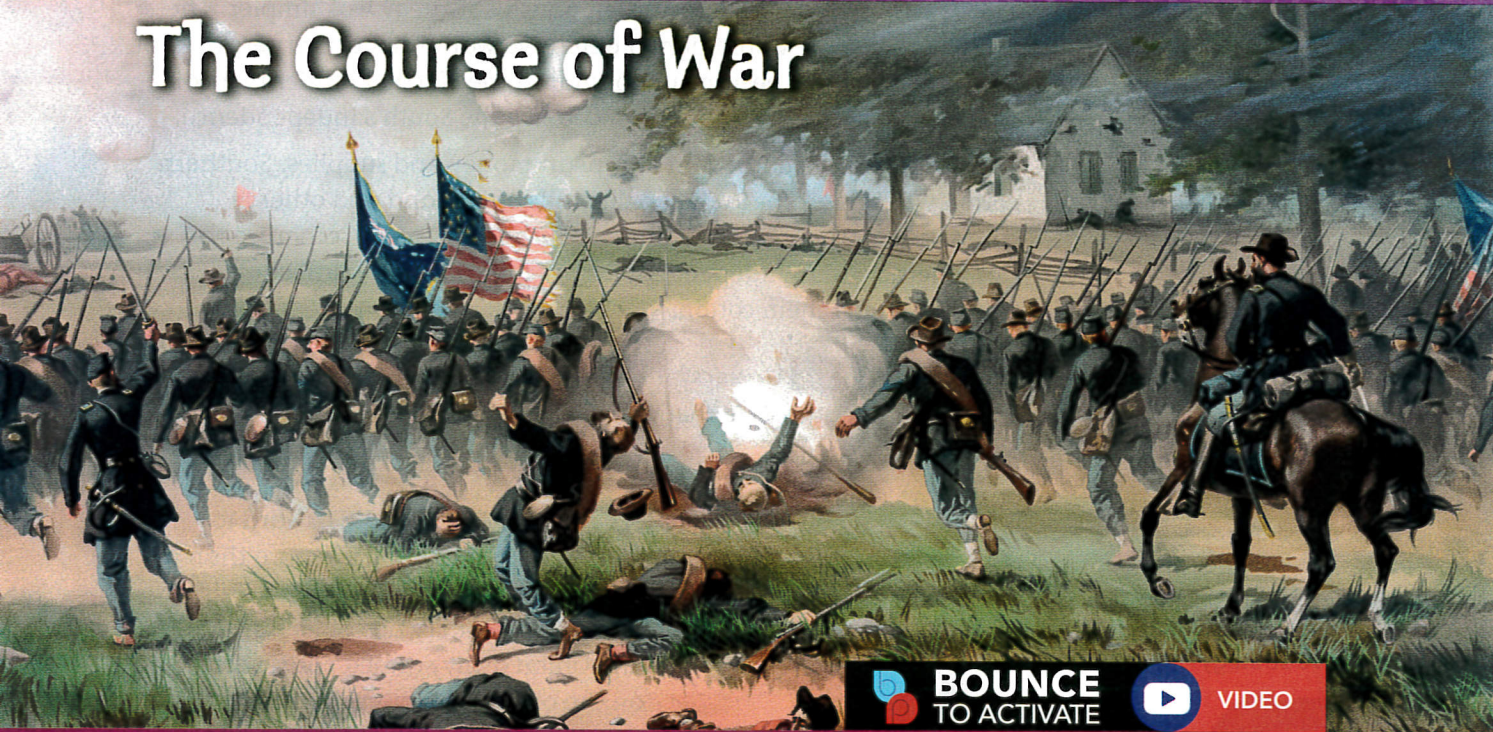


## LESSON 4

# The Course of War



## GET READY TO READ

### START UP


How do you think fighting in battle would have changed a soldier's attitude toward the war? Write a few sentences expressing your ideas.

### GUIDING QUESTIONS


- How was the Civil War conducted?
- How did the early battles of the war reflect broader patterns in the war?
- Which battles did the Confederacy and the Union win in the early years of the war?

### TAKE NOTES

#### Literacy Skills Sequence

Use the graphic organizer in your  Active Journal to take notes as you read the lesson.

### PRACTICE VOCABULARY

Use the vocabulary activity in your  Active Journal to practice the vocabulary words.

#### Vocabulary

Battle of Bull Run  
Virginia  
Monitor  
Battle of Antietam  
Battle of Shiloh

#### Academic Vocabulary

reluctant  
demonstrate

As the war began, each side was confident that its strengths would lead it to victory.

## How Did the Strategies of the North and South Differ?

The North and South had quite different strategies. The Union planned an aggressive, three-pronged campaign against the South.

**The Union Strategy** First, the Union planned to use its navy to blockade southern ports. This would cut off the South's supply of manufactured goods from Europe and its ability to earn money from cotton exports.

In the East, Union generals aimed to seize Richmond, Virginia, the Confederate capital. They thought they might end the war quickly by capturing the Confederate government.

In the West, the Union planned to seize control of the Mississippi River. This would prevent the South from using the river to supply its troops. It would also separate Arkansas, Texas, and Louisiana from the rest of the Confederacy.

### Academic Vocabulary

reluctant • *adj.*, not eager



### INTERACTIVE

The Union's Strategies to Win the Civil War

### Analyze Images

Southern soldiers, like those shown here, prepared for a defensive war. **Identify Supporting Details** Why did the Confederates adopt a defensive strategy?

**The Confederate Strategy** The South's strategy was simpler: The Confederate army would fight a defensive war until northerners tired of fighting. If the war became unpopular in the North, President Lincoln would have to stop the war and recognize the South's independence.

The Confederacy counted on European money and supplies. Southern cotton was important to the textile mills of England and other countries. Southerners thought that Europeans would recognize the Confederacy as an independent nation and that the South could continue to sell them cotton.



**READING CHECK Understand Effects** How was the Union plan for victory more aggressive than the Confederate plan?

### Early Battles

"Forward to Richmond! Forward to Richmond!" Every day for more than a month, the influential *New York Tribune* blazed this war cry across its front page. The Union army seemed **reluctant** to go on the offensive, however. At last, three months after the fall of Fort Sumter, Lincoln responded to public pressure and ordered an attack.

### Stonewall Jackson Makes a Stand at Bull Run

The Confederate army was camped just 30 miles southwest of Washington, D.C. On July 21, 1861, Union troops set out from the nation's capital to attack the rebel forces. Hundreds of Washingtonians, in a festive mood, rode out along with the army to watch the battle. Many thought the Union army would crush the Confederates.

The Union troops had not gone far when they encountered Confederate troops near a small stream known as Bull Run, close by the town of Manassas, Virginia.

At first, Union forces succeeded in breaking up Confederate battle lines. "The war is over!" yelled some soldiers from Massachusetts. But General Thomas Jackson rallied the Virginia troops on a nearby hill. "Look!" cried a Confederate officer to his men, "There is Jackson standing like a stone wall! Rally behind the Virginians!"



From that day on, the general was known as “Stonewall” Jackson. Historians consider him one of the most gifted tactical commanders in the Civil War.

In the end, it was the Union troops who panicked and ran. “Off they went,” reported one observer, “across fields, toward the woods, anywhere, everywhere, to escape.”

The **Battle of Bull Run** (also referred to as the Battle of Manassas by the Confederates) showed how badly both Union and Confederate soldiers needed training. It also proved that the Confederate army could stand up to the Union, meaning the war would be long and bloody.

### The Union Army Under George McClellan

Northerners were shocked by the disaster at Bull Run. Almost immediately, President Lincoln appointed General George McClellan as commander of the Union army of the East, known as the Army of the Potomac. McClellan was a superb organizer who transformed inexperienced recruits into battle-ready soldiers.

McClellan, however, was very cautious. Newspapers reported “all quiet along the Potomac” so often that the phrase became a national joke. President Lincoln lost patience. “If General McClellan does not want to use the army,” the president snapped, “I would like to borrow it.”

At last, in March 1862, McClellan and most of his troops left Washington. They sailed down the Potomac River and Chesapeake Bay and landed south of Richmond on the Virginia Peninsula. McClellan slowly moved toward the Confederate capital.

General Lee launched a series of counterattacks. At the same time, Lee sent Jackson north to threaten Washington, D.C. Lincoln was forced to retain troops in Washington to defend the capital. This prevented him from sending reinforcements to help McClellan. Cautious as usual, McClellan abandoned the attack and retreated. The Peninsula Campaign, as it became known, had failed.



### GEOGRAPHY SKILLS

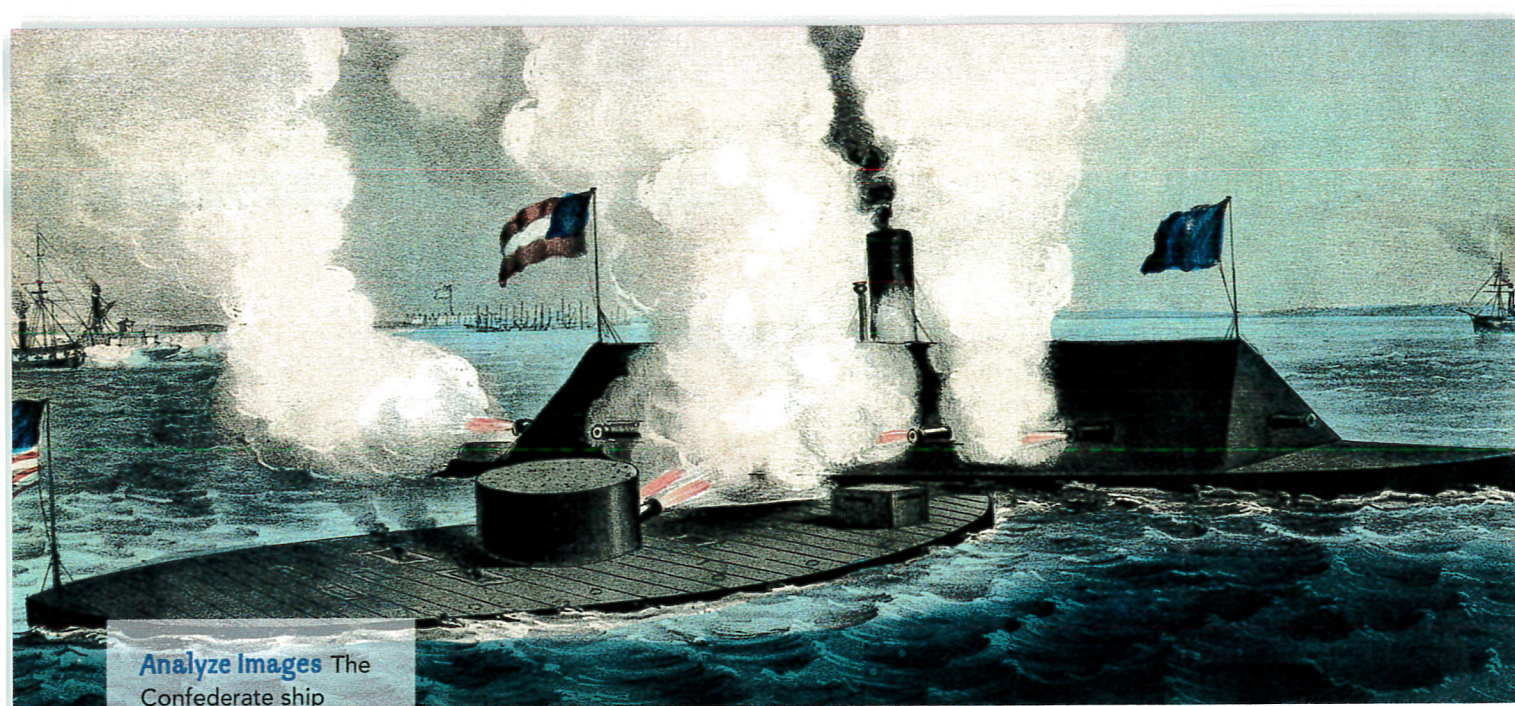
This map shows the movement of troops and the major battles that took place from 1861 to 1862.

- 1. Location** Using the scale of miles, measure the distance between the U.S. capital and the Confederate capital. How might the locations of the two capitals have influenced the battles and troop movements shown on the map?
- 2. Synthesize Visual Information** Based on this map, which army seems to have had the advantage in the war during these years? Why?



### INTERACTIVE

Early Battles of the Civil War



**Analyze Images** The Confederate ship

*Virginia* and the Union ship *Monitor* battled near Hampton Roads, Virginia, in 1862.

**Draw Conclusions**

The battle between the *Monitor* and the *Virginia* was a draw. What does this suggest about the advantages of ironclads?

**Academic Vocabulary**

**demonstrate** • *v.*, to prove something by being an example of it

**Did you know?**

In the 1970s, the USS *Monitor* was rediscovered 230 feet deep in the Atlantic Ocean. Some parts of the ship are now on display at the Mariner's Museum in Virginia.



**The Blockade and the Ironclads** Early in the war, Union ships blockaded southern ports. Because the South had few factories, it depended on imports for manufactured goods, such as weapons. A blockade could cripple the Confederate war effort.

At first, some small, fast ships slipped through the blockade. These “blockade runners” brought everything from matches to guns to the Confederacy.

In time, however, the blockade became more effective. Trade through southern ports dropped by more than 90 percent. The South desperately needed to break the Union blockade. One method it tried was the ironclad ship. *Clad* means *clothed*, or *covered*. Ironclad ships were covered with iron for protection.

Confederates modified an abandoned Union warship, the USS *Merrimack*. They covered it with iron plates and renamed it the **Virginia**. On its first day out in March 1862, the *Virginia* **demonstrated** the advantages of ironclads. It destroyed two Union ships and drove three more aground. Union cannonballs bounced harmlessly off the *Virginia's* metal skin.

The Union countered with its own ironclad, the **Monitor**. Soon, the two ships clashed near the mouth of Chesapeake Bay. This was the first time two ironclad warships battled one another.

Despite an exhausting battle, neither vessel seriously damaged the other, and both withdrew. Two months later, Confederates had to sink the *Virginia* when the Union captured Norfolk.

As ironclad ships became a standard part of naval forces, they changed naval warfare. The Union built 50 more ironclads during the Civil War and continued to build them for decades after. Other nations built them as well. They were later used in World War I.

Because of the North's ironclads, the South was never again able to mount a serious attack against the Union navy. The Union blockade held throughout the war.

**The Battle of Antietam** In September 1862, General Lee went on the offensive and marched his troops north into Maryland. He believed that a southern victory on northern soil would be a great blow to northern morale.

Luck was against Lee, however. At an abandoned Confederate campsite, a Union officer found a copy of Lee's battle plan. It was wrapped around three cigars, left behind by a careless general. General McClellan was overjoyed. "If I cannot whip 'Bobbie Lee,' I will be willing to go home," he boasted.

However, McClellan was slow to act. After a few days, he finally attacked Lee's main force near a creek called Antietam (an TEE tuhm) in the town of Sharpsburg, Maryland, on September 17. In the battle that followed, more than 23,000 Union and Confederate soldiers were killed or wounded—in one day. September 17, 1862, remains the bloodiest day in American military history.

On the night of September 18, Lee ordered his troops to slip back into Virginia. McClellan chose not to follow.

Neither side was a clear winner at the **Battle of Antietam** (also called the Battle of Sharpsburg by the Confederates). The battle was significant, however: Because Lee had withdrawn, the North was able to claim victory. As a result, northern morale improved. Still, President Lincoln was keenly disappointed. General McClellan had failed to follow up his victory by pursuing the Confederates. In November, Lincoln appointed General Ambrose Burnside to replace McClellan as commander of the Army of the Potomac.

 **READING CHECK** **Draw Conclusions** What conclusions can you draw from the first battles of the Civil War?

**Analyze Images** General George B. McClellan's Union forces met the Confederates at the Battle of Antietam. **Summarize** What was the significance of the Battle of Antietam?



## Victories in the East for Confederate Forces

Two stunning victories for the Confederacy came in late 1862 and 1863. In December 1862, Burnside led Union forces once again toward Richmond. They soon confronted the Confederates outside Fredericksburg, Virginia. Lee's forces dug into the crest of a hill. There, in a strong defensive position, the outnumbered Confederates mowed down wave after wave of charging Union troops. The **Battle of Fredericksburg** was one of the Union's worst defeats. Soon after, Burnside was relieved of his command.

Half a year later, in May 1863, Lee, aided by Stonewall Jackson, again outmaneuvered Union forces. The **Battle of Chancellorsville** took place on thickly wooded ground near Chancellorsville, Virginia. Lee and Jackson defeated the Union troops in three days.

Victory came at a high price for the South, however. During the battle, nervous Confederate sentries fired at what they thought was an approaching Union soldier. The "Union soldier" turned out to be General Stonewall Jackson. Several days later, Jackson died, and the Confederacy lost one of its best generals.

**Analyze Images** These are some of the cannons used by Confederate forces. **Use Visual Information** Why were cannons dug into fortified positions?

 **READING CHECK** **Draw Conclusions** How might the Confederates have felt after the Battles of Fredericksburg and Chancellorsville?



## Union Success in the West

In the West, Union forces had better results. As you have read, part of the Union strategy was to seize control of the Mississippi River. In February 1862, General Ulysses S. Grant attacked and captured Fort Henry and Fort Donelson in Tennessee. These forts guarded two important tributaries of the Mississippi.

Grant then pushed south to Shiloh, a village on the Tennessee River. There, on April 6, he was surprised by Confederate forces, who drove the Union troops back to the banks of the river.

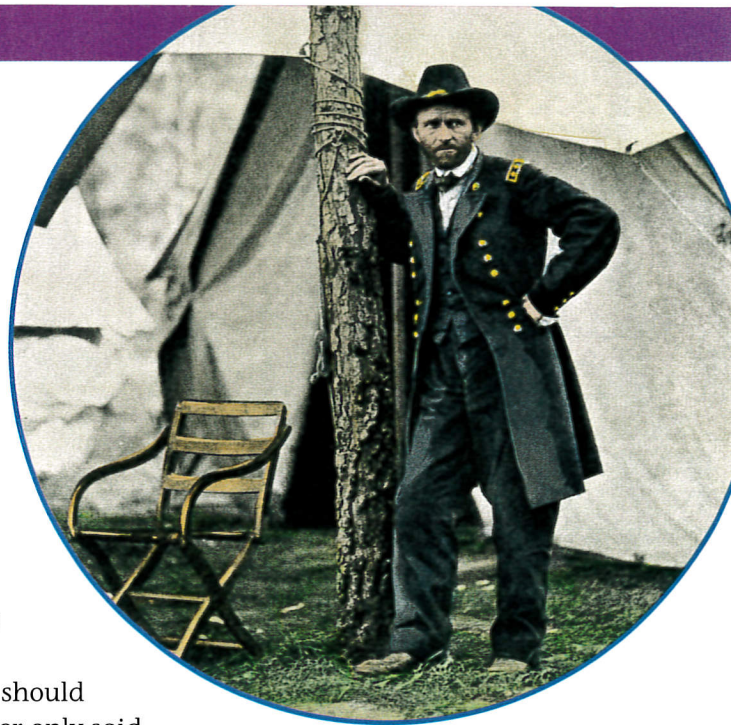
Instead of retreating, Grant rushed reinforcements to the battle. That night, one of Grant's generals approached him. The officer thought Union forces should retreat. But, seeing Grant's stubborn face, the officer only said, "Well, Grant, we've had the devil's own day, haven't we?"

"Yes," Grant replied. "Lick 'em tomorrow, though."

And they did. On April 2, 1862, reinforcements arrived, and Grant's army beat back the Confederates and won the **Battle of Shiloh**. It was one of the bloodiest encounters of the Civil War. Because of the success at Shiloh, the Union was able to capture a crucial railroad crossing at Corinth.

Meanwhile, the Union navy moved to gain control of the Mississippi River. By June 1862, Union gunboats captured New Orleans, Louisiana, and Memphis, Tennessee. By capturing these ports, the Union controlled both ends of the southern Mississippi. The South could no longer use the river as a supply line.

 **READING CHECK** **Understand Effects** Why was the capture of Fort Henry and Fort Donelson critical to the Union's overall war strategy?




**Analyze Images** General Ulysses S. Grant, pictured here, was Lincoln's most trusted general. **Draw Conclusions** How did individual personalities affect the conduct of the war?

## Lesson Check

### Practice Vocabulary

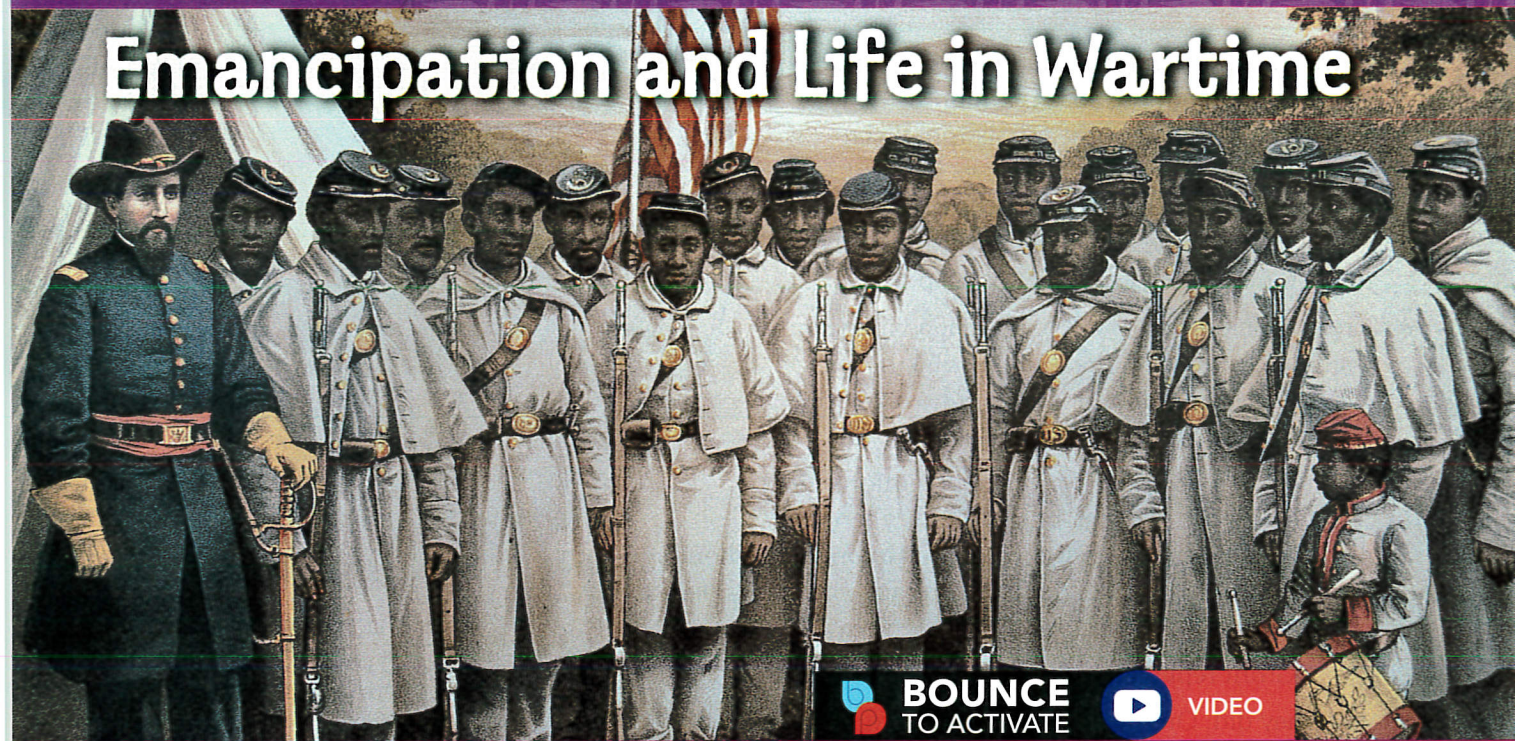
1. What was important about the *Virginia* and the *Monitor*?
2. What disaster happened at the **Battle of Chancellorsville**?

### Critical Thinking and Writing

3. **Draw Conclusions** What can you conclude from the fact that spectators accompanied Union troops to Bull Run to watch the battle and were in a festive mood?
4. **Summarize** the problems that a successful blockade of southern ports would cause.
5. **Use Evidence** What do the battles and events that you have read about so far lead you to predict about the war?
6. **Writing Workshop: Support Thesis with Details** In your  Active Journal, begin listing details about the differences between the North and South. You will use these details as you write the essay at the end of the Topic.

## LESSON 5

# Emancipation and Life in Wartime



 **BOUNCE**  
TO ACTIVATE

 **VIDEO**

## GET READY TO READ

### START UP


These men have just enlisted in the Union Army. Write three questions you would like to ask them.

### GUIDING QUESTIONS


- How and why did the Civil War become a war to end slavery?
- In what ways did African Americans contribute to the Union war effort?
- What roles did women play in the war?

### TAKE NOTES

#### Literacy Skills Summarize

Use the graphic organizer in your  Active Journal to take notes as you read the lesson.

### PRACTICE VOCABULARY

Use the vocabulary activity in your  Active Journal to practice the vocabulary words.

#### Vocabulary

Emancipation

Proclamation

54<sup>th</sup> Massachusetts

Regiment

Fort Wagner

Copperhead

draft

habeas corpus

inflation

income tax

#### Academic Vocabulary

preliminary

essentially

The Civil War began as a war to restore the Union, not to end slavery. President Lincoln made this point clear in a letter that was widely distributed:

### Primary Source

**"If I could save the Union without freeing any slave, I would do it; and if I could save it by freeing all the slaves, I would do it; and if I could do it by freeing some and leaving others alone, I would also do that."**

—Abraham Lincoln, August 22, 1862, quoted in Carl Sandburg, *Abraham Lincoln*

### Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation

Lincoln had a reason for handling the slavery issue cautiously. As you have read, four slave states remained in the Union, and the president did not want to do anything that might cause these states to join the Confederacy.