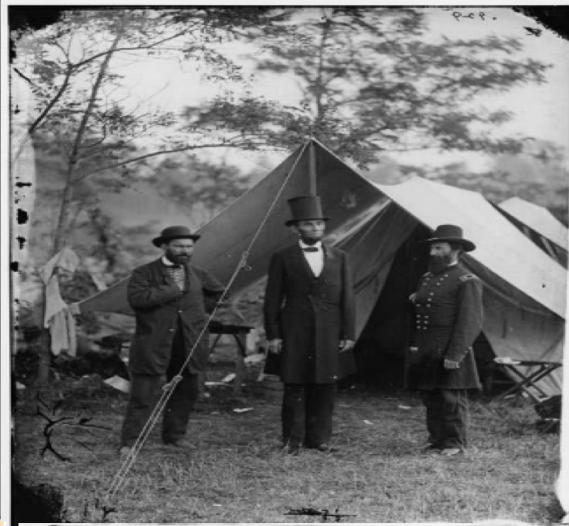
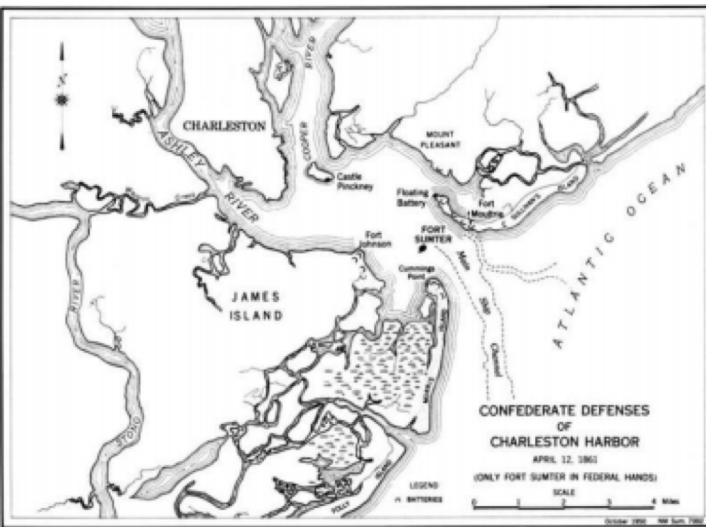


# SSUSH9: EVALUATE KEY EVENTS, ISSUES, AND INDIVIDUALS RELATED TO THE CIVIL WAR.



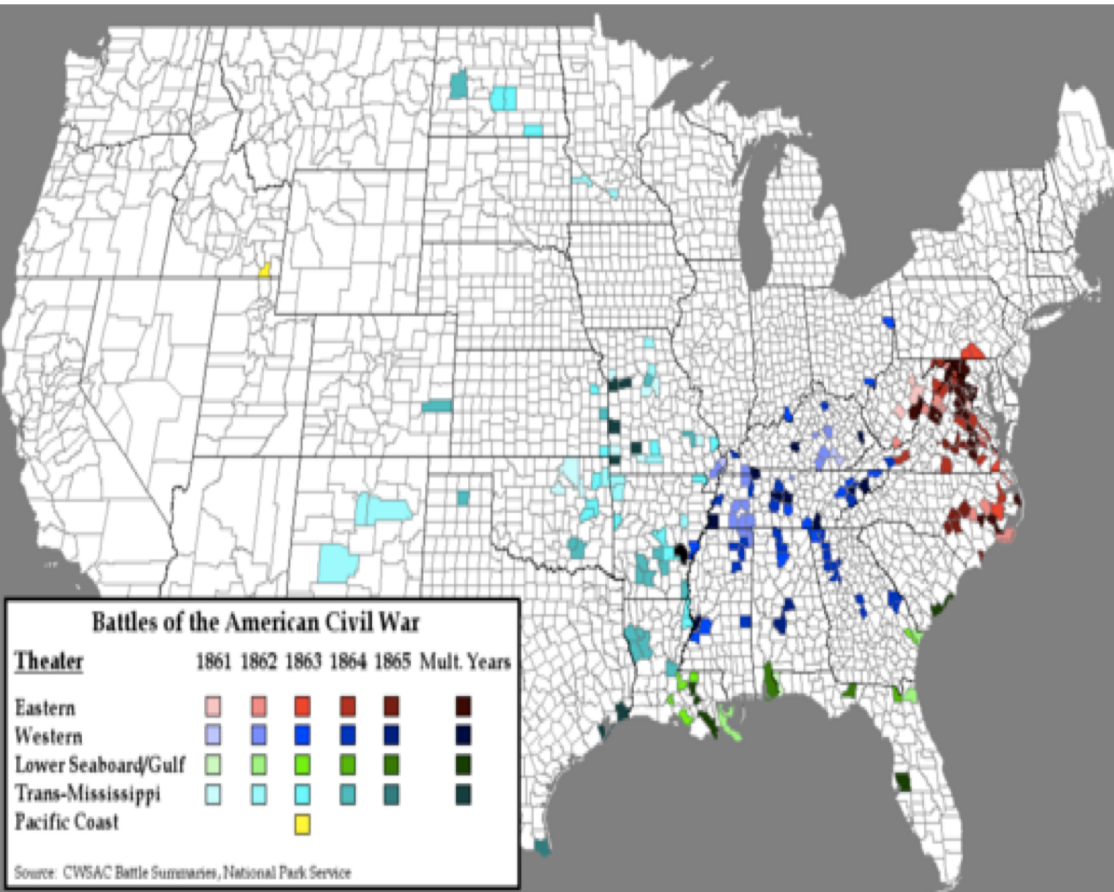
***ELEMENT D: Explain the importance of Fort Sumter, Antietam, Vicksburg, Gettysburg, and Atlanta, as well as the impact of geography on these battles.***

# Overview

□ Civil War historians acknowledge that 50 major battles and 5000 minor battles were fought in the Civil War between 1861 and 1865.

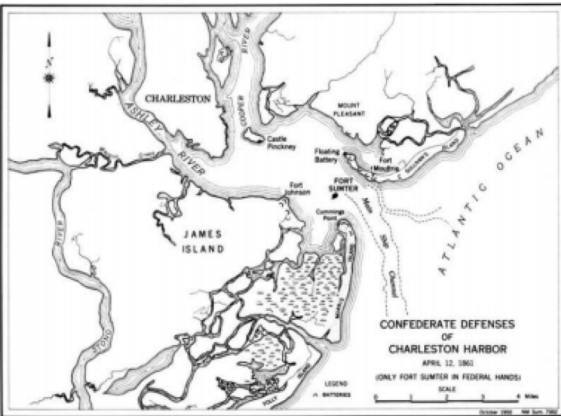
▪ There were also countless skirmishes throughout the course of the war.

- Land battles were fought mostly in states east of the Mississippi River and south of the Ohio River.
- Sea battles were fought along the Atlantic coast and in the Gulf of Mexico.
- There were also major river battles fought on the Mississippi River. The battles following are representative of key strategies and moments in the Civil War.

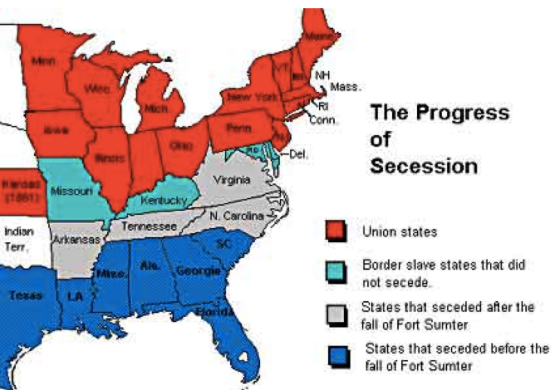


# Battle of Fort Sumter

□ The Battle of Fort Sumter was fought in April 1861.



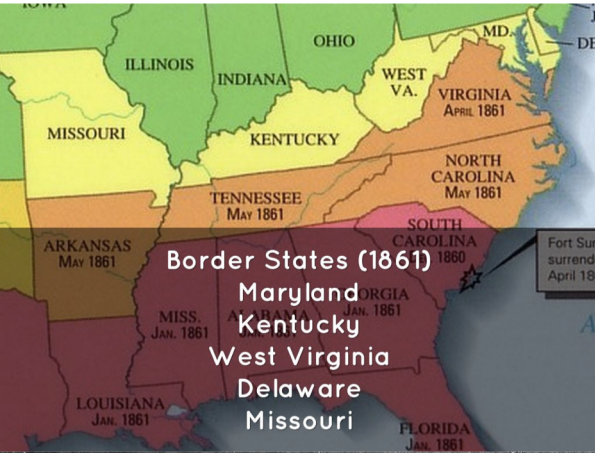
- Guarding the mouth of Charleston Harbor, Fort Sumter was one of the last forts within the seceding states that still remained under federal control.
- Because the South controlled the harbor, Fort Sumter was cut off from Union supplies and reinforcements.
- Lincoln had just taken office a few months earlier and the fort was quickly running out of food and supplies.
  - The new President contacted the South Carolina leadership to alert them that the United States would be sending food - and only food - to the Union fortification isolated within Confederate territory.
- Thus, a critical juncture was reached.
  - Either the Confederates would allow the fort to remain under Union control or begin the fight.
  - Confederate forces staged a 24-hour bombardment against the fort and, by attacking federal property, committed an act of open rebellion.
- To uphold the Constitution, President Lincoln believed he had no choice but to call for troops to respond against the Confederacy.
  - As a direct result, the Civil War began.
- The Confederates won the battle at Fort Sumter after two days of relentless bombing from the Charleston shoreline.



□ Not only did this battle begin the war, but it also prompted the states of the Upper South to join the Confederacy.

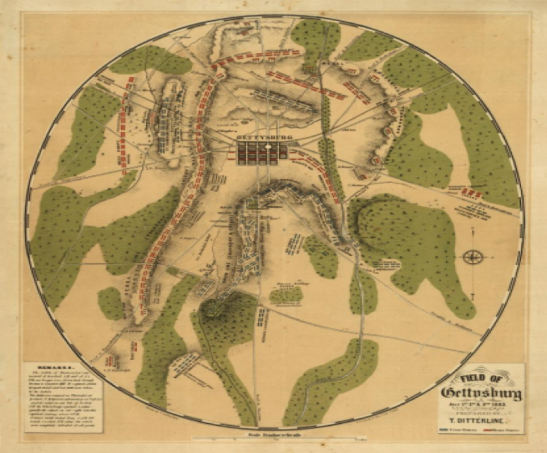
- Virginia, North Carolina, Tennessee, and Arkansas seceded within weeks of the Confederate victory at Fort Sumter.

# Battle of Antietam



- ❑ The Battle of Antietam was fought in September 1862.
  - Confederate General Robert E. Lee marched his forces to Antietam Creek, Maryland, where he fought the war's first major battle on Union soil.
  - Maryland was a Border State, which meant that it was a state that allowed slavery but remained loyal to the Union.
    - The state was geographically important as a Border State.
  - The Confederate forces believed if the war pushed into Maryland, the state would join the Confederacy.
  - The Confederacy also hoped that a victory in a Union state would encourage European nations to join in a desperately needed alliance with the South.
  - The outcome at Antietam was not what the Confederates had anticipated.
    - There was not a significant Confederate following in Maryland to supplement the attack.
    - It was instead the deadliest one-day battle in American history, with over 26,000 casualties.
    - It was also shocking in that neither side, secured a victory.
  - As Lee withdrew to the South, Union forces might have been able to end the entire war by pursuing the Confederates.
  - However, the Union did not follow Lee, even though they outnumbered the Confederate forces two-to-one.
- ❑ The significance of the Battle of Antietam was that Lee's failure to win encouraged Lincoln to issue the Emancipation Proclamation.

# Battle of Gettysburg



- ❑ The Battle of Gettysburg was fought in July 1863.
  - Confederate General Robert E. Lee hoped once again that an invasion of Union territory would significantly weaken Northern support for the war effort.
  - Lee's army was met by Union troops at Gettysburg, Pennsylvania.
  - Approximately 51,000 soldiers were killed during the three-day battle.
  - It was the deadliest battle of the American Civil War.
  - Geography played a key role in the outcome of this particular battle.
    - The small town of Gettysburg is surrounded by steep hills and rugged terrain.
    - Once the Union Forces secured the high ground, it was difficult for the Confederates to overpower the enemy due to their fortified location.
  - After three deadly days of fighting, the Confederates retreated in defeat.
- ❑ Gettysburg marked the beginning of the end for the Confederate forces in the east.
  - Lee gave up any further attempts to invade the Union territory.
  - Four months later, Lincoln delivered his Gettysburg Address at the dedication of the Gettysburg National Cemetery.
- ❑ The geographic position of Gettysburg, being in the northern state of Pennsylvania and having a rugged topography, were key components of the battle there.



# Siege of Vicksburg

□ The Battle of Vicksburg was fought over a span of two months from May through July 1863.

- Union General Ulysses S. Grant laid siege to Vicksburg, Mississippi because whoever controlled the high ground there in the bend of the Mississippi River would control traffic on the whole river.

- Grant, aided by naval actions along the mouth of the Mississippi River during the seven-week siege, achieved one of the Union's major strategic goals in the west.

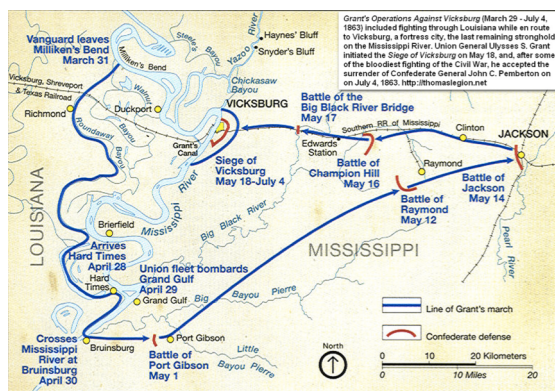
  - Because the Union now controlled the Mississippi River, Confederate troops and supplies from Arkansas, Louisiana, and Texas were cut off from the East.

□ This Union victory, coupled with the Union victory at Gettysburg, was the turning point of the war.

□ The geographic significance of the Battle of Vicksburg is the proximity of the town to the logistically critical Mississippi River.

- The side that controlled the river had an incredible advantage in terms of transporting goods and soldiers.

- The Confederate loss of Vicksburg also meant they lost control of the Mississippi River and the ability to maneuver their forces and supplies efficiently.



# Battle of Atlanta



- ❑ The Battle of Atlanta was fought from July through September 1864.
  - Union General William Tecumseh Sherman besieged Atlanta, Georgia for six weeks before capturing the vitally important center of Confederate manufacturing and railway traffic.
- ❑ Geography made Atlanta a key location for the Confederate operation.
  - The city had emerged as a transportation hub due to its location below the Appalachian Mountains and above the coastal plain.
    - Atlanta, at the time of the Civil War, was one of the few locations in the South that had a significant concentration of railroad lines and industry.
  - Sherman's goal was to disrupt the Confederacy's capacity to resupply its troops throughout the South. Therefore, Atlanta was his prime target.
  - Union troops burned Atlanta to the ground, then marched across Georgia to the Atlantic Ocean, and on through the Carolinas.
- ❑ During the March to the Sea, Sherman and his men destroyed the railways, roads, and bridges along the path.
  - The Union force also destroyed the crops and livestock they did not harvest and butcher for their own nourishment.
- ❑ One result of this campaign that devastated the South was that the Confederates recognized that they would lose the war and the North recognized that it would win.
- ❑ Lincoln easily won reelection in 1864 against a candidate who wanted a truce with the Confederacy instead of pursuing the victory that was close at hand.

