

CIVIL WAR IN THE USA

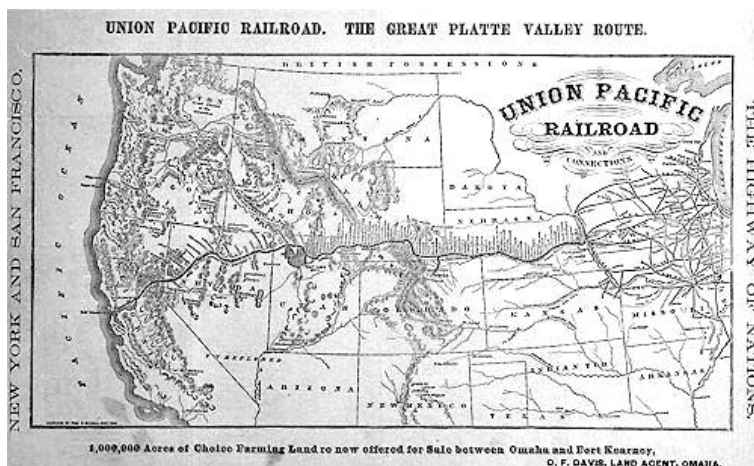
TASK 1: When and how did USA gain independence?

TASK 2: Describe the political structure of the USA.

USA before the Civil War

1803 – the Louisiana Purchase – a large territory of two million km² was bought from France for 15 million dollars, the size of USA doubled with this purchase

- **1812-1813 – War with Britain**
 - over the Canadian-American border
 - the result was a stalemate but USA demonstrated their ability to defend their sovereignty
- **1823 – the Monroe Doctrine**
 - proclaimed by President Monroe
 - European countries should keep out of the American continents (including South America) and in return USA would not interfere in their affairs in Europe
- **Westward Expansion**
 - **Manifest Destiny** – belief in the natural right of the USA to expand in the American continents
 - **Indian Territory in Oklahoma** created in the 1830s and Indian nations east of the Mississippi were forced to move – their journey entered history as the **“Trail of Tears”**
 - **War with Mexico – 1846-1848**, USA won New Mexico, Arizona and California (Texas joined the USA earlier)
 - **Gold Rush in California** in 1848
 - **Pony Express**
 - **Union Pacific Railroad** – connected the Atlantic coast with the Pacific



Causes of the Civil War

- **Differences between the North and the South**

- **the North** - industry, financial economy, wealthier, more populated, slavery was illegal in the northern states
- **the South** - agriculture, plantations, the economy was based on slavery (mostly slaves from Africa)

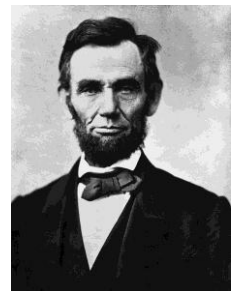
TASK 3: What crops were grown in the South?

- **Slavery**

- the most famous cause of the war
- the northern states wanted slavery to be abolished in the whole USA while the southern states knew that this could ruin their economy
- the balance between the “free states” and the “slave states” was very delicate so it was important if any newly accepted states were declared “free” or “slave”
- **the Missouri Compromise – 1820** – there was a line drawn along the 36th parallel, dividing free and slave states in the future but there was a compromise (exception) and Missouri (above the compromise line) could become a slave state.



- slaves were often kept in **dreadful living conditions** – they were sold at slave auctions, they could not marry without permission and had to serve their master in any way for their whole life (which was often very short)
- many white people **protested against slavery**- Harriet Beecher Stowe described the conditions in a popular book *Uncle Tom's Cabin*, many people helped slaves to escape (e.g. the **Underground Railway**), **John Brown** started a slave uprising but he was arrested and executed
- **In 1860 Abraham Lincoln** was elected **President**. He was a Republican from the North and he was in favour of **abolitionism** (the movement for abolition of slavery).
- As a protest against the development, **South Carolina seceded from the Union** and shortly after that six other states followed – Alabama, Georgia, Mississippi, Florida, Louisiana and Texas. These states formed the **Confederacy** and **Jefferson Davis** was elected its president. **Richmond** (Virginia) became the capital.



Abraham Lincoln

The Civil War 1861 – 1865

- The North (the Union) against the South (the Confederacy)

- 1861

- the war started with North (=Yankee) attack on **Fort Sumter** in April
- soon after that North Carolina, Virginia, Arkansas and Tennessee joined the Confederacy
- five slave states stayed with the Union (Missouri, Kentucky, West Virginia, Maryland, Delaware)
- **early battles were usually won by the Confederates (General Lee)**
- the North started a **naval blockade** of the South

TASK 4: On the given map mark the states of the Union and Confederacy – using two different colours.



- 1862

- fighting in Northern Virginia and Maryland
- fighting for the Mississippi River (transport)
- northern General **Grant** captured New Orleans

- 1863

- **the tide turns – the North started advancing** because of new better generals (Grant and Sherman)
- Abraham Lincoln issued the **Emancipation Proclamation** which proclaimed slavery prohibited in all territories controlled or captured by the Union
- **battle of Gettysburg** (Maryland) – General Lee lost, there were very high casualties, a bloody battle
A Union officer reported on the next day: *“I tried to ride over the field but could not, for dead and wounded lay too thick to guide a horse through them.”*



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• 1864

- northern General **Sherman** captured Atlanta and devastated the deep South (scorched-earth tactics)
- General **Grant** fought general **Lee** in Virginia – tough fighting
- the irony of the war was that the South trying to avoid the defeat armed its slaves as soldiers and sent them to fight for their masters – and to motivate them they were promised freedom after the war

• 1865

- Richmond was captured by the Union
- **General Lee surrendered** to general Grant **at Appomattox** in April – the war was over
- President **Lincoln was assassinated** by John Wilkes Booth in the theatre
- the **Thirteenth Amendment** to the US Constitution was signed and it abolished slavery in all USA:
“Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for crime whereof the party shall have been duly convicted, shall exist within the United States, or any place subject to their jurisdiction.”

TASK 5: Place the following aspects into the proper column:

wealth

fought for survival

more railways

size

bigger population

slaves wanted to fight for them

industry

fighting at home

slaves had to fight for them

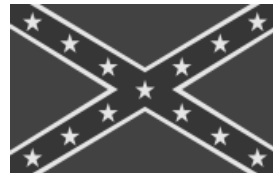
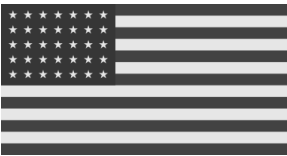
better generals at the beginning

navy

plenty of material (guns etc.)

Advantages of the Union

Advantages of the Confederacy



The Reconstruction 1865-1875

- The Reconstruction era was the decade after the end of the Civil War
 - What was reconstructed?
 - the South - it was devastated by the war (cities, plantations), its economy had to adapt (as slavery was abolished), many important and powerful men died in the war, the old culture of the southern era was lost
 - the USA - the union itself had to be reconstructed as the bonds and trust between states were shattered by the war
 - The South changed during the Reconstruction era
 - the slaves were free and had to provide for themselves now (homes, jobs etc.) – **freedmen**, they were often given a piece of land to cultivate
 - also – in 1869 the 15th Amendment to the Constitution prohibited denial of suffrage because of race, colour or previous condition of servitude
 - still, the freedom of the slaves was ruined by people who tried to keep the freedmen at the bottom of the society and separated from the white people – **KKK (Ku Klux Klan)** was founded
- TASK 6: What have you heard or read about the practices of the Ku Klux Klan?**



- many white people came from the north, searching for a new life – **carpetbaggers**



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REVISION:

TASK 7:

How did the USA expand and grow stronger in the first half of the 19th century?

TASK 8:

What were the causes of the Civil War?

TASK 9:

Why was the South defeated?

TASK 10:

What consequences of the war had the USA to deal with in the 20th century?