

# Georgia and the Civil War

SS8H5 Analyze the impact of the Civil War on Georgia.

b. Explain Georgia's role in the Civil War; include the Union blockade of Georgia's coast, the Emancipation Proclamation, Chickamauga, Sherman's Atlanta Campaign, Sherman's March to the Sea, and Andersonville.



## The Civil War Begins:

- The United States continued to occupy a small fort, Fort Sumter, located in the middle of South Carolina's Charleston harbor. The Confederacy demanded that the U.S. troops leave.
- On April 12, 1861, Confederate forces in South Carolina bombarded Fort Sumter, forcing the U.S. troops to surrender.



\* The Civil War was America's bloodiest war, with more deaths than all other America wars combined. Ironically, it began with the attack on Fort Sumter, in which the only death was a horse.

## The Civil War Begins:

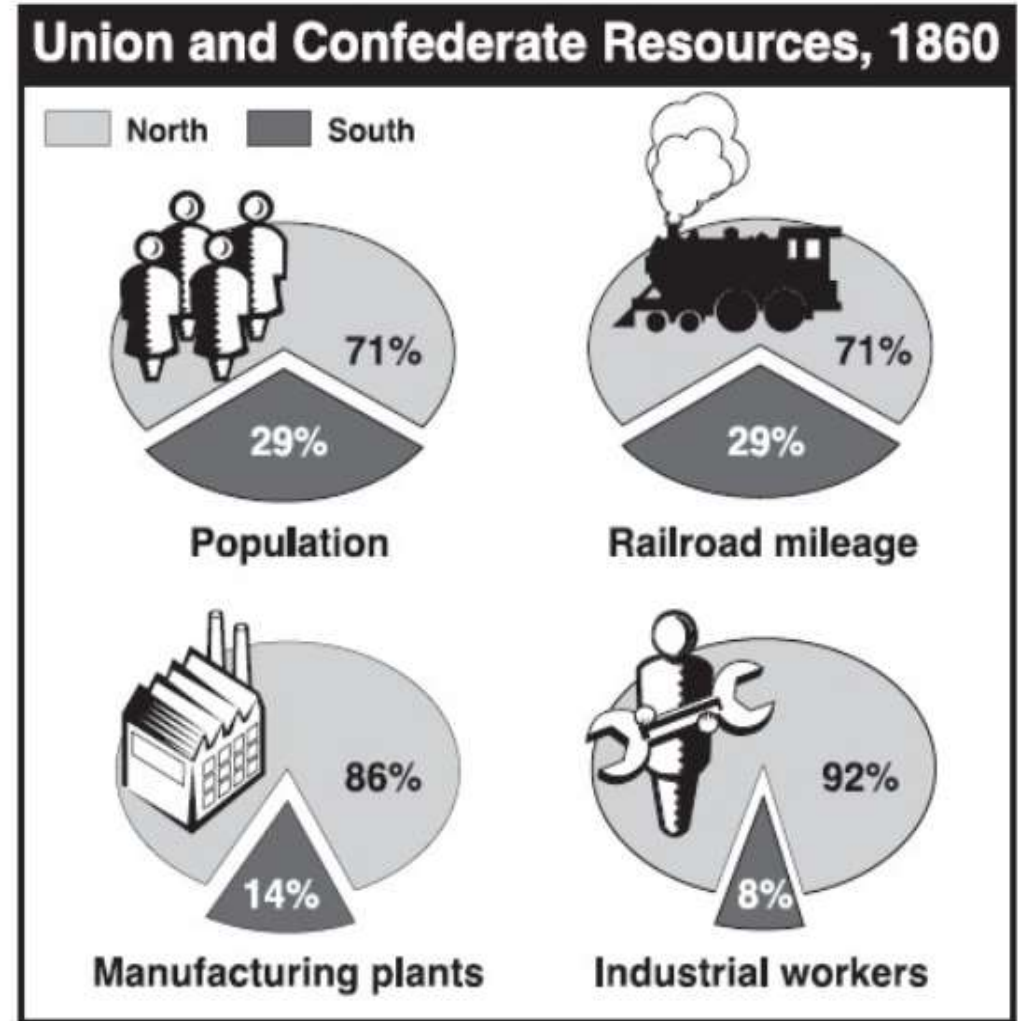
- After the attack on Fort Sumter, four states of the upper south seceded.
- Four other slave states chose not to secede. These states – Missouri, Kentucky, Maryland, and Delaware – are called Border States.





## The Civil War (1861-1865):

- At the start of the Civil War, both North and South had certain advantages.
- The north's advantages were tangible (i.e., they were of a material nature): manpower, material, money, etc.



Source: *Encyclopedia Americana* (adapted)



## The Civil War (1861-1865):

- At the start of the Civil War, both North and South had certain advantages.
- The south's advantages were *intangible* (i.e., they were of an immaterial nature): better generals, fighting on their own soil, fighting a defensive war.



## The Civil War (1861-1865):

- The Northern strategy was called the *Anaconda Plan*, because it involved a blockade of the Southern coast in order to strangle the South to death by keeping supplies out.
- In April 1862, Union forces landed on Tybee Island and capture Fort Pulaski, the fort protecting Savannah. This put Georgia's most important port city under blockade for the rest of the war.





**OVERVIEW OF CIVIL WAR STRATEGY**

## The Civil War (1861-1865):

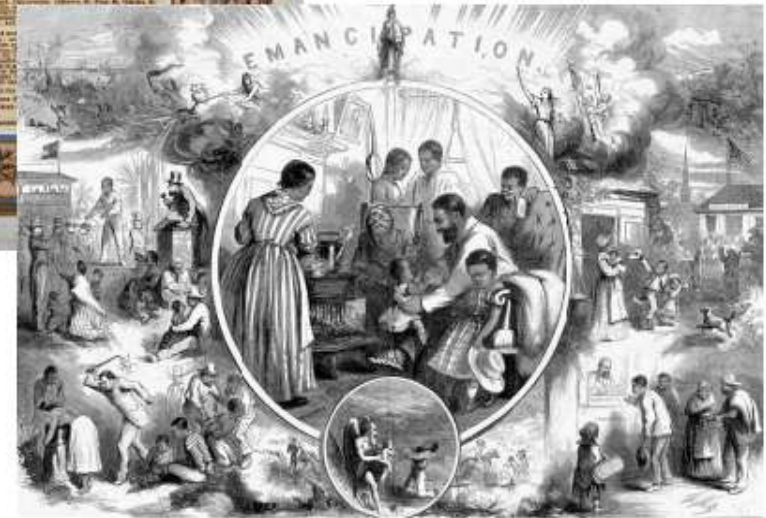
- On September 17, 1862, the North and South fought the first major battle on Northern soil at Antietam Creek in Sharpsburg, MD.
- Antietam was the bloodiest day in U.S. history with over 26,000 *casualties* (more than all previous American wars combined).





## The Civil War (1861-1865):

- On September 22, 1862, President Lincoln issued the *Emancipation Proclamation*, declaring that all slaves in rebellious states were free:
  - Because Lincoln did not control rebellious states, no slaves were actually freed.
  - Because European countries were against slavery, the Proclamation ensured that England or France would not help the South.





## The Civil War (1861-1865):

- By the middle of 1863, brilliant Southern generals had brought the North to the brink of defeat.
- Confident of victory, General Robert E. Lee invaded the north in July 1863.
- At Gettysburg, PA, from July 1-3, the Northern army overwhelmed Lee's army.
- The Southern Army never recovered from the defeat at Gettysburg.





## The Civil War (1861-1865):

- For the first half of the war, Georgia was free from major battles. From 1863 on, Georgia became the crucial battleground of the war.
- From September 19-20, 1863, 58,000 Union troops fought 66,000 Confederates at the battle of Chickamauga, Georgia's largest battle.
- The South defeated the North and forced them to retreat to Chattanooga.





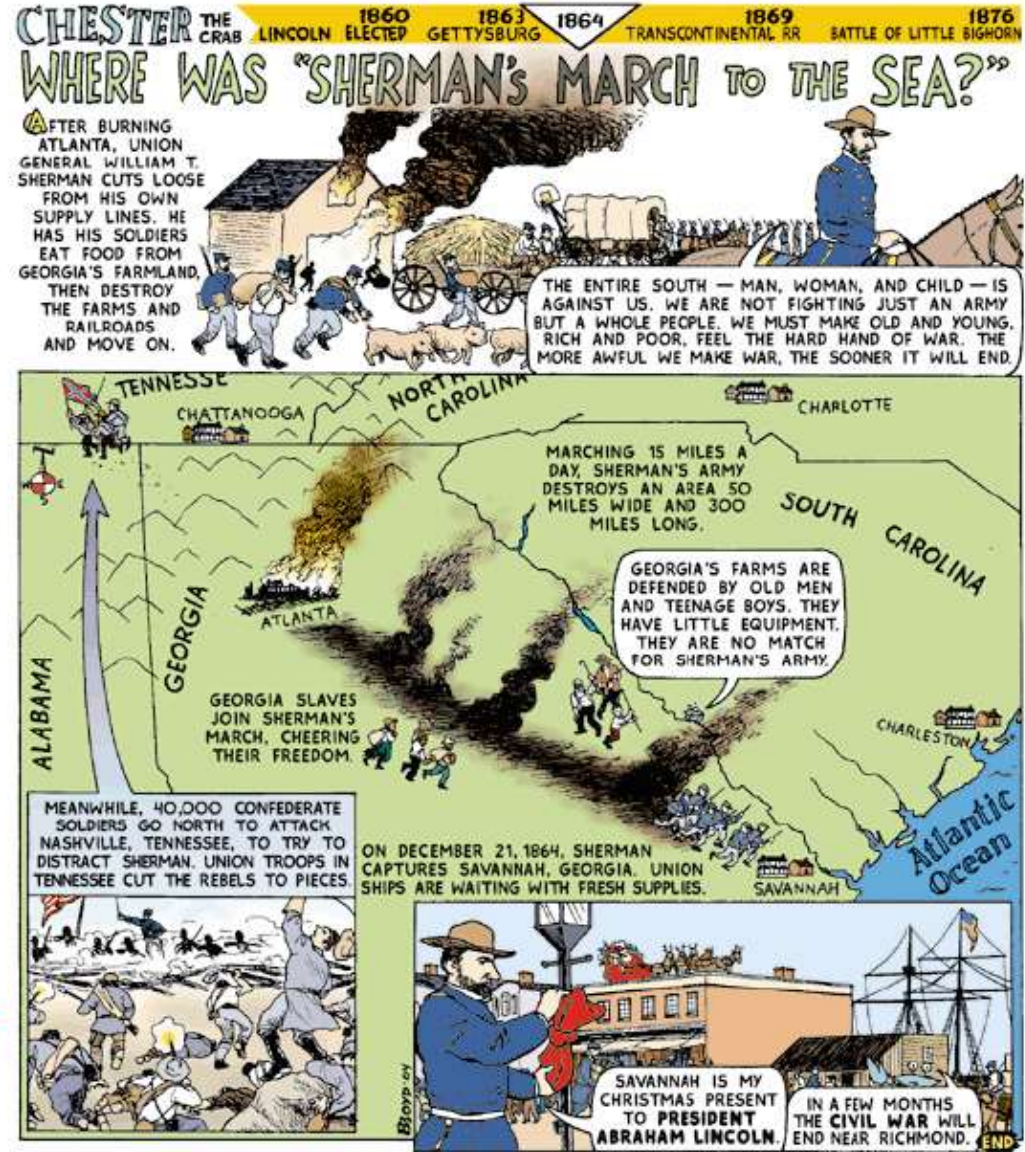
## The Civil War (1861-1865):

- Despite the victory at Chickamauga, the South was near defeat.
- From May to September 1864, Northern forces under General William T. Sherman fought a series of battles forcing the Southern army back to Atlanta, the center of the South's industry and transportation.
- In November 1864, Northern forces captured Atlanta. On November 15, they burnt the city to the ground.



## The Civil War (1861-1865):

- The day after burning Atlanta, Sherman spread his Army across central Georgia and began his destructive “March to the Sea.”
- Sherman’s orders were for the Union army to destroy everything they came across in order to crush any fighting spirit left in Georgia.
- The “March to the Sea” left Georgia in complete ruins, costing hundreds of millions of dollars in damage.





## The Civil War (1861-1865):

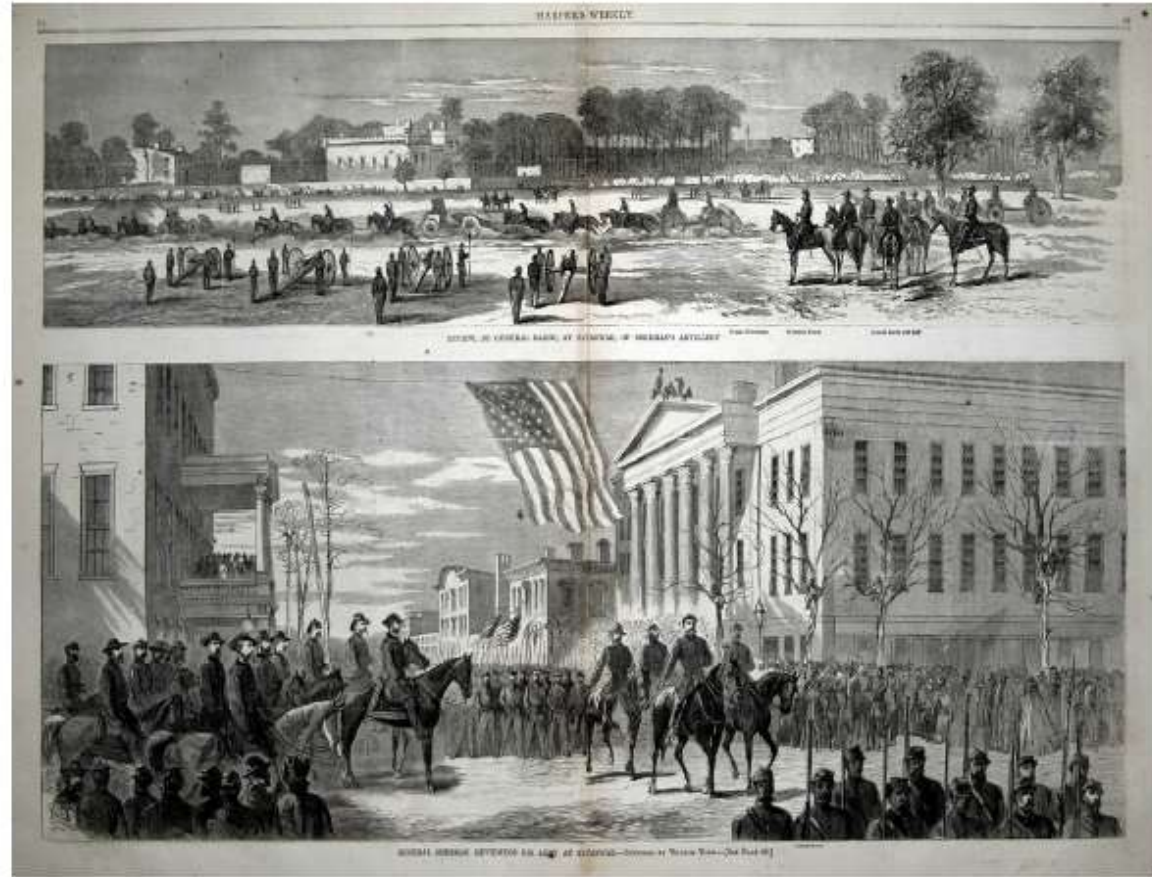


## The Civil War (1861-1865):

- Just days after destroying Atlanta, Sherman's troops sacked Georgia's capital city, Milledgeville.
- Just before Christmas 1864, Sherman entered the city of Savannah. He offered the city to President Lincoln as a Christmas gift.
- Within four months, April 1865, the Confederate States of America surrendered.

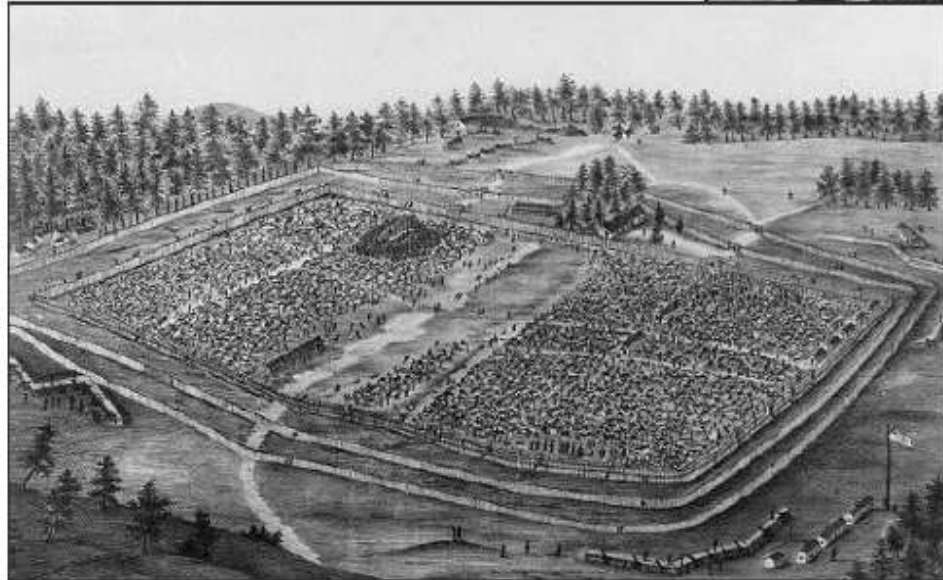
The

Civil War was over.



## The Civil War (1861-1865):

- One of the most tragic aspects of the war was the notorious prisoner of war camp in Andersonville, GA:
  - Barely able to supply their troops, the South was unable to supply the prison camps.
  - Prisoners suffered from overcrowding, malnutrition, starvation, disease, and lack of shelter.
  - Of the 45,000 prisoners of war sent to Andersonville, 13,000 (over 1/4<sup>th</sup>) died.







## The Civil War (1861-1865):

- Andersonville Prison had the highest death rate of any Civil War prison camp.
- Though he constantly begged the Confederate government to improve the conditions of the camp, Captain Henry Wirz, the Prison Commandant, was hanged for war crimes.





## The Civil War (1861-1865):

- The Civil War had left the South in ruins:
  - Many of the South's major cities had been completely destroyed.
  - Nearly 25% of the South's male population had been killed.
  - The Southern economy was completely annihilated and would not recover for decades.





## What do you remember about... ...the Civil War???

1. The bloodiest single day of the Civil War was the Battle of \_\_\_\_\_.
2. Lincoln freed slaves in rebellious states with the \_\_\_\_\_.
3. The South never recovered from the defeat at the Battle of \_\_\_\_\_.
4. The greatest battle ever fought in Georgia was the Battle of \_\_\_\_\_.
5. General Sherman's military objective was to capture the important rail city of \_\_\_\_\_.
6. Sherman's "March to the Sea" ended in the city of \_\_\_\_\_.
7. The most notorious prisoner of war camp during the Civil War was \_\_\_\_\_.