

THE CIVIL WAR

The Civil War was a war fought between 1861 and 1865. It was the bloodiest war ever fought in the history of the United States.



Abraham Lincoln was president of the United States during the Civil War.

WHAT CAUSED THE WAR?

The long and hard war started over the issue of slavery. **Slavery** is when a person owns another person as property. It was illegal in the northern states of the country before the Civil War began. However, it was still legal in some of the southern states. The people in the north wanted slavery to be illegal in the whole country. The people in the south wanted to keep it. They used slaves to farm cotton and tobacco. Growing those crops was how many southern people made money.

The two sections of the United States could not agree on this issue. That's why they chose to split into two separate nations. Twenty states in the north and five **border states** made up the Union. The five border states were in between the north and south. Eleven southern states made a new nation called the **Confederacy**. They chose a new president to lead them. Jefferson Davis was the president in the south, while the rest of the country was led by Abraham Lincoln.



The Confederate States of America even made their own money.

As time went on, the two sections argued more and more. Eventually, war broke out. They fought for four years. There were over 800,000 deaths. Many people died from battle, but most of the deaths were actually caused by disease.

Finally, the Confederacy **surrendered** in 1865. That meant they gave up and the Union won. The United States became one nation again! Slavery was also made illegal in every state.

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