

Name: _____ Date: _____ Period: _____

The Civil War: Practice Worksheet

Answer each question thoroughly. Use complete sentences where appropriate.

1. **Short Answer:** What was the primary cause of the Civil War? Explain in at least two sentences.

2. **Multiple Choice:** Which event is widely considered the first battle of the Civil War?

- A. Battle of Gettysburg
- B. Battle of Fort Sumter
- C. Battle of Antietam
- D. Battle of Bull Run (Manassas)

3. **Short Answer:** What was the Emancipation Proclamation, and when did it take effect?

4. **Essay / Long Response:** Describe the significance of the Battle of Gettysburg. Why is it often considered a turning point in the war? Write at least four sentences.

5. **Short Answer:** Who was the President of the Confederate States of America?

6. **Multiple Choice:** The Union's strategy to blockade Southern ports and control the Mississippi River was known as:

- A. The Anaconda Plan
- B. Sherman's March
- C. The Peninsula Campaign
- D. The Total War Strategy

7. **Short Answer:** What was the bloodiest single-day battle of the Civil War?

8. **Essay / Long Response:** Explain the role of slavery in the secession of Southern states. How did the issue of slavery contribute to the outbreak of war? Write at least five sentences.

9. **Short Answer:** Who was the commanding general of the Confederate Army of Northern Virginia?

10. **Short Answer:** Where did General Robert E. Lee surrender to General Ulysses S. Grant, effectively ending the Civil War?

Answer Key

1. **Answer:** The primary cause of the Civil War was the disagreement over slavery, particularly its expansion into new territories. Economic and political differences between the North and South, rooted in slavery, led to secession and war.
2. **Answer:** B. Battle of Fort Sumter
3. **Answer:** The Emancipation Proclamation was an executive order issued by President Abraham Lincoln that declared slaves in Confederate states to be free. It took effect on January 1, 1863.
4. **Answer:** The Battle of Gettysburg was a major Union victory that stopped General Lee's invasion of the North. It is considered a turning point because the Confederate Army suffered heavy losses and never again mounted a major offensive into Union territory. The battle also boosted Northern morale and led to the Gettysburg Address. Over 50,000 soldiers were killed or wounded in three days of fighting.
5. **Answer:** Jefferson Davis
6. **Answer:** A. The Anaconda Plan
7. **Answer:** The Battle of Antietam (September 17, 1862)
8. **Answer:** Slavery was the central issue driving the secession of Southern states. Southern leaders feared that the election of Abraham Lincoln would threaten the institution of slavery. They argued for states' rights to maintain slavery, and when Lincoln was elected, seven states seceded before he even took office. The Confederate Constitution explicitly protected slavery. The war began when Southern forces attacked Fort Sumter, and the conflict ultimately became a struggle to end slavery.
9. **Answer:** Robert E. Lee
10. **Answer:** Appomattox Court House, Virginia (on April 9, 1865)