Abraham Lincoln
• Early in his career, Abraham Lincoln was a lawyer, a member of the Illinois state legislature, member of the U.S. House of Representatives
• He supported the Republican Party and the party’s efforts to stop slavery
• He was nominated for a U.S. Senate seat, going against Democrat Stephen Douglas
  – Well known for the Kansas Nebraska Act

Lincoln-Douglas Debates
• 1858, Douglas and Lincoln competed for a Senate seat
• Lincoln tried to take advantage of his opponent’s fame, and challenged Douglas to a series of debates throughout the state
• Thousands of people attended the seven debates
• Lincoln focused on slavery and the future in the West
  – Said Democrats wanted to spread slavery across the continent
  – Lincoln, a Republican, felt slavery was wrong
  – Felt African Americans were “entitled to all the natural rights” listed in the Declaration of Independence
  – He did not feel AA’s were political or social equals, but
  – “in the right to eat the bread…which his own hand earns, he is my equal”

• Douglas used Lincoln’s stance on equality against Lincoln
• “Those of you who believe that the Negro is your equal…of course will vote for Mr. Lincoln”
• Douglas criticized Lincoln for believing the country could not remain half slave and half free
• Accused him of wanting to make all states free, which would lead to “warfare between the North and the South”

Lincoln-Douglas Debate Results
• Douglas’ response to the Dred Scott decision helped him win the Seat.
  – He said the people of each area have the power to vote for or against slavery through voting
• Even though he lost, Lincoln gained national attention and media coverage
• This helped him to gain the Republican nomination for President in the 1860 election

Election of 1860
• Northern Democrats chose Senator Stephen Douglas
• Republicans chose Abraham Lincoln
  – He was against slavery, but said he would not try to abolish slavery wherever it existed, making him appeal to a large audience
• John Breckinridge and John Bell also campaigned.
• The three other candidate split many of the votes among themselves
  – Lincoln won 180/183 northern electoral votes
Breckinridge and Bell split the southern electoral votes
Douglas won only 12 electoral votes
• Lincoln won the presidency, even though he did not win a single southern state
• This was a reminder of the lack of political power in the South

Secession
• Many southern whites believed Lincoln would abolish slavery once in power
  – This would destroy the South’s economy and lifestyle
• Four days after Lincoln’s election, South Carolina’s legislature called for a special convention to consider secession.
• After three days of discussion, all delegates voted to secede.
• Since secession was not directly discussed in the Constitution, some southern states believed they could get out of the Union just as they got in, by holding a state convention and voting.
• Lincoln disagreed, saying no state can lawfully get out of the Union, without revolution, which was against the law.

Confederate States of America
• By 2/1/1861, Mississippi, Florida, Alabama, Georgia, Louisiana, and Texas seceded from the Union
• The seceding states formed The Confederate States of America, aka the Confederacy.
• Jefferson Davis of Mississippi was elected President of the CSA.

First Shots of the War
• Lincoln called for unity at his inaugural address
• Confederate officials were already taking over federal storehouses and forts
• Fort Sumter, near Charleston, South Carolina was a Union fort located in the South
• Lincoln ordered the troops to be resupplied, but South Carolina troops demanded the Union troops leave the fort.
• Confederate guns opened fire, beginning the Civil War.
• 34 hours of Confederate bombardment forced the North to surrender

Border States
• The free Northern states were solidly for the Union
• Slave states that did not join the confederacy had to choose sides
• N.C., Tennessee, Virginia, Arkansas
  – Joined confederacy
• Delaware, Kentucky, Maryland, Missouri bordered the North
  – The position of these states made them important to both the North and the South
  – While some soldiers fought for both sides, the border states eventually joined the Union
North Vs. South

• Northern Advantages
  - Larger Population = More soldiers
  - More factories and shipyards
  - Better Railroads = easier transportation
  - More money

• Confederate Advantages
  - Many skilled officers
  - Didn’t have to “win” anything, just not give up

Northern Strategy

• Union general Winfield Scott developed the Union’s two-part strategy, the “Anaconda Plan”
  - Destroy the south’s economy with a naval blockade of seaports
  - Gain control of the Mississippi River to divide the Confederacy and cut its communication lines

• Felt this would result in the least bloodshed; but would take time

Southern Strategy

• Defend its territory and wear down the Union’s will to fight
• Take Washington D.C.

• Cotton Diplomacy: the belief that the British gov’t would support the South because of their reliance on cotton
  - British had large stockpiles of cotton and also acquired it from India and Egypt

Main Leaders

• Ulysses S. Grant – Union General
• George McClellan – Union General
• Thomas “Stonewall” Jackson – Confederate General
  - “There is Jackson standing like a stone wall”
• Robert E. Lee – Confederate General

Main Battles/Events

• Ft. Sumter: First shots of the Civil War, located in Charlestown, South Carolina
• First Battle of Bull Run (Manassas)
• Second Battle of Bull Run (Manassas)
• Battle of Antietam: Bloodiest single day of the civil war. First battle in northern soil.
• Battle of Hampton Roads (Monitor vs. Merrimack/Virginia)
• Battle of Shiloh
• Vicksburg
• Gettysburg: Turning point of the war.
• Sherman’s March to the Sea: Used scorched earth policy.
• Appomattox Courthouse: General Lee surrendered to Grant, ending the Civil War.
Emancipation Proclamation

- Lincoln supported freeing the Slaves if it would help the North win the war
  - He was hesitant because he feared it might weaken support for the war
  - Constitution did not give the President the right to end slavery; some saw slaves as property of the Southerners
- After the Battle of Antietam, Lincoln called for all slaves in Confederate controlled areas to be freed
- News of this encouraged southern slaves to escape when Union troops were nearby
- Some opposed the Proclamation, as they simply wanted to restore the Union, the end slavery