

## A Growing Country

After the War of Independence, people continued to immigrate to the United States. There was war, famine, and difficult economic times around the world. During the 1800s, many more immigrants, especially from Europe and Asia, came here looking for freedom, work, and a new life.

The population in the United States was growing very quickly. In 1803, President Thomas Jefferson decided that the country should buy a large piece of land from France. This land was called

the Louisiana Territory. It cost \$15 million and doubled the size of the United States. The Louisiana Territory extended from the Mississippi River toward the northwest and covered 828,000 square miles. President Jefferson wanted to learn more about this new land. He sent a group of men to explore it. They spent two years traveling to the West Coast. They made maps and studied the animals, plants, and the American Indian tribes in the new territory.



**Look at the map of the Louisiana Territory below. Compare it to a map of the United States today. Fifteen new states (or parts of states) were created out of that territory. Can you name those states?**



*Map of the Louisiana Purchase Territory.  
Courtesy of the National Archives.*

**Answer this Civics Test question.**

1. What territory did the United States buy from France in 1803? \_\_\_\_\_

## Challenges for the New Country

The new United States had many challenges, inside and outside the country. Some challenges led to wars with Great Britain, Mexico, and Spain. Other problems led to a long civil war between

the North and the South. The United States fought four major wars in the 1800s: the War of 1812, the Mexican-American War, the Civil War, and the Spanish-American War.

**On the chart below, work with your group and write down everything you know about each war. Then read more information about each war on the next pages.**

### War of 1812

### Mexican-American War

### Civil War

### Spanish-American War

## U.S. Wars—1800 to 1850

In the early 1800s, the United States continued to have problems with Great Britain. Great Britain interrupted U.S. trade with other countries. The British captured U.S. ships and forced the sailors to work for them. They also encouraged American Indians to fight against settlers who were moving west. From 1812 to 1815, the United States fought against Great Britain. This war was called the War of 1812. At the end of the war, the two countries agreed to stop fighting. It was the first war where the new United States defended itself against an outside enemy.

In the 1840s, Mexico and the United States did not agree about the land near the southern border. President James Polk wanted the United States to expand toward the west so he sent U.S. soldiers to occupy the land. When the Mexicans



*An illustration of the bombardment of Fort M'Henry in Baltimore, Maryland, on September 13, 1814.  
Courtesy of the Library of Congress, LC-DIG-ppmsa-35544.*

attacked the soldiers, the United States declared war against Mexico. The Mexican-American War began in 1846. It ended in 1848 when the two countries signed a treaty. This treaty gave the United States land all the way to the Pacific Ocean.



**Discuss these questions with your classmates. Write your list below.**

What are some reasons that the United States went to war in the early 1800s? What are some other reasons that a country might go to war?

**Reasons the United States went to war**

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**Other reasons for going to war**

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## U.S. Wars—1850 to 1900



*Scene at Germanna Ford—6th Corps returning from Mine Run, a sketch from the Civil War by Alfred Waud.  
Courtesy of the Library of Congress, LC-DIG-ppmsca-21056.*

In 1861, the Civil War began in the United States between the northern and southern states. In the North, many people supported the federal government or “the Union.” In the South, many people wanted their states to separate from the rest of the country. They created a new nation in the South called “the Confederacy.” The war ended in 1865, when the Confederate army

surrendered to the Union army. Many thousands of people on both sides died during the Civil War.

In 1898, the United States fought Spain in the Spanish-American War. The United States had economic interests in Cuba and wanted Cuba to be independent from Spain. The war began when a U.S. ship was attacked near Cuba. Many Americans believed that the Spanish were responsible for the attack, so the United States declared war against Spain. The United States won the war by the end of 1898. After the war, Cuba became independent. After the war, Guam, Puerto Rico, and other islands became territories of the United States.



*The Utah National Guard Light Artillery during the Spanish-American War.*

*Courtesy of the National Guard Heritage Paintings.*

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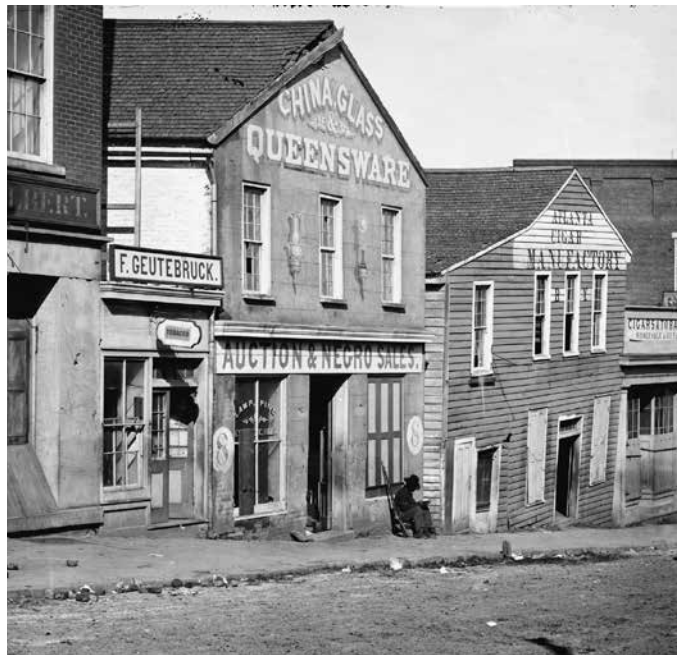
### Answer this Civics Test question.

1. Name one war fought by the United States in the 1800s? \_\_\_\_\_

## Slavery in America

Since early colonial times, millions of African people were taken to North America and sold as slaves. Most of the slaves were owned by people in the South where there was an agricultural economy. Many slaves worked on plantations, growing cotton, tobacco, and other products. Slave owners treated slaves like personal property. The slaves had no freedom or basic rights. They could not decide where to live and they did not get paid for their work. Slaves usually did not receive any formal education.

In the North, there was an industrial economy with factories where many new immigrants worked. Many people in the North did not agree with slavery. Often slaves escaped from their owners and went to northern states (or “free states”) or to Canada. Slavery was one of the causes of the Civil War. When the Civil War ended in 1865, slavery became illegal. After the war, the slaves became free citizens.



*Auction and Negro Sales, Whitehall Street, Atlanta, Georgia, 1864.  
Courtesy of the Library of Congress, LC-DIG-cwpb-03351.*



*Port Royal Island, South Carolina, African Americans preparing cotton for the gin on Smith's Plantation.  
Courtesy of the Library of Congress, LC-DIG-cwpb-00747.*

*Slaves on a Southern Plantation in May 1862.  
Courtesy of the Library of Congress, LC-DIG-ppmsca-04324.*

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### Answer this Civics Test question.

1. What group of people was taken to America and sold as slaves? \_\_\_\_\_

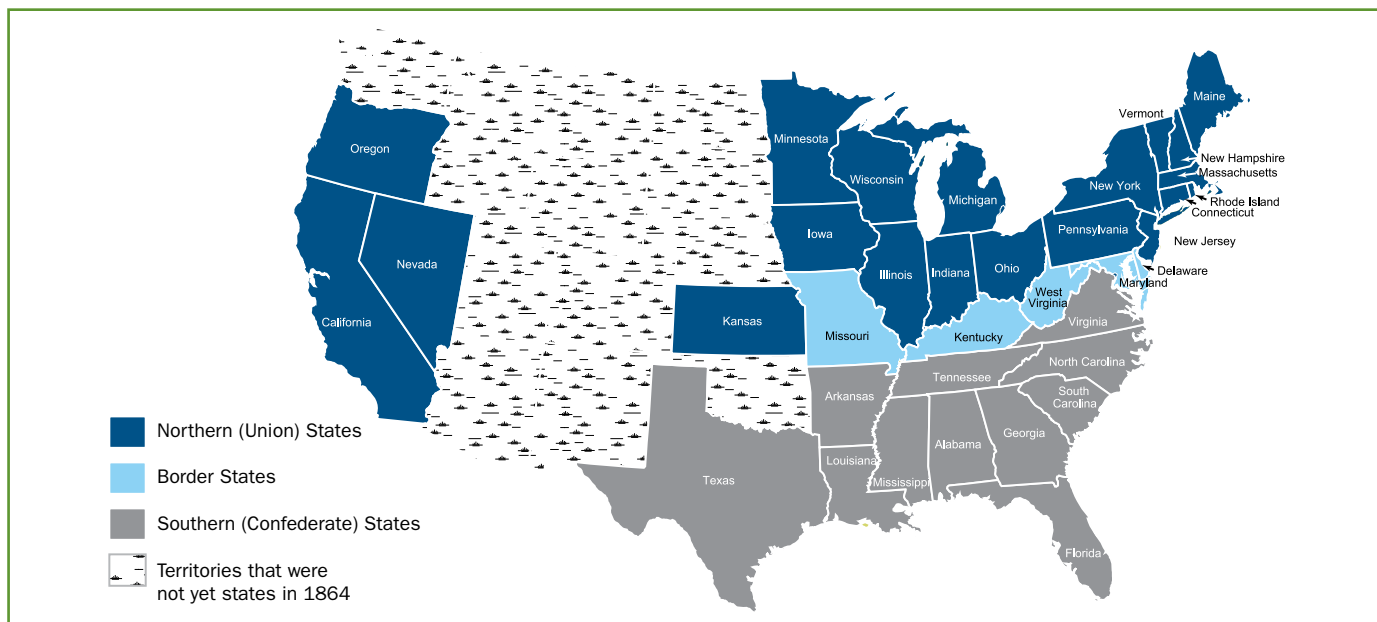
# The Civil War

The Civil War was from 1861 to 1865. In 1861, 11 states in the South voted to separate from the United States. These states formed their own country called the Confederate States of America or “the Confederacy.” The Confederacy felt that the U.S. federal government wanted to control their right to make their own decisions. The Confederacy wanted states’ rights so that each state could make its own decisions about their government. The southern states did not want to follow the decisions made by the federal government.

The North and South had different economic systems. The South’s agricultural economy depended on slave labor. In the South, people believed that the federal government would

stop slavery. They believed that this would hurt their economic and political independence. The economy in the North was more industrial and did not depend on slavery. The North fought to keep all the states together in “the Union.” The North tried to stop the South from separating into a new Confederate nation. Also many people in the North wanted to stop slavery. Slavery, economic reasons, and states’ rights were problems that led to the Civil War.

The Civil War between the North and the South is also called the War between the States. During the long war, more than three million Americans fought on both sides and more than 600,000 people died.

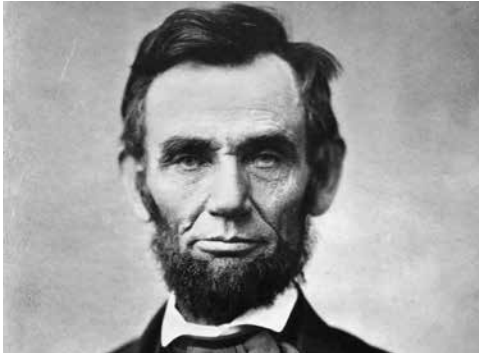


Map of the United States During the Civil War, 1864.

## Answer these Civics Test questions.

1. Name the U.S. war between the North and the South. \_\_\_\_\_
2. Name one problem that led to the Civil War. \_\_\_\_\_

## President Abraham Lincoln and the Civil War



*President Abraham Lincoln*  
Courtesy of the Library of Congress,  
LC-USZ62-13016.



*"The First Reading of the Emancipation Proclamation Before the Cabinet,"* painted by Francis Bicknell Carpenter and engraved by A.H. Ritchie.  
Courtesy of the Library of Congress, LC-DIG-pga-02502.

President Abraham Lincoln led the United States during the Civil War. He was president from 1861 to 1865. Lincoln wanted to keep the country together. He said it was against the Constitution for the South to form a separate country. Lincoln stopped the states in the South from dividing the United States. Many people say he saved the Union. On April 14, 1865, Abraham Lincoln was shot and killed in Washington, D.C. Today, Lincoln's contributions are honored in different ways. Many schools and counties are named after him. His image is on the U.S. penny and the five-dollar bill.

In 1863, Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation. The Emancipation Proclamation freed the slaves in the southern states. After that, slaves could join the Union Army. Thousands of African Americans fought in the Union army. When the Civil War ended in 1865, the southern



*"The First Vote,"* by A.R. Waud  
Courtesy of the Library of Congress, LC-USZ62-19234.

slaves kept their right to be free. The Emancipation Proclamation led to the 13th Amendment to the Constitution in December of 1865. This amendment ended slavery in every state. Later, in 1868, black people became U.S. citizens. In 1870, black men got the right to vote.

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### Answer these Civics Test questions.

1. What was one important thing that Abraham Lincoln did? \_\_\_\_\_
2. What did the Emancipation Proclamation do? \_\_\_\_\_

## Matching—U.S. History in the 1800s

Match the words in the right column with the words in the left column.

- |                                  |   |  |
|----------------------------------|---|--|
| ___ 1. Spanish-American War      | ⋮ | A. Northern states during the Civil War                                  |
| ___ 2. Emancipation Proclamation | ⋮ | B. United States fought against Great Britain in the early 1800s         |
| ___ 3. The Union                 | ⋮ | C. Land in the southwest became part of the United States after this war |
| ___ 4. Africans                  | ⋮ | D. Guam and Puerto Rico became U.S. territories after this war           |
| ___ 5. War of 1812               | ⋮ | E. Land that the United States bought from France in 1803                |
| ___ 6. The Confederacy           | ⋮ | F. Southern states during the Civil War                                  |
| ___ 7. President Lincoln         | ⋮ | G. Document that freed the slaves in the South                           |
| ___ 8. Civil War                 | ⋮ | H. Group of people taken to America and sold as slaves                   |
| ___ 9. Mexican-American War      | ⋮ | I. War between the North and the South                                   |
| ___ 10. Louisiana Territory      | ⋮ | J. Led the United States during the Civil War                            |



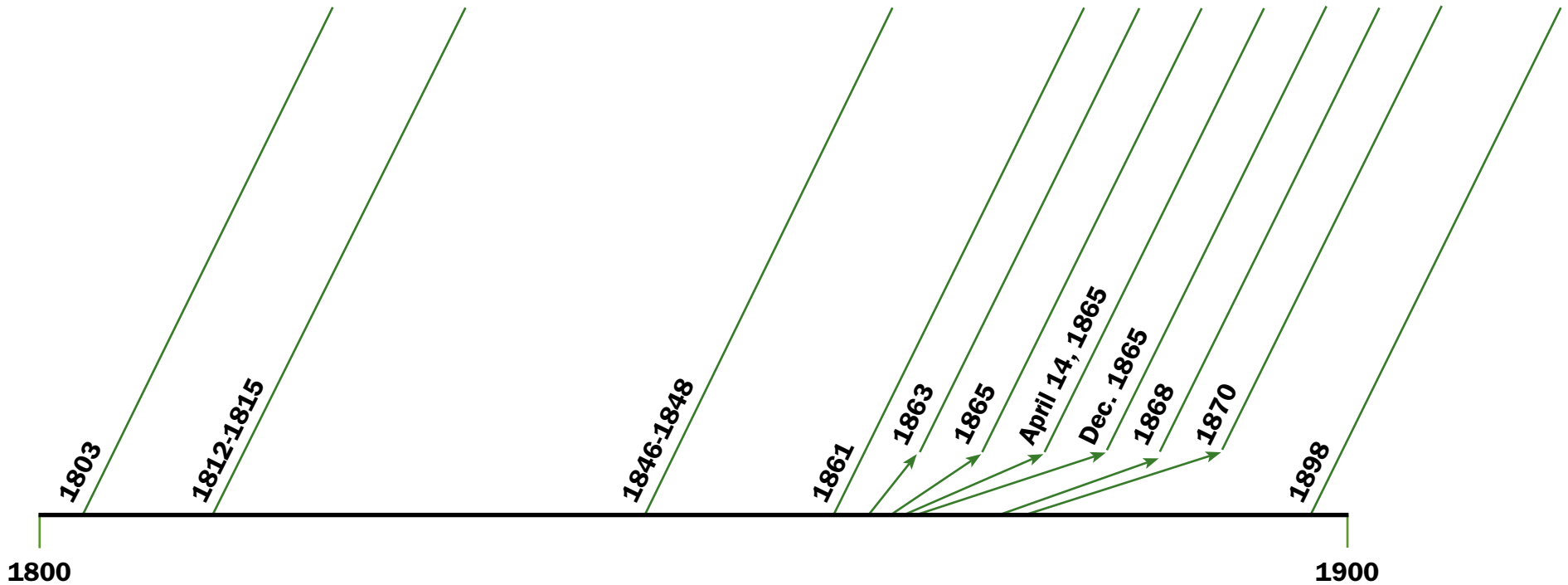
*“Andrew Jackson at the Battle of New Orleans,” January 8, 1815, a mural by Ethel Magafan.  
Courtesy of the Library of Congress, LC-DIG-highsm-09901.*



# Timeline—U.S. History in the 1800s

Fill in the timeline with the information from the box below.

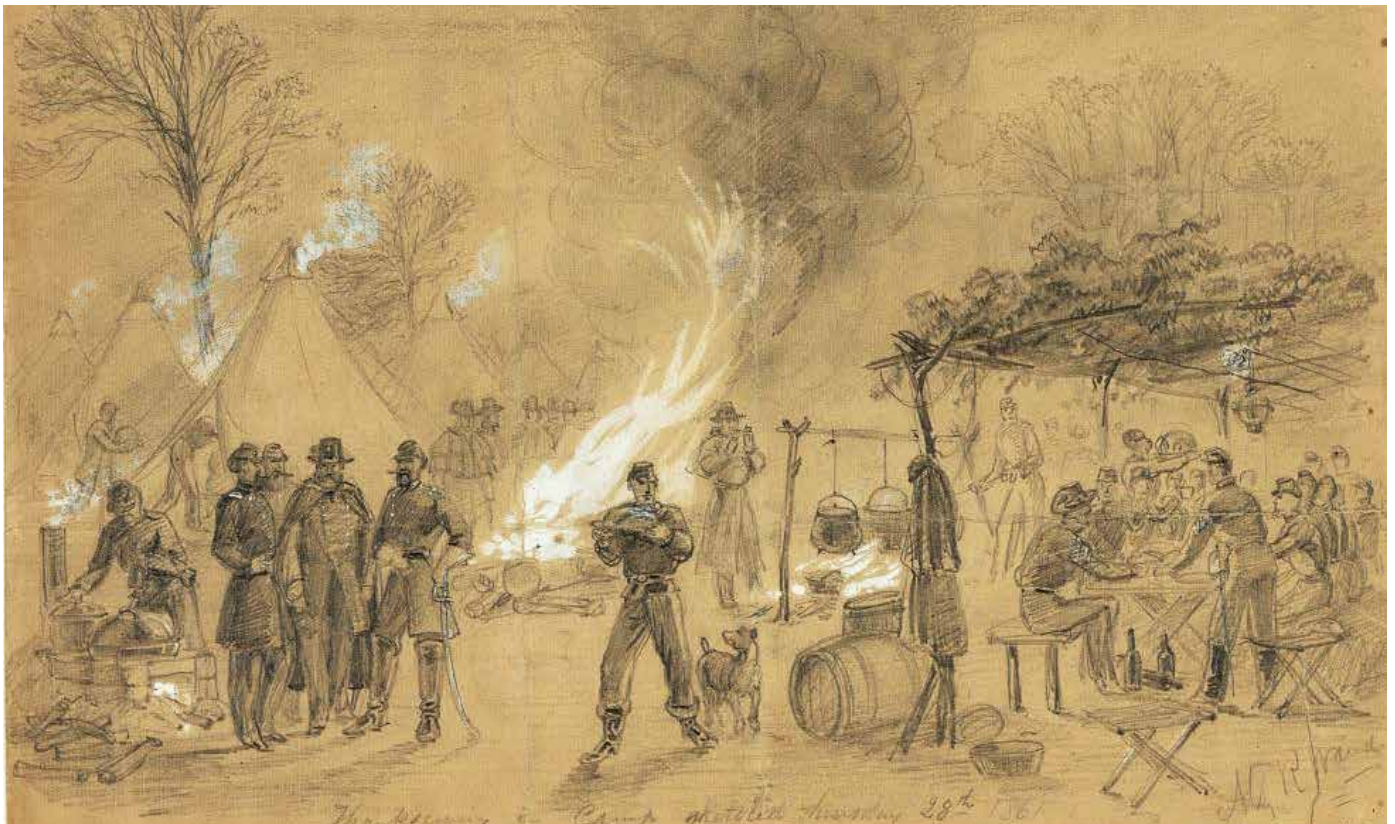
Civil War began	Black people became U.S. citizens	President Lincoln died	War of 1812
Spanish-American War	Mexican-American War	13th Amendment ended slavery	Civil War ended
Louisiana Territory	Black men got voting rights	Emancipation Proclamation	



## Civics Test Questions—U.S. History in the 1800s

Read the test questions and write the answers. Take turns practicing them with your partner.

1. What group of people was taken to America and sold as slaves? \_\_\_\_\_
2. What territory did the United States buy from France in 1803? \_\_\_\_\_
3. Name one war fought by the United States in the 1800s. \_\_\_\_\_
4. Name the U.S. war between the North and the South. \_\_\_\_\_
5. Name one problem that led to the Civil War. \_\_\_\_\_
6. What was one important thing that Abraham Lincoln did? \_\_\_\_\_
7. What did the Emancipation Proclamation do? \_\_\_\_\_



*Thanksgiving dinner during the Civil War, a sketch by Alfred Waud.  
Courtesy of the Library of Congress, LC-DIG-ppmsca-21210.*