

The American Civil War

Chapter 3: The American Civil War · Topic 1

Key Concept

The war began after southern states seceded (withdrew) from the United States, largely over disagreements about slavery and its expansion into new territories.

President Abraham Lincoln led the northern states (the Union) against the southern Confederacy, which wanted to preserve slavery and state independence.

The Emancipation Proclamation in 1863 declared enslaved people in Confederate states to be free, marking a turning point in the war's purpose.

The Union's victory in 1865 preserved the United States as one country and led to the abolition of slavery throughout the nation.

Quick Revision Notes

- The American Civil War was 1861-1865.
- Southern states seceded over slavery disagreements.
- Abraham Lincoln led the northern Union.
- The southern Confederacy wanted to preserve slavery.
- The Emancipation Proclamation was in 1863.
- It declared enslaved people in Confederate states free.
- The Union won in 1865.
- This preserved the USA and abolished slavery.

Practice Questions

- 1 Research Abraham Lincoln's role in the Civil War.
- 2 Discuss the causes of the American Civil War.
- 3 Research the Emancipation Proclamation.
- 4 Explain the outcome of the war.
- 5 Create a timeline of the Civil War's key events.
- 6 Discuss why this war is significant in American history.