

Summary: The Union Advances

Union Victories

After winning the battles of Vicksburg and Gettysburg in 1863, the North hoped they would win the war. The South kept fighting. Lincoln needed a tough army general to defeat the South. He chose Ulysses S. Grant. Grant sent General William Tecumseh Sherman to lead the Union army in Tennessee. In September 1864, Sherman captured Atlanta, Georgia, and sent Lincoln a message by telegraph, telling of his victory. The Union navy also captured Mobile Bay in Alabama. Lincoln needed victories to win voters' support for reelection. Sherman's army marched from Atlanta to the coast and into South Carolina. He ordered his troops to use total war so the southerners would give up. His soldiers destroyed any resources the Confederacy could use to fight. They stole food and killed livestock. They wrecked factories and railroad lines. They burned homes and barns.

Grant and Lee

While Sherman marched through Georgia and South Carolina in 1864, General Grant led a huge army toward Richmond, Virginia. They were opposed by Robert E. Lee and his army. The Union army suffered many casualties, but Grant kept attacking. Lee was forced to retreat farther south. In June 1864, the two armies faced each other near Richmond. They fought for almost a year. The Union army was getting stronger. They had plenty of supplies and soldiers. Lee's army was getting weaker. The Confederacy had no more money for supplies. They had no more soldiers to send to the front. The soldiers were hungry and tired. Some decided to desert. In April 1865, Grant captured Richmond. Grant's soldiers chased Lee's army west. Lee's army was starving and almost surrounded. On April 9, 1865 Lee surrendered to Grant at Appomattox Court House. The Union soldiers saluted their enemies as they marched past. The war was finally over.



Before You Read

Find and underline each vocabulary word.

telegraph *noun*, a machine that sends electric signals over wires

total war *noun*, the strategy of destroying an enemy's resources

desert *verb*, to leave the army without permission



After You Read

REVIEW Why did Sherman decide to use total war against the South? Highlight the sentence that tells you the answer.

REVIEW Why did Lee have to surrender? Underline the sentences that tell about Lee's army while fighting in Richmond and after the Union soldiers captured Richmond. Circle the sentences that tell about the Confederacy's supplies and soldiers.