

Sample Lesson #1

The American Civil War: 1861–1865

The **American Civil War** was a war between Americans of the North and Americans of the South.

When Abraham Lincoln became president in 1861, he made it clear that he did not want the North to go to war against the South. More importantly, he was determined to keep the United States together as one country.

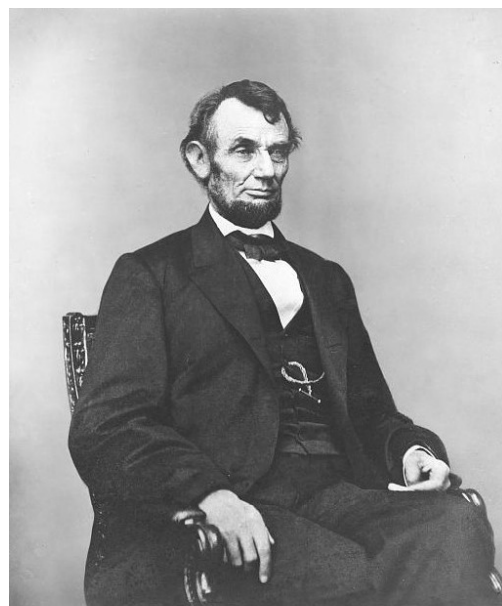
That same year, however, a group of Southern states **seceded** from the Union and formed their own country, called the **Confederate States of America** (the Confederacy). The Confederacy set up its own government. Slavery would remain legal there.

President Lincoln and northern states did not accept this and were willing to fight to keep all of the states united. Lincoln called for thousands of volunteer soldiers to join the Union army. When Confederate soldiers attacked Fort Sumter in South Carolina on April 12, 1861, each state had to choose a side: the Confederacy or the Union. Ohio was part of the Union.

In 1863, Lincoln issued an **executive order**¹. It stated that the slaves in the Confederacy were free. This order was called the **Emancipation Proclamation**. Before the proclamation, runaway slaves and free African Americans were not allowed to join the Union army. As a result of the proclamation, black men were allowed to enlist. As many as 200,000 African Americans served as soldiers during the Civil War. Other African-American men and women helped the war effort by working as carpenters, steamboat pilots, guards, medics, scouts, and spies.

Very little fighting took place in Ohio. However, all of the North and the South suffered greatly. More than 600,000 soldiers died. Some died in battle. Others died of disease. The Union defeated the Confederacy after four years of fighting.

In December of 1865, the **13th Amendment** abolished slavery throughout the United States of America.



President Abraham Lincoln

Source: Library of Congress

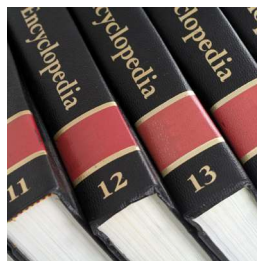
¹ **executive order**: an order that comes straight from the president (not through Congress); similar to a law

- From the context clues, you can tell that *seceded* means “_____.”
 - broke away from
 - government
 - voted for
 - set free
- Number the paragraphs.
Which paragraph tells how Ohioans were affected by the Civil War? _____
- What was the result of the Emancipation Proclamation of 1863? your answer in the passage.
- The Fugitive Slave Act made it illegal to _____.
own slaves help slaves escape talk about slavery all of these
- The Ohio Anti-Slavery Society was a group of Ohioans that _____.
 - fought to end slavery
 - protected African Americans after they were freed
 - was founded by John Rankin and others
 - all of these
- Study the list of names. They were all _____.

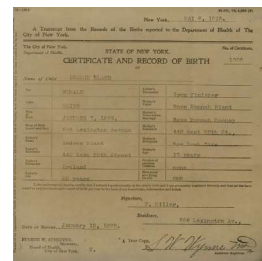
| | | |
|-----------------------|-------------|-----------------|
| John Rankin | John Parker | Sojourner Truth |
| Harriet Beecher Stowe | Levi Coffin | John Brown |
- The US Supreme Court is part of which branch of government?
executive legislative judicial all of these
- Under each photo, write P for *primary source* or S for *secondary source*.



photo, 1894



encyclopedia

birth certificate,
1899
