Name:_____ Date:_____

American Civil War

Instructions: Read the passage below and answer the following questions. Assistance maybe needed from an internet search engine.

Events in the U.S.A. again played an important part in the history of the Bahamas. Between 1861 and 1865 the northern states fought against the southern states in a bloody and bitter civil war.

Background

Since 1783 when the 13 original colonies had been recognized as independent, the United States had grown spectacularly. As the map shows, the government had acquired land across the whole continent. Settlers had moved west in millions looking for land to farm. When a newly settled area had grown to a certain population size, it could become a state of the Union. By 1860 there were 34 states.

Growth brought problems. The industrial northern states had developed a dislike of slavery, "the peculiar institution" of the South. Southerners, on the other hand, claimed that their prosperity from cotton and tobacco-growing depended upon it. By 1860 many Southerners held slavery to be a "positive good" for the U.S.A., the South and the slave himself. The North regarded it as morally wrong.

Westward expansion sharpened rivalries between pro- and anti-slavery groups. Should slavery be allowed to go into the new territories to the west? The South said yes, the North said no. In 1856 the newly formed Republican Party came out clearly in favour of restricting slavery. But if slavery were not allowed to expand, there would be no new slave states. The Free states would soon outnumber the slave states and would be able to control the government in Washington D.C. They might then pass a law abolishing slavery. In any case if slavery was not allowed to expand, it would become unprofitable and die out. Without it, the whole Southern way of life would collapse.

Such were the fears of Southerners when Abraham Lincoln, leader of the Republican Party, won the 1860 election for the presidency. Not a single Southern state voted for him. Fearing for the future, these states began to break away or secede from the Union. Lincoln and the North denied they had the legal right to do so. They wanted to preserve the Union. Despite late attempts to find a compromise, war came in April 1861.

At first it seemed the South might succeed. They had the advantage of only having to defend; it was up to the North to conquer them. They had excellent generals, such as Robert E. Lee and "Stonewall" Jackson. Many Southerners were excellent at riding and shooting. They hoped that they would get

help from other countries who needed their cotton. On the other hand the South had a population of only 9 million compared with 22 million in the North. They had little industry, few arms and little ammunition, only two important railway lines, and virtually no navy. The North had all of these. Jefferson Davis, the

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President of the Confederacy, as the Southern states called themselves, proved a less able leader than Abraham Lincoln, the Northern President.

As the war dragged on the North's advantages began to tell. After early Southern victories, two crucial battles, Gettysburg and Vicksburg in July 1863, turned the war in the North's favour. Whilst the Northern Navy blockaded the Southern ports, General Sherman invaded the South from the west and General Grant marched towards Richmond, the Southern capital. Richmond fell in early 1865 and Lee finally surrendered his army at Appomattox (9 April 1865). The Northern victory meant the Union had been preserved.

During the war Lincoln had decided that it would help to preserve the Union if he freed the slaves. So, on 1st January 1863 the Emancipation Proclamation was published. Part of it read:

... all persons held as slaves within any state or designated part of a state the people whereof shall then be in rebellion against the United States, shall be then, thence forward and forever free.

The American Civil war

1. What is a civil war? (1)

   _____

   _____

2. When was slavery abolished in the British Empire? (1)

   _____

3. What was the main type of plantation was in the Southern States? (1)

   _____

4. Who was the President of the United States during the civil war? (1)

   _____

5. When did the Civil War begin? (1)

   _____

6. What were the reasons for the Civil War? (3)

   _____

7. What name was given to the rebel States? (1)

   _____

8. Who declared the Blockade? (1)

   _____

9. Which crop was grown in the South? (1)

   _____

10. Name one northern state, one southern state and boarder state. (3) Boarder state:_____

Northern state :_____ Southern State:_____

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