



# HISTORY & GEOGRAPHY 505

## A NATION DIVIDED

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Alpha Omega Publications®

804 N. 2nd Ave. E., Rock Rapids, IA 51246-1759

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# A NATION DIVIDED

Seven states seceded from the Union after Abraham Lincoln was elected president in 1860. Shortly after that, the Union and the new Confederacy went to war. Four more states joined the Confederacy after the fighting began. The first section of this LIFEPAC® will cover the bloody, four-year long Civil War which finally ended slavery in America.

After the war, the fighting continued during the time known as Reconstruction, which is covered in the second section. The South, which lost the war, was occupied by Union troops and forced to accept many changes in their laws and way of life. However, the South resisted, refusing to

accept blacks as equals in law or life. Eventually, the North quit trying and the South succeeded in making blacks live separate lives with few rights or opportunities for almost a hundred years.

The last section of this LIFEPAC is about the time after the Civil War. It was known as the Gilded Age. It was a time when many clever men became rich building new industries in America. It was also a time of widespread cheating in government and industry. The rich people put on an elegant show, but the nation was still divided, now between the rich and poor instead of the North and South.

## OBJECTIVES

**Read these objectives.** The objectives tell you what you should be able to do when you have successfully completed this LIFEPAC.

When you have finished this LIFEPAC, you should be able to:

1. Describe the course of the Civil War and name the key battles.
2. Describe the strategies and advantages of each side.
3. Describe the course of Reconstruction and its major events.
4. Name the contents of the Thirteenth, Fourteenth, and Fifteenth Amendments to the Constitution.
5. Describe life in the Gilded Age in America.
6. Explain how the railroad and Homestead Act encouraged settlement of the Great Plains.
7. Name some of the key people of the era and their accomplishments.
8. Describe some of the problems of the Gilded Age and the attempts to correct them.

## VOCABULARY

**Study these new words.** Learning the meanings of these words is a good study habit and will improve your understanding of this LIFEPAC.

**blockade** (blo kād'). The blocking of a place by an army or navy to control who or what goes into or out of it

**bond** (bond). A certificate issued by a government which promises to pay back with interest the money borrowed from the buyer of the certificate

**comedy** (kom' ə dē). An amusing play or show having a happy ending

**contract** (kon' trakt). An agreement, often in writing, by which two or more people promise to do certain things; it can be enforced by law.

**corporation** (kôp' pə rā' shən). A group of persons who obtain a charter giving them, as a group, certain rights and privileges; a corporation can buy and sell, own property, manufacture and ship products as if it was a real person.

**corrupt** (kə rupt'). Influenced by bribes; dishonest

**dominate** (dom' ə nāt). To control or rule by strength or force

**emancipate** (i man' sə pāt). To set free from slavery of any kind

**epidemic** (ep' ə dem' ik). The rapid spreading of a disease so that many people have it at the same time

**homespun** (hōm' spun). Cloth made of yarn spun at home

**infection** (in fek' shən). A causing of disease in people by bringing them into contact with germs

**junction** (jungk' shən). A place of joining or meeting

**lavish** (lav' ish). To give or spend very freely or too freely

**moral** (môr' əl). Virtuous according to civilized standards or right and wrong; just

**pension** (pen' shən). A regular payment by an employer to a person who is retired or disabled

**ruthless** (rūth' lis). Having no pity; showing no mercy

**scandal** (skan' dl). A shameful action that brings disgrace or shocks public opinion

**slum** (slum). A run-down, overcrowded part of a city or town

**tactless** (takt les). Lack of skill in dealing with people or handling difficult situations

**timid** (tim' id). Easily frightened

**Note:** These words appear in **boldface** print the first time they are used in this LIFE PAC. If you are unsure of the meaning when you are reading, review the definition.

**Pronunciation Key:** hat, âge, câre, fâr; let, êqual, tèrm; it, îce; hot, ôpen, ôrder; oil; out; cup, pût, rûle; child; long; thin; /ʒh/ for then; /zh/ for measure; /ə/ represents /a/ in about, /e/ in taken, /i/ in pencil /o/ in lemon, and /u/ in circus.



**THE UNITED STATES IN 1890**

# I. THE CIVIL WAR

The Civil War lasted from 1861 to 1865. It was a bitter, bloody war. More Americans died in the Civil War than in any other war except World War II! Many families had men fighting on opposite sides. New rifles that could fire rapidly left thousands of men dead or wounded in just a one-day battle. The war was fought with all the bitterness and hatred of a divided family.

The Civil War began as a war to restore

the Union and became a war against slavery. The Union (the North) had many problems trying to find the right general to lead their army. The Confederacy (the South) won many important battles, but in the end, the huge resources of the North wore them down. The Union eventually won by blockading the Confederate coast, taking control of the Mississippi River, and destroying the armies of the South.

**Review these objectives.** When you have completed this section, you should be able to:

1. Describe the course of the Civil War and name the key battles.
2. Describe the strategies and advantages of each side.

**Restudy these words.**

blockade  
infection  
timid

emancipate  
junction

homespun  
moral

## Starting and Strategy

**War Comes.** Abraham Lincoln was elected president in November of 1860. He was not inaugurated as president until March of 1861 (that was the law at the time). During that time, seven states led by South Carolina seceded and formed the Confederate States of America (or the Confederacy) with Jefferson Davis as president. The Confederacy had a constitution similar to the United States except it protected slavery and forbade tariffs. Its first capital was Montgomery, Alabama.

The U.S. president, James Buchanan, did nothing to stop the split. Several people did

try to find a compromise that would stop the division of the country. The most important attempt was the *Crittenden Compromise*, proposed by Senator John Crittenden of Kentucky (a border state). It would have protected slavery south of the Missouri Compromise line by federal law, but both sides rejected the idea.

Lincoln acted calmly after he finally became president in March. He did not believe the southern states could leave the Union simply because they did not like the election results. However, he did not want to start a war. Matters were taken out of his hands on April 12, 1861 when Confederate



troops in South Carolina opened fire on Fort Sumter, a Union fort in Charleston harbor. Lincoln immediately called for volunteers to fill the Union army. The men of the North responded in huge numbers, furious that the “rebels” had fired on the American flag. This was the beginning of the Civil War.

The start of the war convinced several more southern states to leave the Union. Virginia, Arkansas, Tennessee, and North Carolina seceded after Fort Sumter, bringing the total number of Confederate states to eleven. The Confederate capital was then moved to Richmond, Virginia, just 120 miles from Washington, D.C. However, the counties in northwest Virginia refused to secede and later joined the Union as the state of West Virginia. Four slave states along the border (Missouri, Kentucky, Maryland, and Delaware) also stayed with the Union.

**Strengths and Weaknesses.** The Union had far more resources than the South in this war. It had more men, factories, railroads, farms, and ships. That meant the

Union had a bigger army, could equip it with more guns and ammunition, could move it to battle faster, and could feed and supply it better than the Confederacy. The Union could also use its navy to stop southern trade while Union ships continued to trade with Europe for guns and supplies.

The Confederates did not think those advantages were important. They were very proud of themselves and their “superior way of life.” They did not believe that Yankee (northern) shopkeepers and factory workers could fight as well as southern gentlemen. The South also had some of its own advantages.

The Confederate army had much better generals than the Union and the Confederate soldiers were fighting for their way of life on their own land. The North had to defeat the South, capture their armies, and occupy their land to win. The South had only to survive to win.

The Confederacy also hoped to get help from Europe as America had in the Revolutionary War. Much of the cotton used