The Early Stages

Objective: To learn about the early battles of the Civil War
Mobilizing the Troops

- The Union troops under General Irwin McDowell attacked the Confederate troops at the First Battle of Bull Run, which was located 25 miles south of Washington DC.
- Thomas “Stonewall” Jackson and his reinforcements helped the Confederate army defeat the Union troops.
- This led President Lincoln to request 500,000 troops for three years.
- The North encouraged voluntary service by offering a bounty, or a sum of money given as a bonus.
The Naval War

- The Union navy blockaded all Confederate ports in an effort to cut Confederate trade with the world.
- The South used blockade runners (small, fast vessels) to smuggle goods past the blockade.
- In February 1862, David G. Farragut led 42 warships and 15,000 soldiers to capture New Orleans.
- After avoiding Confederate Forts of the Mississippi River, Farragut and General Benjamin Butler captured New Orleans, which was the South’s largest city and center of the cotton trade.
In February 1862, Union general Ulysses S. Grant began a campaign to seize control of the Cumberland and Tennessee Rivers.

He captured Fort Donelson and Fort Henry, which put all of Kentucky and most of western Tennessee under Union control.

On April 6, 1862, Confederate forces launched a surprise attack on Grant’s troops at the Battle of Shiloh, which the North won, but had 20,000 troops killed or wounded.
General George B. McClellan led the union troops to capture Richmond, the capital of the Confederacy.

In late June 1862, General Robert E. Lee forced McClellan army to retreat after the Seven Days’ Battle and again at the Second Battle of Bull Run.

Lee decided to invade Maryland because he thought an invasion would convince the North to accept the South’s independence and gain recognition from the British.

On Sep 17, 1862 at the Battle of Antietam, the bloodiest one-day battle in American history, Lee retreated back to Virginia after 6,000 men were killed and another 17,000 wounded.
Northerners began to agree that slavery had to end, in part to punish the South and in part to make the soldiers’ sacrifices worthwhile.

On Sept. 22, 1862, Lincoln publicly announced that he would issue the Emancipation Proclamation, a decree freeing all enslaved persons in states still in rebellion after January 1, 1863.

The Proclamation transformed the conflict over preserving the Union into a war of liberation.
Life During the Civil War

- In the South, the presence of Union troops led to severe food shortages in the winter of 1862 and inflation drove up the prices of the food that was available.
- The North experienced an economic boom because of the war.
- Innovations in agriculture such as mechanical reapers and mowers helped minimized the loss of labor as men left to fight.
- Women filled labor shortages in various industries such as clothing and shoemaking factories.
Military Life

- Union meals consisted of hardtack (a hard biscuit made of wheat flour), potatoes and beans with coffee while Confederate soldiers ate hardtack made with cornmeal.
- Union and Confederate soldiers faced constant threat of disease because doctors used the same unsterilized instruments on patient after patient, which spread infections quickly.
- Overcrowding in camps and unsanitary water supplies exposed troops to measles, smallpox, dysentery and typhoid.
- Doctors routinely amputated arms and legs to prevent gangrene from spreading to the rest of the body.
African Americans and Women

- The Emancipation Proclamation allowed African Americans to serve in the Union army.
- The first African American regiment recognized in the North was the 54th Massachusetts, which helped lead the attack at Fort Wagner in Charleston.
- Many women such as Clara Barton served as nurses on the battlefield.
- The Civil War was a turning point for the American nursing profession.