Name: Click or tap here to enter text.

The Turning Point of the Civil War – text only

Directions: Read each section and the questions that follow it. Check the box in front of the correct answer.

In July 1863, General Robert E. Lee struck northward into Pennsylvania almost reaching the state capital at Harrisburg. A strong Union force intercepted him at Gettysburg, where, in a titanic three-day battle—the largest of the Civil War—the Confederates made a valiant effort to break the Union lines. They failed, and on July 4 Lee's army, after crippling losses, retreated behind the Potomac.

1. What is the capital city of Pennsylvania?
a. ☐Allentown   b. ☐Gettysburg   c. ☐Harrisburg

2. The largest battle of the Civil War was fought in which of these cities?
a. ☐Allentown   b. ☐Gettysburg   c. ☐Harrisburg

More than 3,000 Union soldiers and almost 4,000 Confederates died at Gettysburg; the wounded and missing totaled more than 20,000 on each side. On November 19, 1863, Lincoln dedicated a new national cemetery there with perhaps the most famous address in U.S. history. He concluded his brief remarks with these words: "... we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain – that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom – and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth."

3. When did Lincoln deliver the Gettysburg Address?
a. ☐November 19, 1863   b. ☐November 19, 2020   c. ☐January 1, 1963

On the Mississippi, Union control had been blocked at Vicksburg, where the Confederates had strongly fortified themselves on bluffs too high for naval attack. In early 1863, General Grant began to move below and around Vicksburg, subjecting it to a six-week siege. On July 4, he captured the town, together with the strongest Confederate Army in the West. The river was now entirely in Union hands. The Confederacy was broken in two, and it became almost impossible to bring supplies from Texas and Arkansas.

4. What town was captured by Ulysses S. Grant on July 4, 1863?
a. ☐Baltimore   b. ☐Gettysburg   c. ☐Vicksburg

5. What was a reason the Confederacy was "broken" after this battle?
a. ☐they could not get supplies b. ☐they did not have a Navy   c. ☐ they were far from home

The Northern victories at Vicksburg and Gettysburg in July 1863 marked the turning point of the war, although the bloodshed continued unabated for more than a year-and-a half.