

The War Between the States

Curtis Kelly

Series Editor Rob Waring

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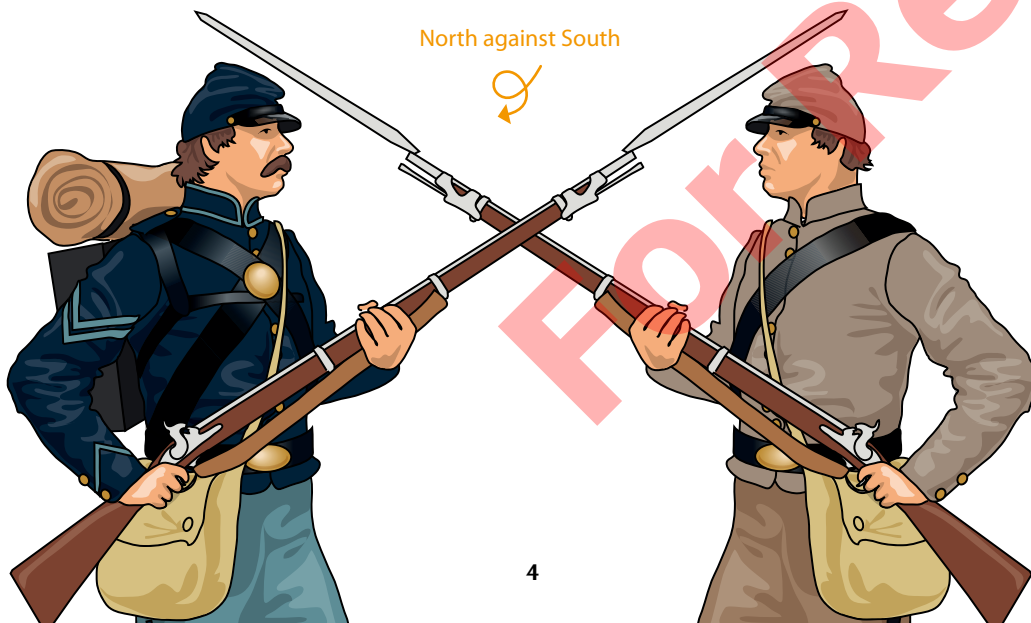
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A War That Changed America

This is the story of a war, a deadly war. It was a war that was won with a river. It was a war where about 625,000 people lost their lives. But another 4 million people, black people who were slaves, got a chance to live freely.



A young slave



The South Breaks Away

The war started in America in 1861. The South broke away from the North. The states in the South had slaves. The slaves were people brought from Africa. They were owned, bought, and sold like property. They were not paid for their work.



Slaves in the South



Northern and Southern states



A reenactment of the North fighting the South

A Long War

The war went on for four years. It was a terrible war. About 625,000 soldiers died. They died in battles between the North and the South. They also died of disease. Actually, for every soldier killed in battle, two died of disease. It was difficult to keep the soldiers healthy while they were living in camps.

Many soldiers died

The North did not want the South to make a new country. So there was a war. It was called the Civil War.

At that time, the United States had 34 states. The war was between the 20 states in the North and the 11 states in the South. Three states were in the middle. They did not want to be in the war.



The First Battle of Bull Run

The first major battle was in Virginia. It was a place called Bull Run.



Soldiers

The soldiers from the South waited. The soldiers from the North attacked them. They fought against each other all day. The North was winning.

Then more Southern soldiers arrived by train. The South started attacking. They started winning. Some soldiers from the North began to run away. Then more ran. The South won the battle.

General Robert E. Lee

In 1862, Robert E. Lee was put in charge of an army for the South. He was one of the best soldiers of his time. His army became the most famous and most successful of the Southern armies.

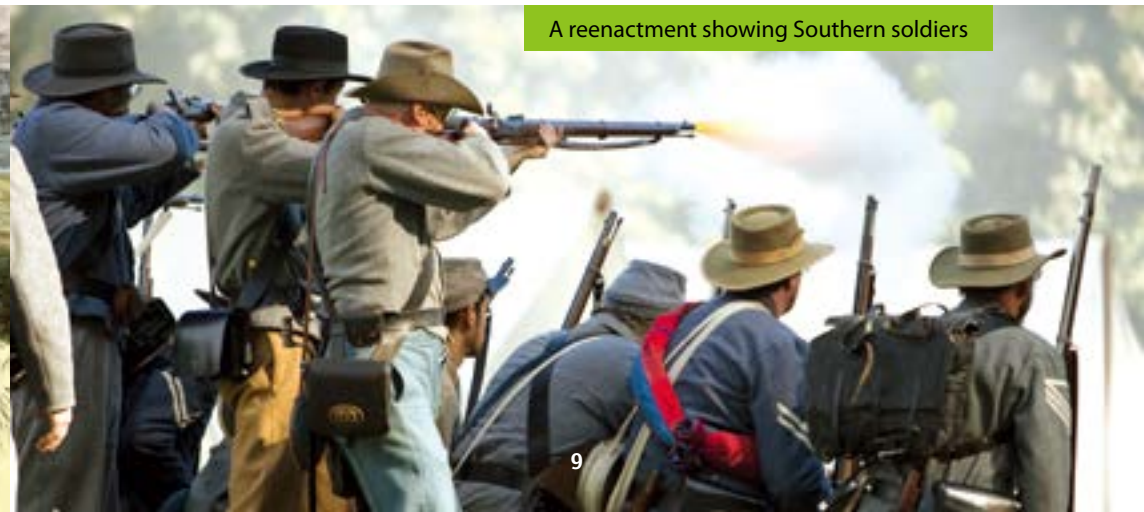


General
Robert E. Lee

The First Battle of Bull Run



A reenactment showing Southern soldiers



Comprehension Questions

1. How were the North and South different?
 - (a) The North had slaves.
 - (b) The South had slaves.
 - (c) The South had more states.
 - (d) The North had a new name.
2. What did the South want to do?
 - (a) Change the North
 - (b) Make friends with the North
 - (c) Stop having slaves
 - (d) Make a new country
3. Who won the First Battle of Bull Run?
 - (a) The North
 - (b) The South
 - (c) Both the North and the South
 - (d) Neither the North nor the South
4. Who was Robert E. Lee?
 - (a) A slave
 - (b) The president of the US
 - (c) A general for the North
 - (d) A general for the South
5. Why did the North want to control the Mississippi river?
 - (a) To get more soldiers
 - (b) To make the South weak
 - (c) To get more slaves
 - (d) To have water to drink
6. Which two battles were the turning point in the war?
 - (a) Bull Run and Vicksburg
 - (b) Gettysburg and Grant
 - (c) Vicksburg and Gettysburg
 - (d) Grant and Bull Run
7. What did President Lincoln do?
 - (a) Fought as a soldier
 - (b) Made slavery illegal
 - (c) Helped the South
 - (d) Became president after the war
8. The slaves did NOT want...
 - (a) freedom.
 - (b) protection.
 - (c) to be slaves.
 - (d) to fight for the North.
9. Who won the war?
 - (a) The North
 - (b) The South
 - (c) The slaves
 - (d) General Lee
10. These days, all Americans...
 - (a) are soldiers.
 - (b) live in the South.
 - (c) have slaves.
 - (d) are free.

Glossary

- **Africa** the continent south of Europe
- **attack** to make a sudden, violent attempt to hurt or damage
- **battle** a fight between two armies in a war
- **freedom** the right to live without being controlled by anyone else
- **freely** able to do things without being controlled
- **fortress** a large, strong building or group of buildings that can be defended from attack
- **general** a very important leader of soldiers
- **Mississippi River** a river that goes north to south across the United States
- **President Abraham Lincoln** the 16th president of the United States
- **slave** a person who is owned by someone else and must work for them
- **soldier** a person in an army
- **state** a part of a country
- **the United States** America; the country between Canada and Mexico