



The Mini Page

Betty Debnam, Founding Editor and Editor at Large



A Closer Look

The Civil War

'And the war came'

One hundred and 50 years ago, the United States began its most difficult test. On April 12, 1861, Confederate soldiers attacked a U.S. military fort near Charleston, S.C., and a war began that tore the nation and many families apart.

On this sesquicentennial* of the beginning of the Civil War, The Mini Page studies the reasons for the war and some of the individual stories that came out of the four years of battle.

* A sesquicentennial is a 150th anniversary.



Kansas joined the Union on Jan. 29, 1861, just before the war began. This flag, with 34 stars, includes the new state. It was used until 1863.

Southern states established the Confederate States of America. Their capital was in Richmond, Va.



This first national flag of the CSA was often mistaken for the Union's Stars and Stripes.

Do some research about your state's role in the Civil War. Was your state part of the Union or the Confederacy? Do you have any ancestors who fought in the Civil War?

How did it start?

In the mid-1800s, the United States was less than 100 years old. But the country was growing quickly.

In the northern states, more factories and businesses provided jobs to people. There was less farming and more industry. These steady jobs made the economy, or the buying and selling of products and services, more stable.

In the South, the economy was based on growing crops such as cotton and tobacco. African slaves were used to do the back-breaking work in the fields of plantations, or large farms. Plantation owners depended on good crops for their success, so slavery was important to that part of the country.

The question of slavery

In the North, people began to question the idea of slavery. The Republican Party, which formed in 1854, was dedicated to stopping the spread of slavery. When Abraham Lincoln, a Republican, was elected president in 1860, people in the South became worried that Congress would make slavery illegal. They thought states should be able to decide for themselves about the issue.

The first states secede

Lincoln was elected in November 1860. By the time of his inauguration in March 1861, seven states had seceded, or separated, from the Union:

- South Carolina
- Alabama
- Florida
- Georgia
- Louisiana
- Mississippi
- Texas

War breaks out

Fort Sumter in South Carolina was a U.S. military fort. Civilian soldiers from South Carolina told the major in charge to surrender, but he would not.

Early on the morning of April 12, 1861, Confederate soldiers began firing on Fort Sumter, and the Civil War had begun.

Mini Spy . . .

Mini Spy and her friends are taking part in a Civil War re-enactment. See if you can find:

- letter A
- fish
- alligator
- bird
- slice of bread
- kite
- cherry
- carrot
- cat
- number 8
- man's face
- pencil
- letter C
- bucket
- dragon
- word MINI
- banana
- snail
- lipstick
- doughnut
- number 6
- snowman
- safety pin
- number 7
- letter D



Rookie Cookie's Recipe Toasted Pineapple

You'll need:

- 1 cored fresh pineapple, peeled
- 2 tablespoons butter, melted
- 1/2 teaspoon cinnamon
- 1/3 cup packed dark brown sugar

What to do:

1. Cut pineapple crosswise into 8 slices; place in single layer in jelly roll pan.
2. Melt butter in microwave for 20 to 30 seconds.
3. Stir cinnamon into melted butter.
4. Drizzle butter over pineapple; sprinkle brown sugar evenly.
5. Broil in oven for 2 minutes. Serve alone or with ice cream.

You will need an adult's help with this recipe.



Meet Joanie Leeds



Joanie Leeds is a singer and songwriter whose new CD is "What a Zoo!" She has several other CDs and a DVD, "City Kid LIVE!"

Joanie first sang before a crowd when she was 2 years old. She grabbed the microphone at a party and sang "Tomorrow." She sang in school musicals whenever she got the chance.

When she was in high school, she started teaching kids songs through her temple. She became a summer camp counselor and song leader and taught kids to play guitar.

Joanie got her college degree in musical theater. She started singing in New York clubs at night, but then realized she could sing with kids during the day. She spends most of her singing time with kids, but still writes and sings for adults.

Who's Who in the Civil War

Many of the important leaders and soldiers during the Civil War had known each other when they were younger. Some of them were at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point together.

Let's meet a few of the Civil War's VIPs (Very Important Persons).

The Union

Abraham Lincoln



The 16th president of the United States had a big job in managing the war. Some of the generals he chose for the Union army didn't work out. Finally, Lincoln assigned Ulysses S. Grant to lead the army, and the Union won the war in 1865.

Ulysses S. Grant



Born in Ohio, Grant attended West Point and served in the Mexican-American War. In the Civil War, he was known for his aggressive battle strategies. In 1868, Grant was elected president of the United States.

The Confederacy

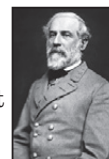
Jefferson Davis



Davis was born in Kentucky and served in the U.S. House of Representatives and Senate. His training at West Point and military service led him to be the president of the Confederacy.

Robert E. Lee

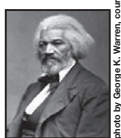
When the war started, Lincoln asked Lee to lead the U.S. armies, but Lee wouldn't fight against his home state, Virginia. Instead, he became a general for the Confederacy. He fought several successful battles, but in April 1865 he surrendered to Ulysses S. Grant in Virginia.



African-Americans Lead the Way Against Slavery

Frederick Douglass

Douglass, a former slave, pressured Lincoln to free the slaves. His newspaper, the *North Star*, argued against slavery. He also wrote books about his time as a slave.



Harriet Tubman

Tubman was born a slave. As an adult, she ran away to Philadelphia and started the Underground Railroad, which helped hundreds of slaves escape to freedom.



What Do You Know?

What do you know about the Civil War? There are thousands of personal stories from the war. Maybe your family treasures include letters or diaries saved from forefathers on the field of battle.

More than 3 million men fought in the war. In some families, the war caused brothers to fight against brothers. In fact, four of Abraham Lincoln's brothers-in-law fought for the Confederacy.

A recent exhibit at the National Archives, "Discovering the Civil War," explores many unusual records and facts about the war. The exhibit is traveling around the U.S. We share some of the items from the exhibit here.

Did you know ...

Emma Edmonds came to the United States from New Brunswick, Canada. When the Civil War began, she wanted to fight for her new country, so she cut her hair and bought some men's clothing. She enlisted as Frank Thompson.

Emma, as Frank, served as a nurse before volunteering to be a Union spy. She disguised herself as an African and worked at the Confederate front, learning a lot about the size of the army and other important facts.

She later wrote a book about her Civil War experiences called "Nurse and Spy in the Union Army."



Emma Edmonds Seelye



Did you know ...

There was a draft for the Civil War. A draft requires men to report for military service if they are called.

In 1863, the Union Army needed more soldiers, but many men didn't want to fight. The U.S. Navy didn't have a draft; instead, it attracted young men with a promise that the Navy would pay better than the Army.

Did you know ...

Most people who died in the Civil War were killed by disease. Soldiers were brought close together from different regions, and they had little resistance to new diseases. Healthy food was hard to find, and soldiers were often cold and wet.

Did you know ...

The Confederate seal included an image of George Washington. The father of our country was included on the seal because he led the revolution of the United States against Britain.

Washington was a Southerner from Virginia. The seal shows him on horseback, similar to a statue of him in Richmond, Va.

Did you know ...

Some men ended up fighting for both the Union and the Confederacy. For example, Private Henry Scott started out as a Confederate soldier. He was captured and taken prisoner by the Union. After he reached a prisoner-of-war camp in Maryland, he took an oath to join the U.S. Volunteer Infantry. But soon after, he deserted, or ran away.

Did you know ...

The Civil War even affected events around the world. In 1864, Confederate ships were attacking U.S. merchant ships around the globe from Europe to Asia. To help stop this, the U.S. ambassador to China asked that country not to let Confederate ships into Chinese waters.

The Mini Page thanks Bruce Bustard, senior curator; and Michael Hussey and Miriam Kleiman of the National Archives for help with this issue.



MIGHTY FUNNY'S Mini Jokes

All the following jokes have something in common. Can you guess the common theme or category? *And then she said...*

Charles: What cheese can't stop talking?
Cybil: "Chatter" cheese!

Cyd: What do you get when you mix a dog and breakfast?
Charlize: A beagle and cream cheese!

Cosmo: What kind of cheese is found in a haunted house?
Carmel: Muenster cheese!

Basset Brown The News Hound's Civil War TRY 'N FIND

Words that remind us of the Civil War are hidden in the block below. Some words are hidden backward or diagonally, and some letters are used twice. See if you can find: AMENDMENT, ANNIVERSARY, BATTLE, CIVIL CONFEDERATE, DRAFT, ECONOMY, GRANT, LEE, LINCOLN, NORTH, PLANTATION, REPUBLICAN, RIGHTS, SEAL, SECEDE, SLAVERY, SOUTH, STATE, UNION, WAR.

Y R A S R E V I N N A J B A E
R E D E C E S T H G I R M L C
E Q R N A C I L B U P E R I O
V P A O B A T T L E N R V N N
A H F R L A E S V D A I X C O
L T T T W T K Y M W L G I O M
S U V H A L E E G R A N T L Y
N O I T A T N A L P N O I N U
H S S J E T A R E D E F N O C

Ready Resources

The Mini Page provides ideas for websites, books or other resources that will help you learn more about this week's topics.

- On the Web:**
- www.archives.gov/exhibits/civil-war
 - www.nationalcivilwarmuseum.org/index_1.php
 - www.archives.gov/exhibits/civil-war/about/ (for schedule of National Archives traveling exhibit)

- At the library:**
- "People at the Center of the Civil War" by Chris Hughes
 - "Civil War" by John Stanchak

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