

The Civil War

A civil war is fought between people in the same country. The U.S. Civil War was fought from 1861-1865.

The United States (North, Union) vs. The Confederate States (south, rebels, Confederacy).



The Civil War is the bloodiest war in U.S. history, 620,000 Americans were killed. The 26th North Carolina regiment lost 714 of 800 men at the battle of Gettysburg. The 1st Maine had 635 of 900 men killed in seven minutes at the Battle of Petersburg.

Even though the Civil War was the bloodiest war in U.S. history, no one was killed during the 1st battle of the Civil War.



The Battle of Gettysburg is the largest battle ever fought in the western hemisphere.

For every soldier killed in battle, 2 died from diseases such as pneumonia, dysentery, small pox and malaria.

Medicine during the Civil War was very poor. There were no antibiotics or antiseptics.

Frequently medical instruments were not even cleaned. Many times soldiers were operated on while they were still conscious! If a soldier was shot in the arm or leg, he had a better chance of survival to have his limb amputated than have a doctor try to remove the bullet. Doctors became so good at amputating arms and legs that they could do it in less than 10 minutes.

The Civil War was the first war to see the use of: machine guns, steel ships, balloons, ambulances and flame throwers.

9 Union generals including Ulysses S. Grant came from the small Illinois town of Galena.

The Civil War is called the last old war and the 1st modern war. Even though new inventions such as repeating guns and machine guns were used, the main tactic armies used was to have a large group of soldiers slowly cross open ground and try to make the other side run from the battlefield.



A Civil War soldier, using a typical Civil War gun could only fire 3 shots in a minute.

Abraham Lincoln became the 1st U.S. President to be assassinated. A few days before he was shot and killed Abraham Lincoln had a dream that he was standing over a coffin. He asked someone who was in the casket, the person in his dream replied, "The president, he's been murdered."

John Wilkes Booth, Lincoln's assassin, was one of the most famous actors in the U.S. Today, it would be like if Brad Pitt assassinated the president.

Even though the war was basically fought between slave states and free states, 5 states, Kentucky, Maryland, Delaware, West Virginia and Missouri were slave states that stayed with the north. They were called border states.

Even though slavery was a major cause of the Civil War, less than 30% of southerners actually owned slaves.

The war started in Wilmer Mclean's front yard and ended in his house. The 1st major battle of the Civil War was Bull Run. Much of the battle was fought on the farm of Wilmer Mclean. After the battle, he moved to the town of Appomattox Courthouse. 4 years later, by coincidence, Grant and Robert E. Lee met at Mclean's house to sign the surrender ending the Civil War.

