

Critical Thinking Skills

American Civil War

Skills For Critical Thinking		Background & Causes	Major Figures	Key Events	Major Battles	Human Meaning of the War	Effects & Outcomes
LEVEL 1 Knowledge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recall Details Match Sequence List 	✓	✓	✓	✓ ✓ ✓ ✓	✓	✓
LEVEL 2 Comprehension	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Compare Characters Summarize State Main Idea Describe Interpret 	✓	✓	✓ ✓	✓	✓	✓ ✓ ✓
LEVEL 3 Application	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Choose Information Identify Outcomes Apply What is Learned Make Connections 	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
LEVEL 4 Analysis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Draw Conclusions Infer Character Motivations Identify Relationships 	✓	✓ ✓	✓		✓	✓
LEVEL 5 Synthesis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Predict Design Create 	✓ ✓	✓ ✓	✓		✓ ✓	✓
LEVEL 6 Evaluation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> State and Defend an Opinion Make Judgements Explain 	✓	✓ ✓ ✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

Based on Bloom's Taxonomy

NAME: _____



Major Figures



1. Match each of the words below with the correct meaning. You may use a dictionary to help you.

- undistinguished**
- ambitious**
- surrender**
- assassinated**
- regiment**
- bankruptcy**
- memoirs**
- demerit**
- plantation**
- martyr**
- pardon**
- quash**

- A to give something up
- B to put down or suppress completely
- C a unit of ground forces
- D a person who suffers or dies for a cause
- E without any claim to distinction; unnoticed
- F forgiveness of an offense
- G eager; showing a strong desire to do something
- H a large farm or estate
- I a mark against one's record for a fault
- J to kill suddenly or secretly
- K a written record of events
- L complete ruin, usually from being in massive debt

2. What makes someone a hero? What are the qualities of a hero? Be sure to be very specific in your response.

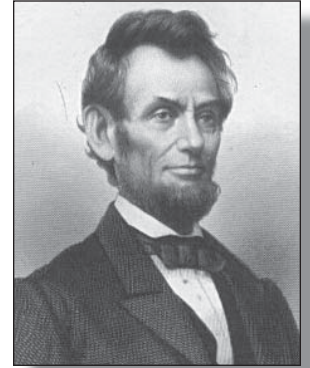
3. Many people become soldiers and fight in different battles. Should soldiers be honored? Should they be thanked? How?



Major Figures

There were many important people in the Civil War. Below are some of the individuals who were considered to be the major figures in the Civil War.

Abraham Lincoln was born in Kentucky on February 12, 1809. Although he came from an **undistinguished** family, Lincoln worked hard to receive an education. He was extremely **ambitious** and received a law degree. He married Mary Todd and had four children, although only one survived to be an adult.



He ran for Senator in 1858 but lost to a man named Stephen A. Douglas. Even though he lost, he gained national recognition for his ability to speak in public. In 1860 he became President. He worked hard and built up the Republican Party. On January 1, 1863 he issued his famous Emancipation Proclamation.

In 1864 Lincoln won re-election. With the end of the war near, he encouraged those fighting in the south to **surrender**. He worked to promote peace. On Friday, April 14, 1865 Abraham Lincoln was **assassinated**. He is remembered as being a kind person.

During the Civil War, **Ulysses S. Grant** was the General of the Union army. He was born in 1822 to a family from Ohio. As a young man, Grant attended West Point even though he did not really want to attend school. When the Civil War started, Grant was working in Illinois at his family's leather store. He became the leader of a volunteer **regiment** and got the regiment ready for service. Within a year, Grant became Brigadier General of the volunteers. In February 1862 President Lincoln promoted Grant to Major General of volunteers. Two years later, due to his strong ability to fight and lead, he was appointed General-in-Chief.



Grant fought against many Confederate forces including General Robert E. Lee who surrendered to Grant in 1865. Grant became President of the United States in 1868. He was considered an obvious choice for president after his many accomplishments during the Civil War. After his presidency, Grant was a partner in a financial business that lasted only a short time before declaring **bankruptcy**. Shortly thereafter Grant learned that he had cancer of the throat. Dying, and knowing that he had nothing to leave his family, Grant frantically started writing his **memoirs** which earned him a great deal of money. He died in 1885, not long after he completed his book.



Key Events of the Civil War

1. Below are two columns. Column A has the beginning of a sentence. Column B has the ending of a sentence. Match up Column A and Column B to make **ten true statements**. Go back to the reading to check your answers.

Column A		Column B	
a	One of the last major events in the Civil War	A	had an immediate impact on slaves and the military
b	President Lincoln	B	called themselves the Confederate States of America
c	Britain and France	C	delivered the Gettysburg Address on November 19, 1863
d	Many people	D	stirred up the emotions of people living in the north and in the south
e	The seceded states	E	supported the Emancipation Proclamation
f	Fort Sumter	F	was the assassination of President Lincoln
g	President Lincoln	G	does not need to be passed by Congress
h	The Emancipation Proclamation	H	signaled the beginning of the Civil War
i	An executive order	I	was attacked by Confederate Forces on April 12, 1861
j	The attack on Fort Sumter	J	believed that the war would not last long

2. Do you think that the assassination of President Lincoln led to the end of the Civil War, or do you think the war would have ended when it did even if the President survived?
