

# Summary: The War at Home

## Life During the War

When the Civil War began, most of the white men in Florida joined the Confederate army. They went to other states to fight the Union army. Women, children, and enslaved Africans stayed behind.

People in Florida could not get supplies because the Union had blockaded the Florida coast. There were not enough workers to do everything. Women had to run businesses, farms, and homes. On some plantations, women became overseers. They helped the Confederate army by supplying crops and cattle for food.

The Civil War also changed life for enslaved Africans. Some of them escaped to freedom. Some were forced to work for the Confederates. Most enslaved Africans worked on the plantations during the war. They faced greater shortages of food, and other things than white people. Supplies went to white people first.

## The War Ends

In 1862, President Abraham Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation. It said that all enslaved people would be free on January 1, 1863. However, this did not actually happen until the North won the war.

The Confederates won many battles at first. But many Southern men were hurt or killed. The South did not have enough men to replace them. Southern factories could not make enough weapons to keep fighting.

The Union army destroyed farms and stopped food from reaching the South. In 1865, the Confederate general Robert E. Lee surrendered. The North won, and the war ended.

Thousands of Floridians had died in the war. This was very hard because Florida had such a small population. People in Florida needed to rebuild businesses and farms. There wasn't enough food, clothing, and money. People needed to get work done without slavery. White people and freed slaves needed to learn how to get along.

### Before You Read

Find and underline each vocabulary word.

**surrender** *verb*, to stop fighting and give up  
**emancipation** *noun*, freedom

### After You Read

**REVIEW** In what ways did life in Florida change during the Civil War? Draw a box around two sentences that tell two problems the Civil War caused. Then circle the sentence that tells about enslaved Africans and the shortages they faced.

**REVIEW** In what major ways did life in Florida change after the war? Underline four sentences that tell about the problems in Florida after the war.