



US History Era 9: The Civil War

1. **Abraham Lincoln:** *This man emerged during the late 1850s as the nation's top Republican. His victory in the presidential election of 1860 precipitated the secession of the first southern states, paving the way for the Civil War. His primary goal during and after the Civil War was to restore the Union, but he was assassinated in 1865 before he could realize his goal.*
2. **Battle of Antietam:** *Fought in Maryland on September 17, 1863, this battle was the single bloodiest day of the Civil War. Casualties totaled more than 8,000 dead and 18,000 wounded. Union forces failed to defeat Lee and the Confederates, but they did halt the Confederate advance through Northern soil and this "victory" gave Lincoln the confidence to announce the preliminary Emancipation Proclamation.*
3. **Battle of Gettysburg:** *The largest battle of the Civil War, widely considered to be the war's turning point and the high water mark of Lee's attempt to invade the North. The battle was the Union's first major victory in the East. The three-day campaign, from July 1 to 4, 1863, resulted in an unprecedented 51,000 total casualties.*
4. **Bleeding Kansas:** *This became the popular name for _____ Territory in 1856 after abolitionist John Brown led a massacre at a pro-slavery camp, setting off waves of violence—a miniature civil war in this territory. Brown's massacre was in protest to the recent attempt to establish this territory as a slave state.*
5. **Confederate States of America:** *The name of the country that seceded states attempted to create before and during the Civil War.*
6. **Emancipation Proclamation:** *This announcement was issued by Abraham Lincoln on January 1, 1863 and "freed" all slaves under rebel (Confederate) control. It did not affect the slave states within the Union or Confederate states under Union control, and therefore in reality freed few or no slaves. Nevertheless, the proclamation gave the war a new objective—emancipation—and crystallized the tension between the Union and the Confederacy.*
7. **Franklin Pierce:** *This Democrat served as president 1853 to 1857. He was the last president until 1932 to win the popular and electoral vote in both the North and South. Like Buchanan after him, he did little to prevent the conflict that became the Civil War.*
8. **Frederick Douglass:** *Perhaps the most famous of all abolitionists, this escaped slave, worked closely with William Lloyd Garrison to promote abolitionism in the 1830s.*
9. **Freeport Doctrine:** *This idea was put forth by Democrat Stephen A. Douglas during the famed Lincoln-Douglas debates of 1858. Douglas attempted to reconcile his belief in popular sovereignty with the Dred Scott decision that deprived government of the right to restrict slavery in the territories. Douglas argued that territories could effectively forbid slavery simply by not enacting slave codes.*
10. **Fugitive Slave Act:** *This law was passed in 1793 and was strengthened as part of the Compromise of 1850. The act allowed Southerners to send groups of men into the North to retrieve runaway slaves. During the early 1850s, Northerners mounted resistance to the act by aiding escaping slaves and passing "personal liberty laws."*
11. **Gettysburg Address:** *Lincoln's famous "Four score and seven years ago" speech, delivered on November 19, 1863, at the dedication of a cemetery for casualties of the Battle of _____. Lincoln's speech recast the war as a historic test of the ability of a democracy to survive.*
12. **Great Debate:** *This was an eight-month discussion in Congress over Henry Clay's proposed compromise to admit California as a free state, allow the remainder of the Mexican cession (Utah and New Mexico territories) to be decided by popular sovereignty, and strengthen the Fugitive Slave Act. Clay's solution was passed as separate bills, which together came to be known as the Compromise of 1850.*
13. **Harriet Tubman:** *This former slave helped establish the Underground Railroad, a network of safehouses and escorts throughout the North to help escaped slaves to freedom.*

14. **Homestead Act:** This 1862 law encouraged settlement of the West by offering 160 acres of land to anyone who would pay \$10, live on the land for five years, and cultivate and improve it. It was a major part of the Republican Party platform.
15. **James Buchanan:** This moderate "doughface" Democrat had support from both the North and South and served as president of the United States from 1857 to 1861. He tended to sympathize with the south and could not stem the tide of sectional conflict that eventually erupted in the Civil War.
16. **Jefferson Davis:** A former secretary of war and Mississippi senator, this man was elected president of the Confederacy shortly after its formation. He was never able to garner adequate public support and faced great difficulties in uniting the Confederate states under one central authority.
17. **John Brown:** This religious zealot and extreme abolitionist believed that God had ordained him to end slavery. In 1856, he led an attack against pro-slavery government officials in Pottawattamie Creek, Kansas, where he killed five and sparked months of violence in that territory. In 1859, he led twenty-one men in a raid on a federal arsenal in Harper's Ferry, Virginia, in a failed attempt to incite a slave rebellion. He was caught and hanged.
18. **Kansas-Nebraska Act:** This 1854 law divided the Nebraska territory into two parts and left the issue of slavery in the territories to be decided by popular sovereignty. In effect, this law nullified the Missouri Compromise of 1820's decision that slavery would be outlawed north of 36°30'. Controversy over the law led to the collapse of the Whig Party, and the influx of pro- and anti-slavery activists into related territories led to "Bleeding Kansas."
19. **Lincoln-Douglas Debates:** A series of seven debates held from August 21 and October 15, 1858 between senatorial candidates Abraham Lincoln, a free-soil Republican, and Stephen A. Douglas, a Democrat in favor of popular sovereignty. The debates were hard-fought, highly attended, and ultimately inconclusive, but they crystallized the dominant positions of the North in regard to slavery and propelled Lincoln into the national arena.
20. **Mason and Dixon Line:** This line was created in the 1760s as the boundary between the colonial charters of William Penn and Lord Baltimore and is today the boundary between Pennsylvania and West Virginia, Maryland, and Delaware. This line was perceived as a divider between free and slave states before the Civil War.
21. **Millard Fillmore:** He was vice president to Zachary Taylor until Taylor's death in 1850. He took over as president and served out the remainder of Taylor's term, during which time he helped to push the Compromise of 1850 through Congress.
22. **Personal liberty laws:** Passed by nine northern states to counteract the Fugitive Slave Act, these state laws guaranteed all alleged fugitives the right to a lawyer and a trial by jury, and prohibited state jails from holding alleged fugitive slaves.
23. **Popular sovereignty:** This idea was first espoused by Democratic presidential candidate Lewis Cass in 1848 but it was most famously championed by Stephen A. Douglas. This principle stated that Congress should not interfere with the issue of slavery in new territories, that instead, when seeking admission into the Union, each territorial government would decide whether slavery would be legal or illegal. This principle became a key Democratic position on the controversial issue of slavery's expansion during the 1850s.
24. **Robert E. Lee:** The commanding general of the Confederate Army of Northern Virginia, this man was a brilliant strategist, an excellent commander, and a brave fighter. Many historians believe that the Confederacy held out as long as it did only because of his skill and the loyalty he earned from his troops.
25. **Roger B. Taney:** Chief Justice of the Supreme Court from 1836 to 1864 who supported slavery laws and who delivered the majority opinion on Dred Scott v. Sandford.
26. **Sherman's March to the Sea:** During the Civil War, Union general William T. _____ led his forces on a march from Atlanta to Savannah and then to Richmond. He brought the South "to its knees" by ordering large-scale destruction.

27. **Stephen A. Douglas:** *This man rose to national prominence as Speaker of the House, when he pushed the Compromise of 1850 through Congress. He was the leading Northern Democrat of his day, a supporter of popular sovereignty and the author of the Kansas-Nebraska Act. He battled Abraham Lincoln for a seat in the Senate (successfully) in 1858, and for president (unsuccessfully) in 1860.*
28. **Ulysses S. Grant:** *Commanding general of western Union forces for much of the Civil War and of all Union forces during the last year of the war. He later became the nation's eighteenth president, from 1869 to 1877 during the decline of Reconstruction. His administration was marred by corruption.*
29. **Uncle Tom's Cabin:** *This 1852 novel by Harriet Beecher Stowe portrayed the evils of slavery and sold 1.2 million copies in two years and reached millions more through dramatic adaptations. This book aroused sympathy for runaway slaves among all classes of Northerners and hardened many against the South's insistence upon continuing slavery.*
30. **Underground Railroad:** *A network of safe houses and escorts established by Northern abolitionists to foil enforcement of the Fugitive Slave Act. This network helped escaped slaves reach freedom in the North and in Canada.*
31. **Union:** *A general term for the United States during the Civil War which also was used to refer to the Northern army.*
32. **William Lloyd Garrison:** *The most famous white abolitionist of the 1830s and 40s and founder of the abolitionist newspaper The Liberator. Known as a radical, he pushed for equal legal rights for blacks and encouraged Christians to abstain from all aspects of politics, including voting, in protest against the nation's corrupt and prejudicial political system. The Liberator (1831-1865) argued that blacks deserved legal rights equal to those of whites and that slavery should be ended immediately without compensation to slave owners.*
33. **Wilmot Proviso:** *This proposed (and failed) amendment to an 1846 war funding bill suggested that slavery be prohibited in any territory the US gained from Mexico in the Mexican War. The amendment passed in the House of Representatives because of strong support from the North, but failed in the Senate. The controversy surrounding this proposal highlighted increasing sectional divides.*
34. **Zachary Taylor:** *President from 1849 until his death in 1850, this Whig advocated popular sovereignty and in 1849 encouraged California to apply for statehood as a free state, thereby igniting the controversy that led to the Compromise of 1850.*