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HISTORY AND GEOGRAPHY

Harriet Tubman



# The Civil War



Union soldier



Confederate soldier



Rosie McCormick

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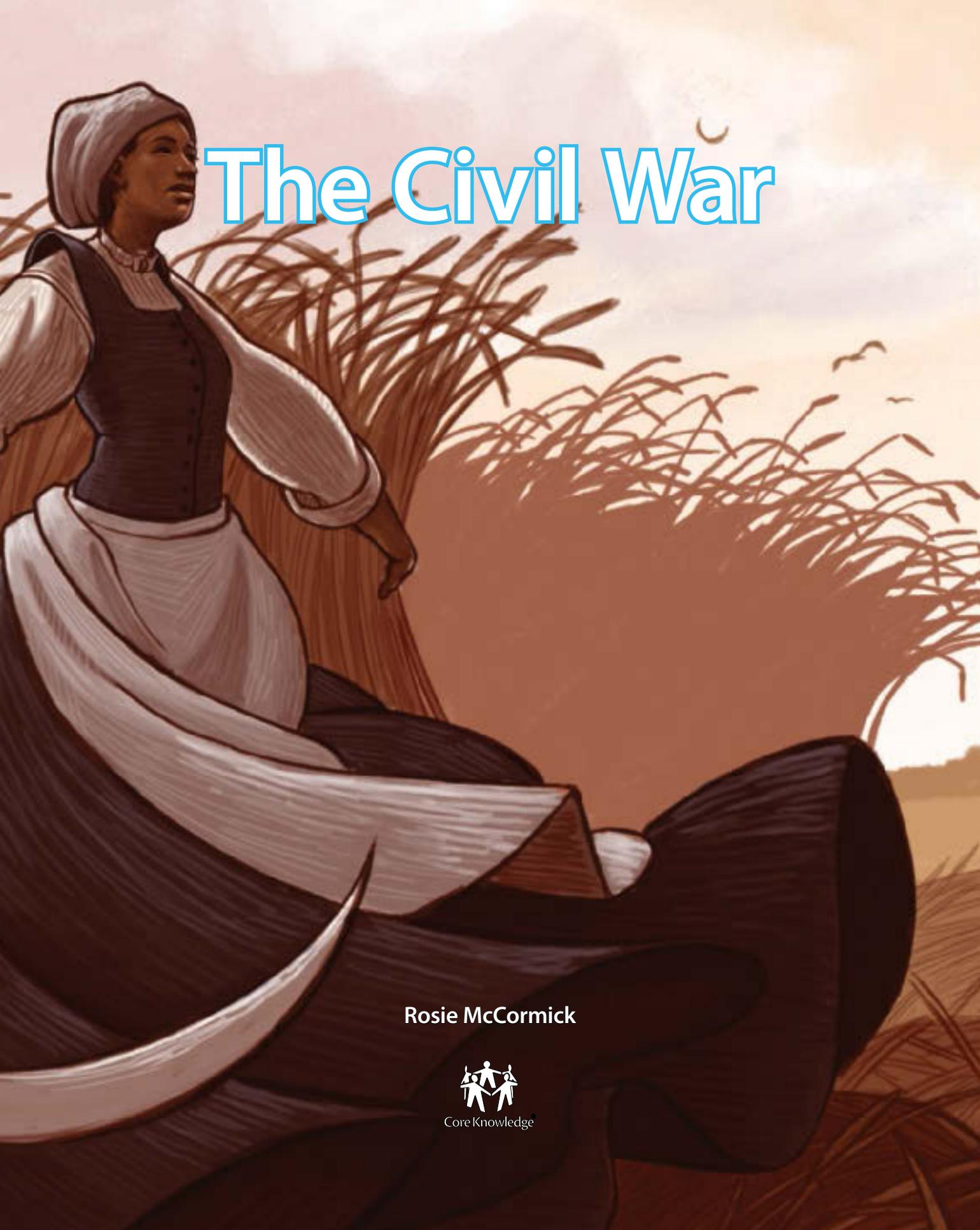
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# The Civil War

Rosie McCormick



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# The Civil War

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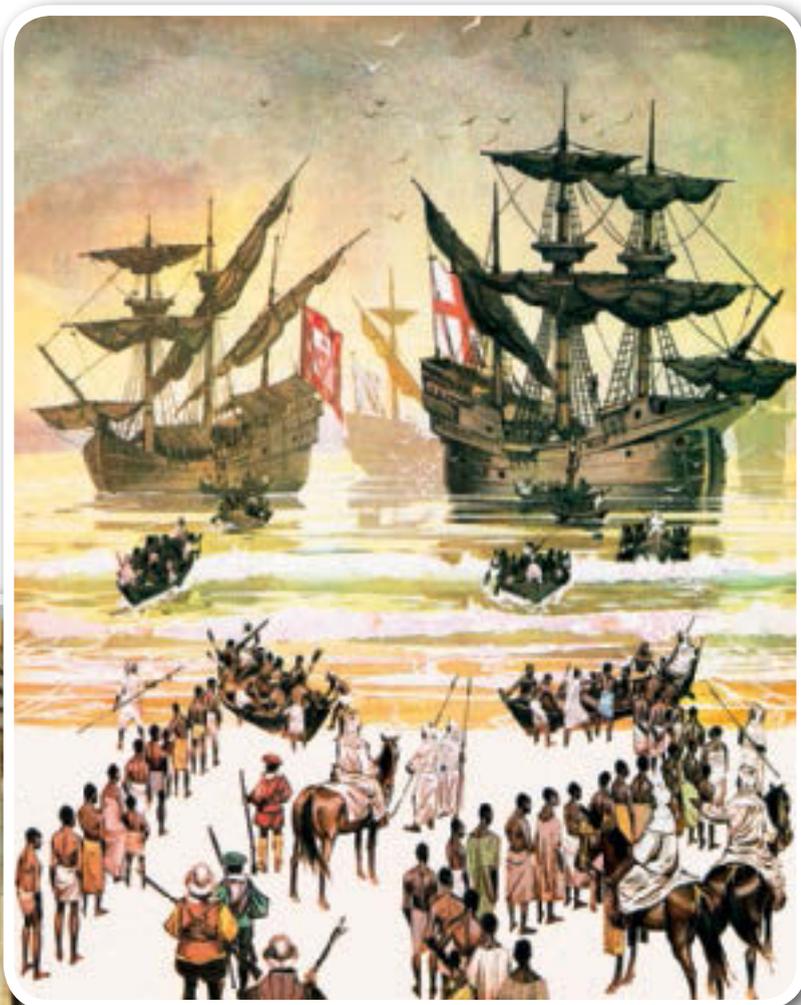
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# Slavery in the United States

What is slavery? Slavery is the practice of owning people and forcing them to work, often without pay. Slavery existed in ancient Greece and Rome. And sadly, there was once slavery in the United States.



In the 1600s, Africans were enslaved and forced to come to America to work. Most enslaved Africans worked on large farms in the South called plantations.



The slaves' children and grandchildren were enslaved too. And so it went across the years. One slave generation after the next, born into enslavement, with little hope of freedom.

Some enslaved people lived in the North, but fewer were needed there to work. However in the South, the demand for slaves grew with the demand for tobacco, sugar, and cotton. Slaves were needed to plant and harvest these crops. Tobacco, sugar, and cotton not only made some powerful Southern plantation owners very rich, it made America rich too!

plantation owners very rich, it made America rich too!

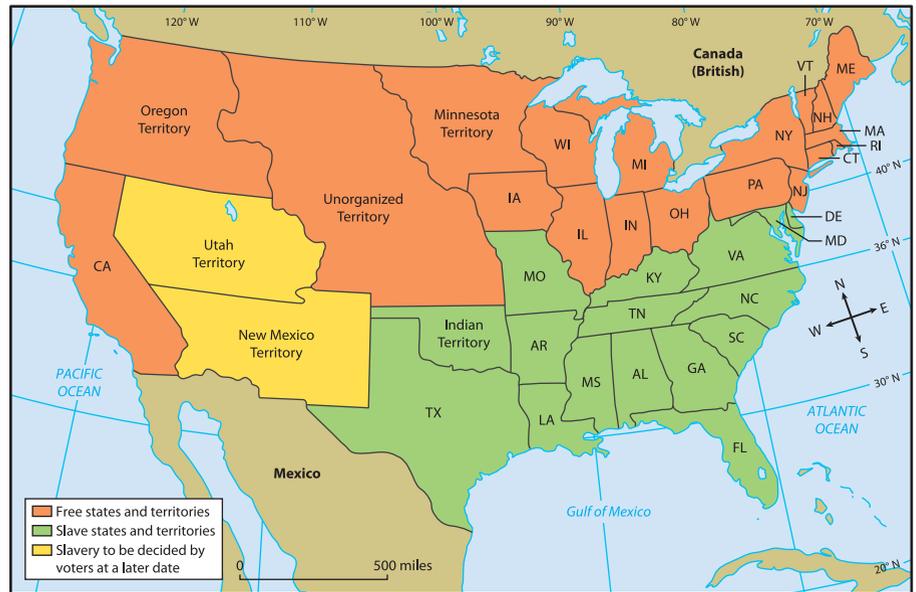


Some Southern plantation owners lived in very grand homes. They had lots of slaves. In the Northern states, over time, slavery was no longer allowed.

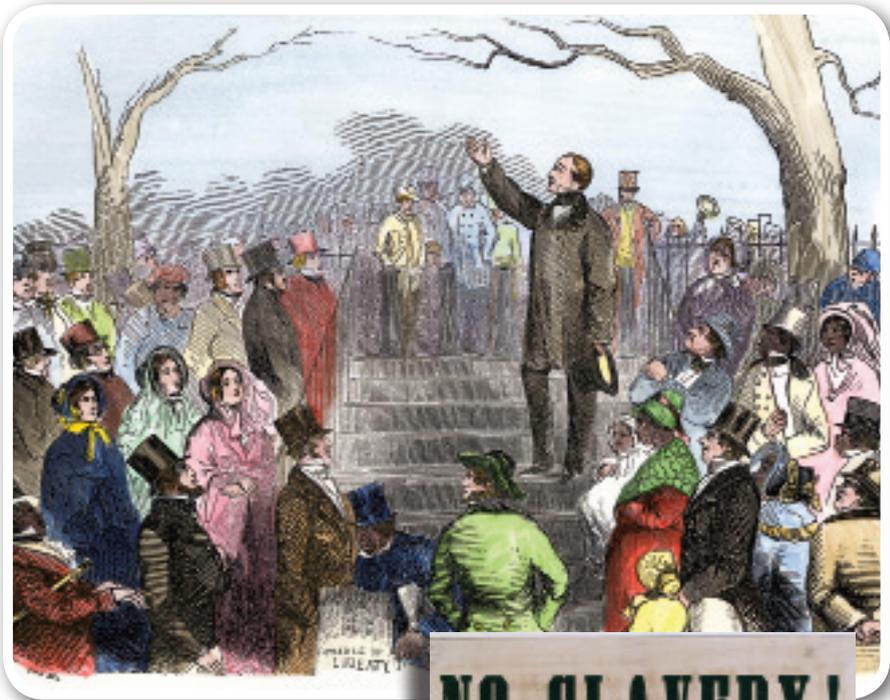


In the 1840s and 1850s, new territories in the West and Midwest were ready to become U.S. states and join the Union. Many people in the North wanted these new states to be free states—places where slavery was not allowed.

But in the South, the plantation owners worried that if there were more free states than slave states, people would try to end slavery. Then how would plantation owners grow tobacco, sugar, and cotton?



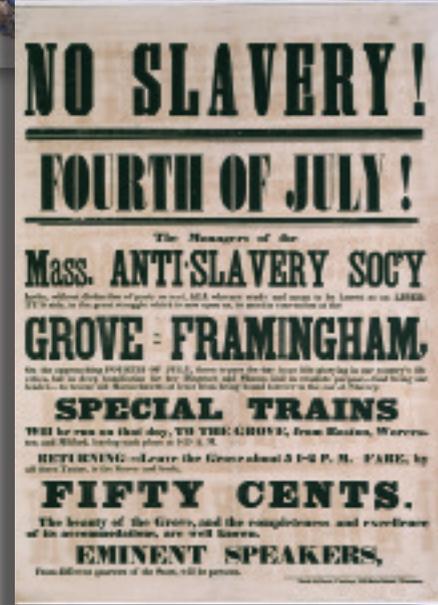
In both the North and the South, some people began to speak out against slavery. Church ministers and some writers drew attention to the evils of slavery.



In the North, posters were put up in public places. Small in number at first, those who were against slavery were called abolitionists because they wanted to abolish, or get rid of it.

Sarah and Angelina Grimké were raised in the South.

Their family owned many slaves. When they grew up, they moved to the North and began to work to end slavery.



Sarah Grimké



Angelina Grimké

## Harriet Beecher Stowe and Harriet Tubman

Harriet Beecher Stowe was one of the people who spoke out against slavery. She wrote a book called *Uncle Tom's Cabin*. The book is about the lives of slaves in the South at this time. The main character is Tom, a kind, old slave. Another character is a mean slave owner named Simon Legree.



Harriet Beecher Stowe

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# UNCLE TOM'S CABIN

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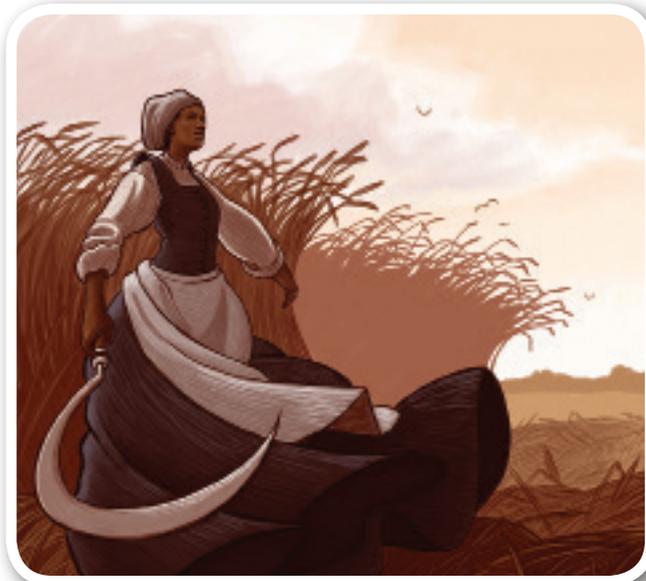
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In the story, some of the slaves try to run away and are chased down by slave catchers. *Uncle Tom's Cabin* was a hit. It was turned into a play. Over the years, millions of people bought the book and saw the play. *Uncle Tom's Cabin* made people think about the suffering of slaves in the South.

Harriet Tubman knew what it was like to be a slave. She had been one herself. In 1849, she escaped from the South to the North.

Many people would have been happy just to escape. But Harriet Tubman was very brave. She went back to the South to rescue her family and other slaves. She made at least nineteen trips into the South and helped to free hundreds of enslaved people.



Harriet Tubman was part of a group of people who worked to help slaves escape to the North or to Canada. They organized the Underground Railroad. The Underground Railroad wasn't really a railroad, and it didn't really go underground.



It was called a railroad because runaway slaves were given transportation from one place to the next. And it was called underground because this work was a secret.

Helpers, or guides such as Harriet Tubman, were called “conductors.” The conductors had to think of all kinds of sneaky tricks to keep the slaves from getting caught. They traveled at night.

They hid their “passengers” in attics and basements during the daytime. These safe spots were known as “stations.”



The conductors also knew how to survive in the wilderness. They knew which plants and berries were safe to eat. They studied the stars in the sky to figure out the way North.



When the sky was too cloudy to see the stars, the conductors would feel around the bottoms of trees. Moss usually grows on the north side of trees, and north was where they were going.

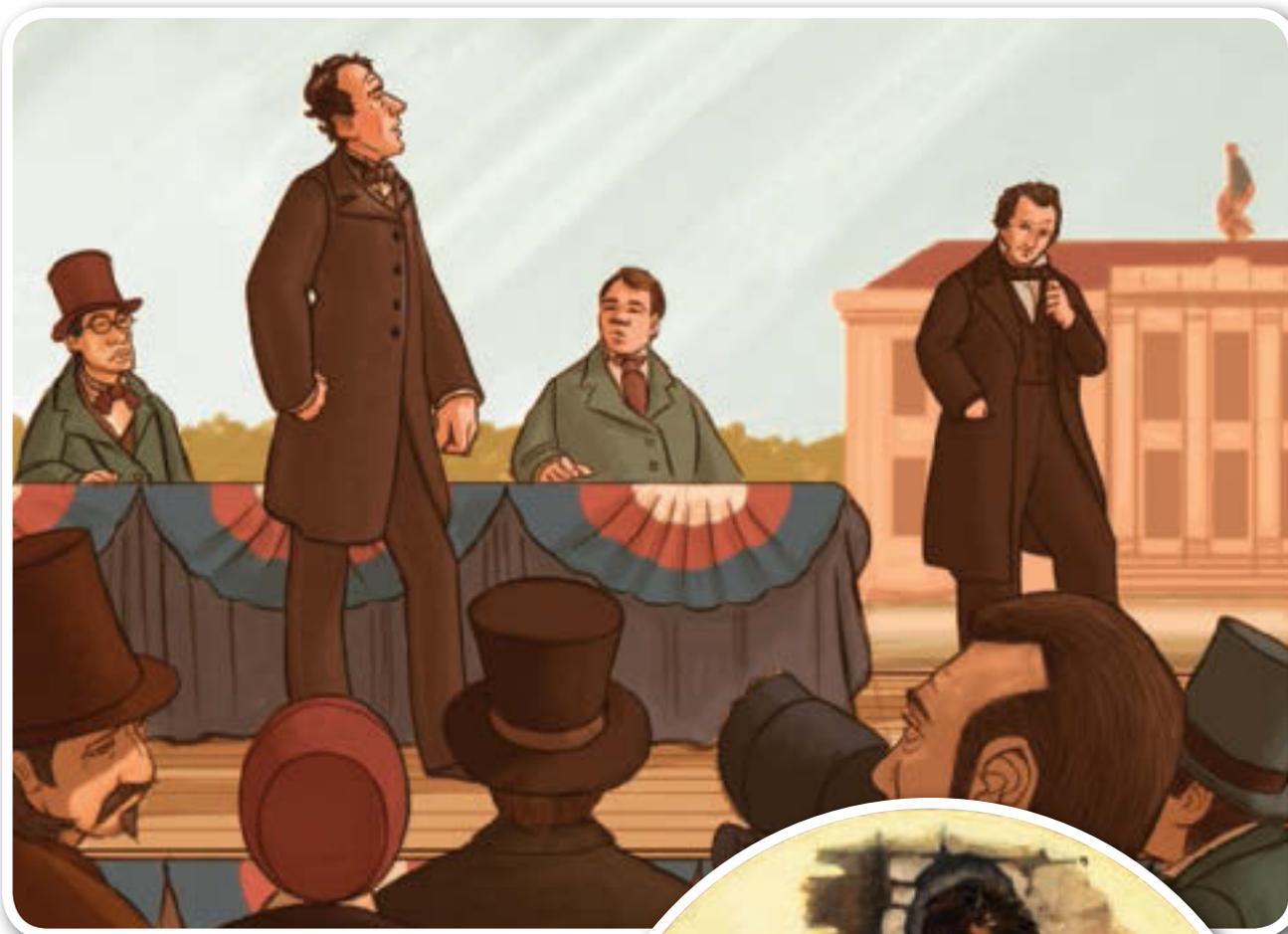


## Abraham Lincoln and the Coming of War

The argument about free states and slave states continued. And the question of who should decide if slavery should be allowed—and where—was debated in the North and South. In the end, though, people in the South continued to say that they needed slaves to grow tobacco, sugar, and cotton.



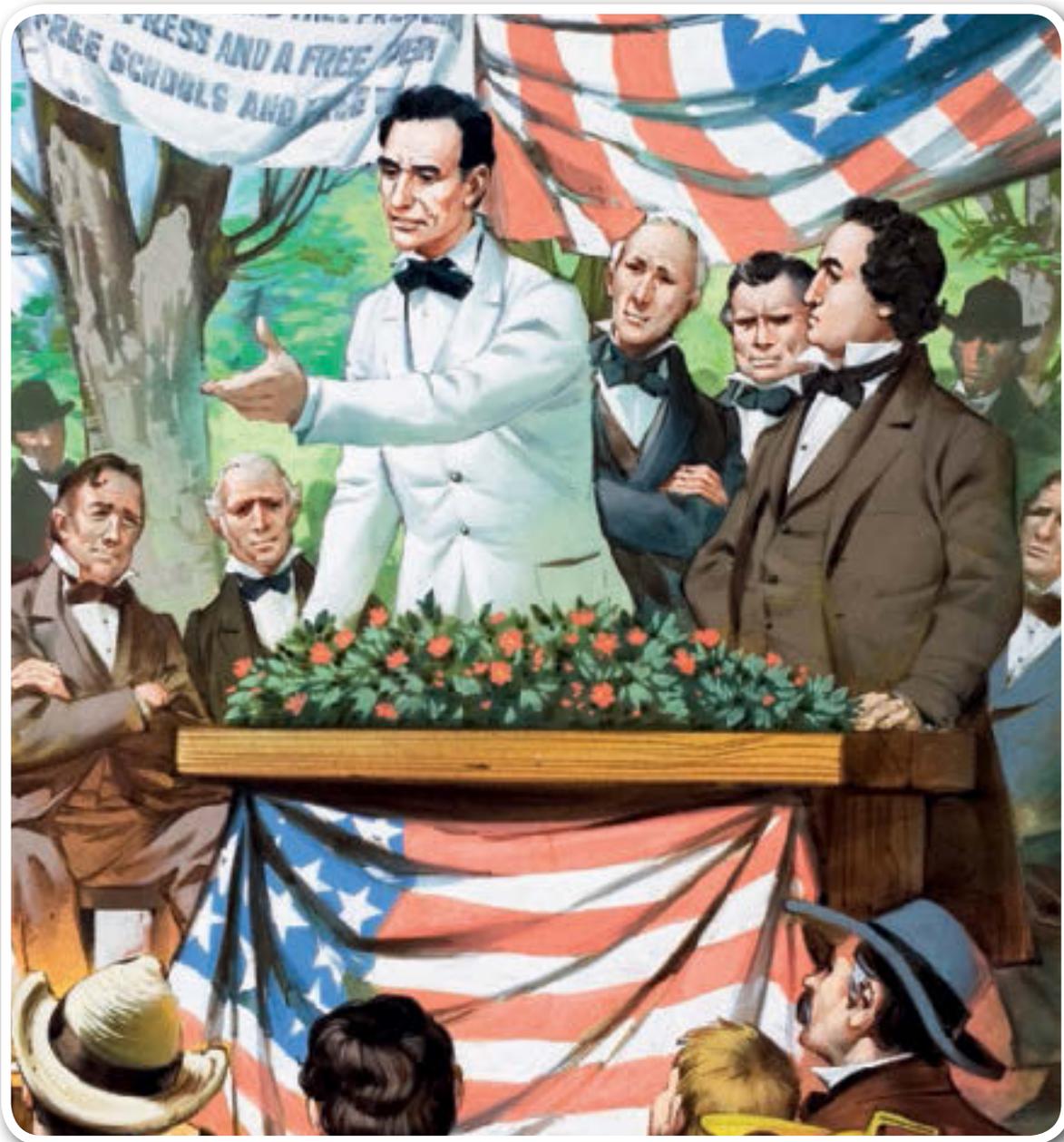
When, in 1860, Abraham Lincoln ran for president, the Southern states really did worry. Abraham Lincoln spoke out against slavery spreading into areas that could become new states.



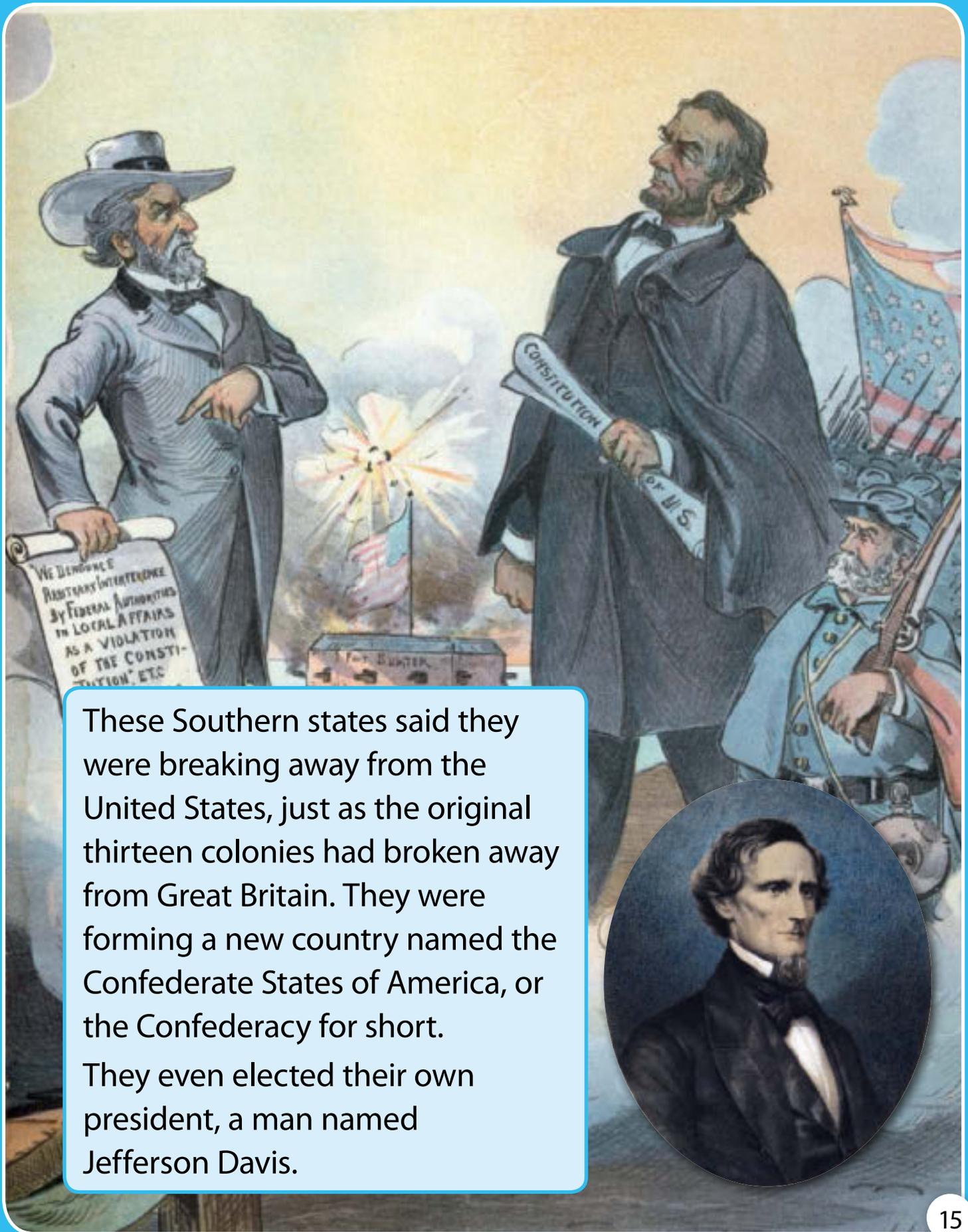
Abraham Lincoln had grown up in a poor family. He had to work as a young boy. With little or no time for school, he had mostly taught himself. He eventually became a lawyer and then a politician.



Abraham Lincoln's ideas about slavery made him unpopular with many Southerners. They believed he would end slavery in the South, even though he said he wanted only to stop slavery from happening in new states.

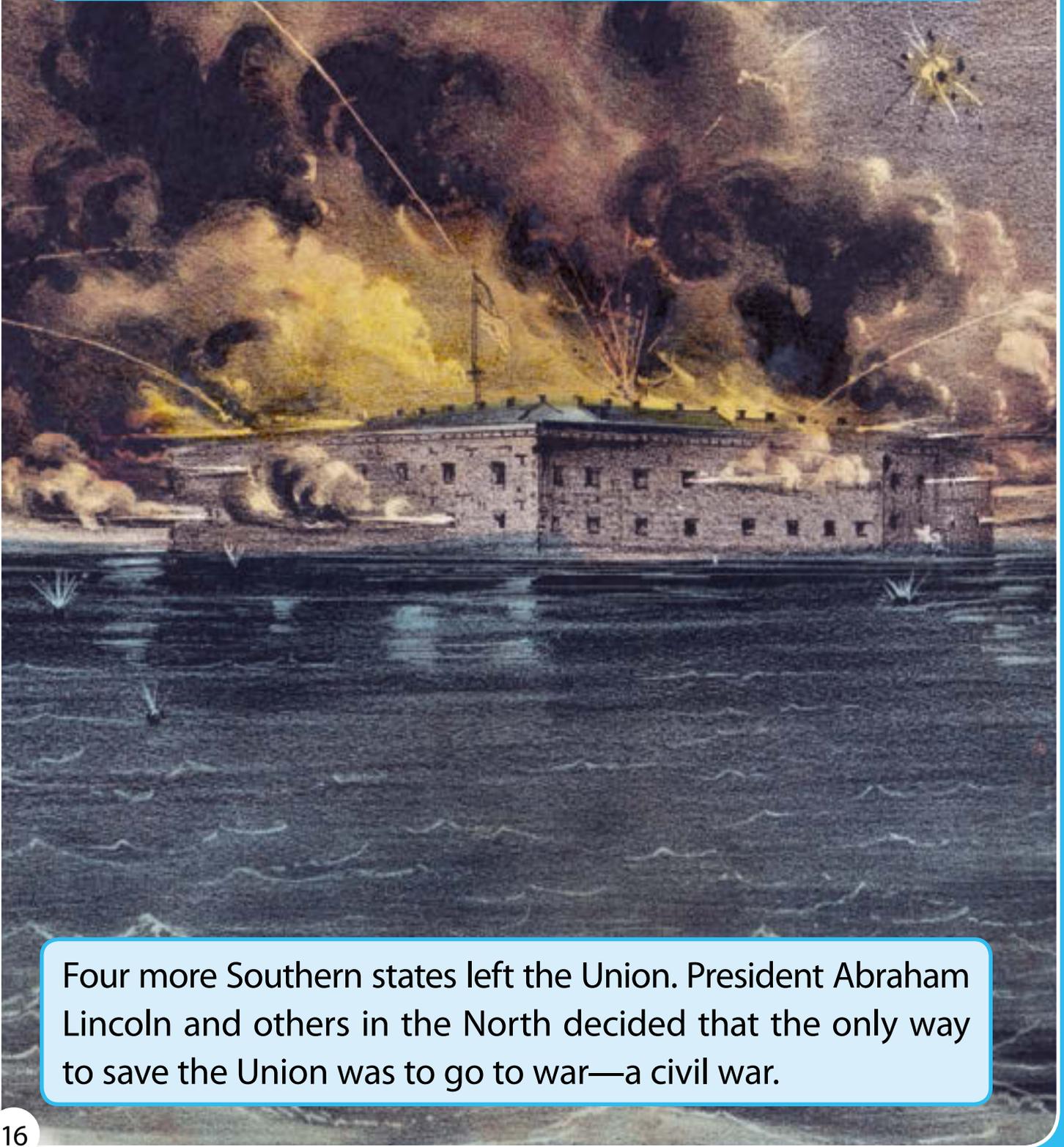


Some Southerners said that the South should leave the Union if he became president. When Abraham Lincoln won the election and became president, seven Southern states did just that!



These Southern states said they were breaking away from the United States, just as the original thirteen colonies had broken away from Great Britain. They were forming a new country named the Confederate States of America, or the Confederacy for short. They even elected their own president, a man named Jefferson Davis.

Tensions continued to grow between the North and the South. In April 1861, Confederate soldiers attacked Fort Sumter, near Charleston, South Carolina.



Four more Southern states left the Union. President Abraham Lincoln and others in the North decided that the only way to save the Union was to go to war—a civil war.

## The War Begins

Both sides began to prepare for war. The Union signed up thousands of men and gave them weapons and blue uniforms. The Confederates gave their soldiers gray uniforms.



Union soldiers called the Confederate soldiers "Rebels." The Confederate soldiers called the Union soldiers "Yankees."



Most people thought the war would be over quickly. Some Northerners were so sure their army would beat the Southern Rebels that they brought picnic lunches to the war's first battle, near the town of Manassas in northern Virginia.

But there was no easy victory that day. For a while it was not clear who would win. Then a group of fresh Confederate troops arrived. The Rebels charged, and the Union troops retreated in a panic—and so did the picnickers.



The Confederates had won the first battle of the war, but winning the war itself would not be easy. The Union had more soldiers, more factories, more trains, more ships, and more guns. Even so, the Confederate army won many of the early battles of the war. In 1862, the Confederate general, Robert E. Lee, led an invasion into the North.



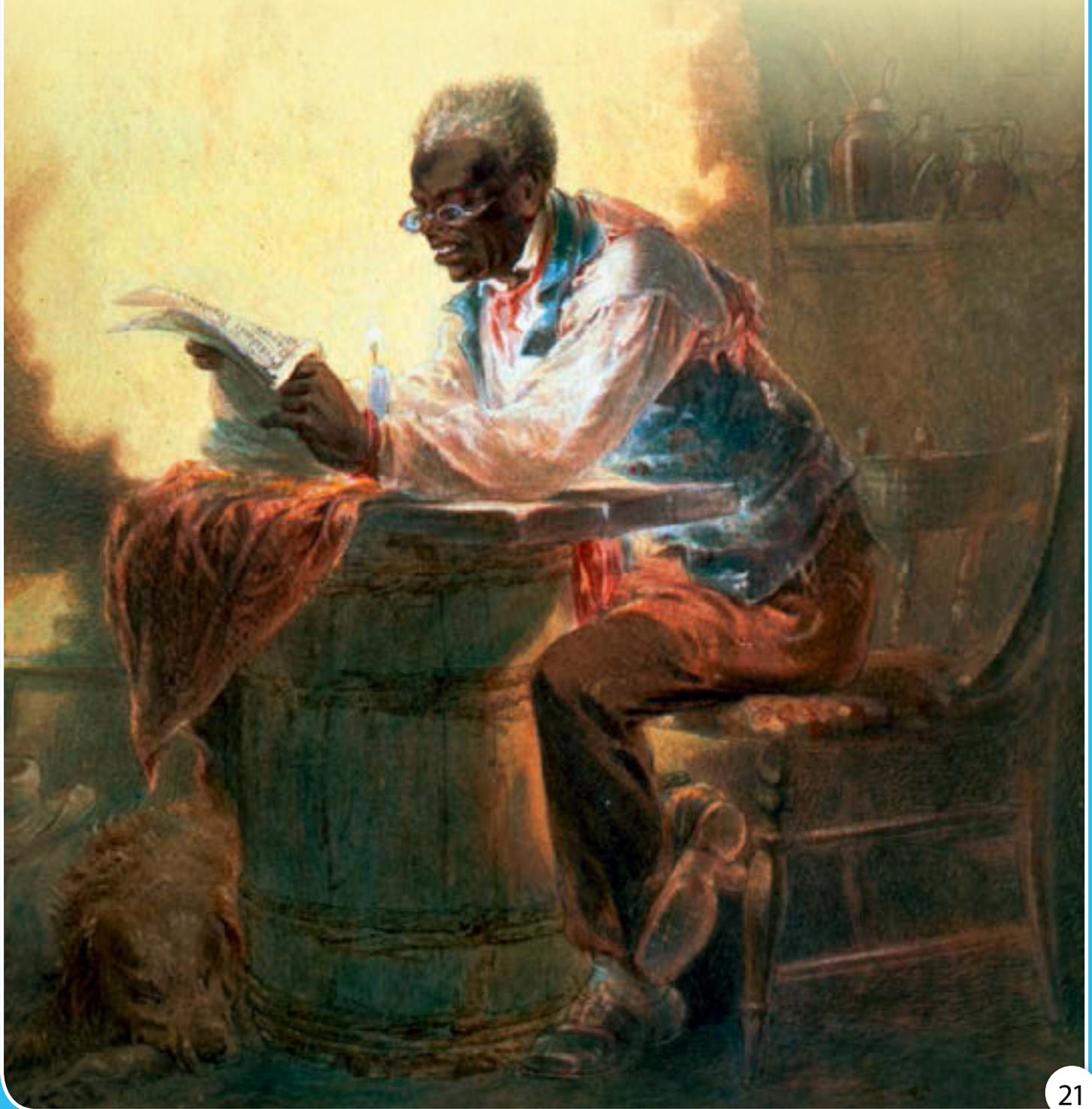
Incredibly, a Union soldier found a copy of Lee's battle plans. This meant that the Union army leader, George McClellan, had information that would help him stop Lee's invasion at the Battle of Antietam, in Maryland.

Then President Lincoln made a bold move. He revealed that the time had come to say that not only was the war being fought to save the Union, it was *now* also being fought to free the slaves in the Confederate states.



On January 1, 1863, President Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation. It said that slaves in the Confederate states were now free. But everyone knew that as long as these slaves stayed under Confederate control, they would not be free.

African Americans and abolitionists were excited about the Emancipation Proclamation. Abraham Lincoln was proud of it too, but he knew that the slaves would not be set free if the Union did not win the war. To do that he needed a great general to go up against Robert E. Lee.



## Lee and Grant

Robert E. Lee trained to be a soldier at the U.S. Military Academy in West Point, New York. Later, he fought in the Mexican-American War and became the head of his old military school. He was a natural leader.



When the Southern states left the Union, Lee had to think long and hard about which side to join. President Lincoln had wanted Lee to be the commander of the Union army. In the end, Lee chose to fight on the side of his home state, Virginia, which had become part of the Confederacy. Lee became the commander of the Confederate army.



Ulysses S. Grant also went to West Point and fought in the Mexican War. Afterward, he left the army. When the Civil War began, however, Grant rejoined the Union army.



He proved himself to be a fine soldier too. The soldiers who fought with him looked up to him and admired his bravery.

During 1863, two years after the Civil War began, Lee invaded the North again. The Union army stopped the Confederate invasion near Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. The Battle of Gettysburg was an important victory for the North. Lee retreated with his men during the night and was not pursued by Union soldiers. President Lincoln was not happy that Lee and his men had escaped.



In the spring of 1864, President Lincoln appointed Ulysses S. Grant to be the new general in charge of the Union army. Grant's job was to defeat Lee, capture the Confederate capital in Richmond, Virginia, and win the war.



## The War Ends

The Confederate army had been weakened at the Battle of Gettysburg. It was time for Grant to lead the Union army and go after Lee.

Many terrible battles, such as the Battle of the Wilderness, were fought in Virginia. In most of these battles, Grant lost more men than Lee, but he never stopped advancing and attacking, and he gradually closed in on Richmond—the capital of the Confederacy.





At the same time, one of Grant's generals was leading his men across the South. The general's name was William Tecumseh Sherman. He and his men marched through Georgia, tearing up railroad tracks, which stopped the movement of Confederate soldiers and supplies.



Sherman and his men burned the city of Atlanta and then set off for Savannah. By this time, the Confederate soldiers were running out of supplies.



While Sherman marched to the sea, Grant was chasing Lee's army. In April 1865, Grant's soldiers captured Richmond. About one week later, Grant stopped Lee and his men in Virginia, near the town of Appomattox Court House. Lee saw that it was hopeless.



On April 9, 1865, Robert E. Lee went to Appomattox Court House to surrender to Ulysses S. Grant. Lee put on a special uniform. Around his waist he wore a silk sash. A sword hung from his belt. The Confederate general was ready to meet with Grant.



Ulysses S. Grant did not want to punish the Confederate soldiers. He was kind to Robert E. Lee and his men. Robert E. Lee accepted the terms of surrender, which called for the Confederates to stop fighting and to hand over their weapons.



Each Confederate soldier signed a paper that said he would not take up arms against the United States again. This signed paper allowed the soldiers to make their way home. After four years of fighting, the Civil War was finally over.



## Clara Barton

While men fought on the battlefields, women fought their own battles at home. They had to manage farms and families. They had to plow the ground, plant seeds in the spring, and harvest crops in the fall. They cared for the animals, carried mail, and worked in factories—and some spied on the enemy!



Before the Civil War, almost all nurses were men. During the war, although men continued in this role, many women became nurses too. Thousands of women, especially in the North, worked long hours bandaging and treating the injured men.



One of the most famous nurses was Clara Barton. Clara Barton was born in Massachusetts. One day, Clara heard that some Union soldiers did not have any supplies. Clara used her own money to buy them food and bandages. Later, Clara loaded up a big wagon with supplies and drove to a battlefield.



For the rest of the Civil War, Clara followed the Union troops around, taking care of injured soldiers at many different battles. She did this even though it meant risking her own life. At the Battle of Antietam, a bullet tore through her sleeve and killed the soldier she was trying to help.



Just after the Battle of Antietam, a doctor named James Dunn wrote about Clara's work with injured soldiers.

*We had used every bandage, torn up every sheet in the house and everything we could find, when who should drive up but our old friend Miss Barton, with a team loaded down with dressings of every kind and everything we could ask for. She . . . worked all night making soup, and when I left four days after the battle, she was still there taking care of the wounded and the dying.*

Dunn called Clara Barton "the angel of the battlefield." Clara later started the American Red Cross.

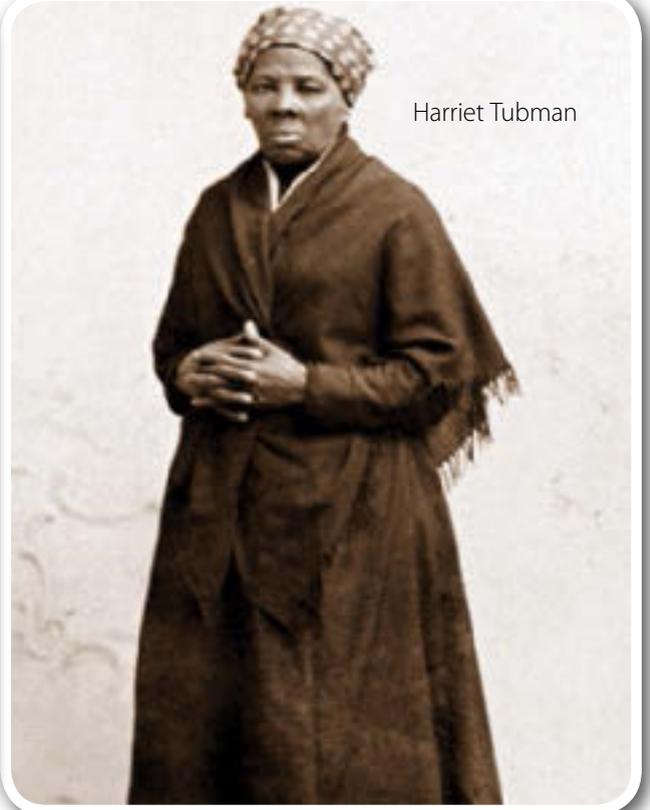


## Civil War Photographs

Harriet Beecher Stowe



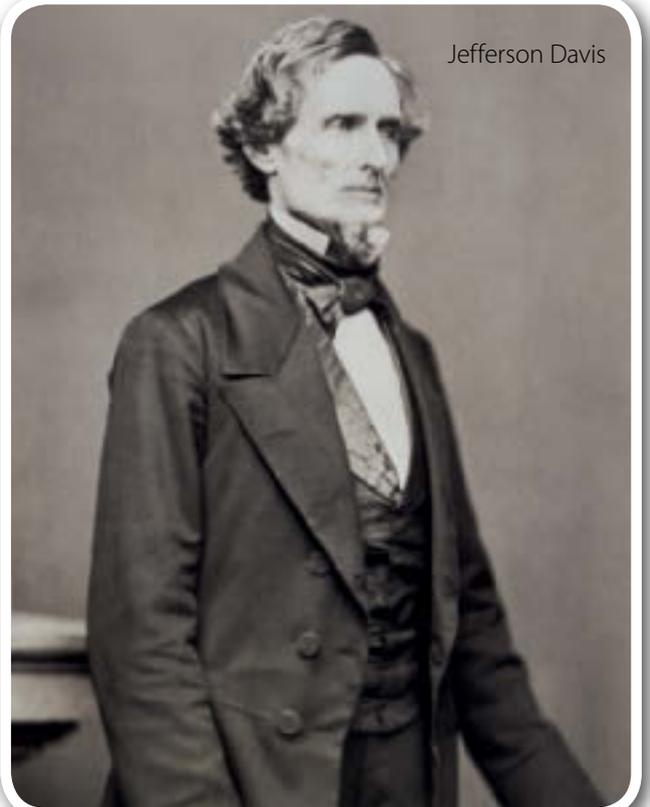
Harriet Tubman



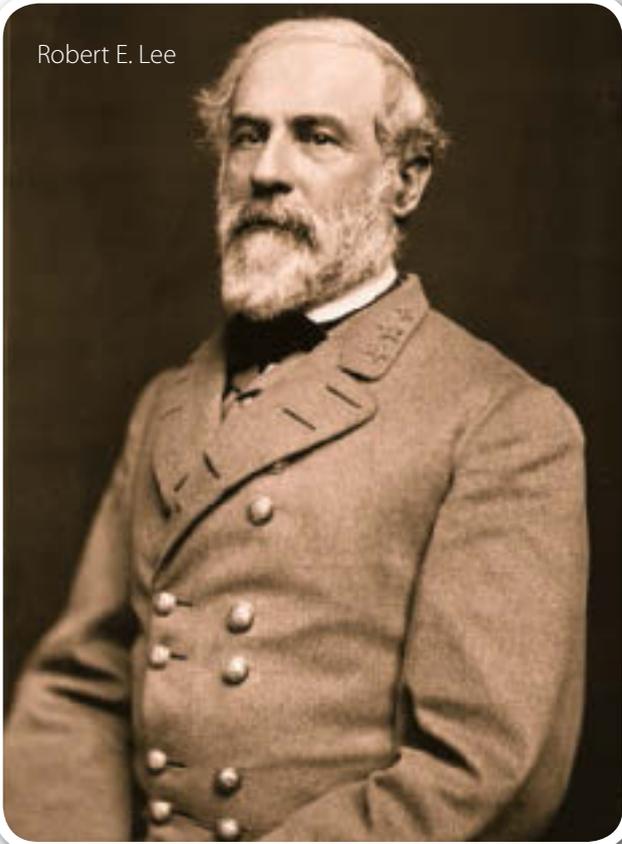
Abraham Lincoln



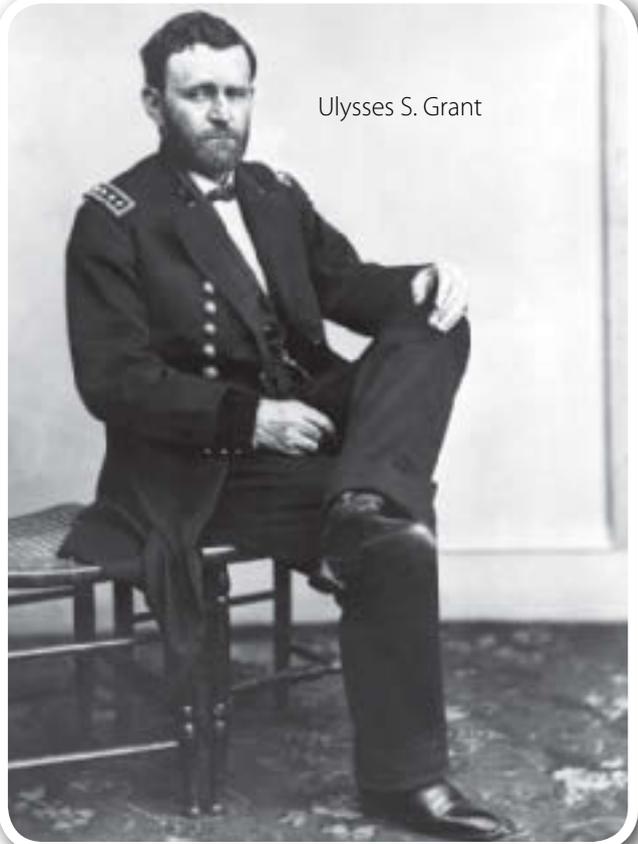
Jefferson Davis



Robert E. Lee



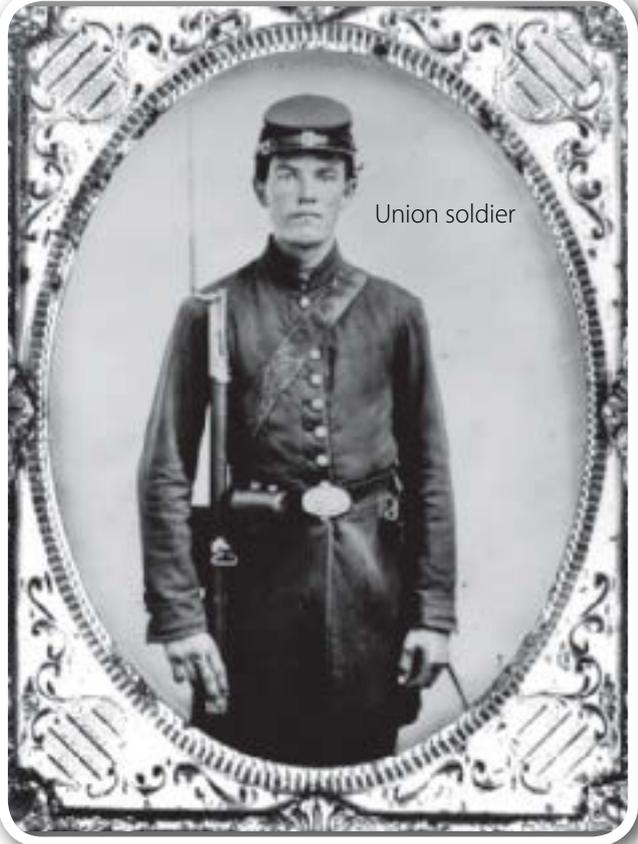
Ulysses S. Grant



Confederate soldier



Union soldier

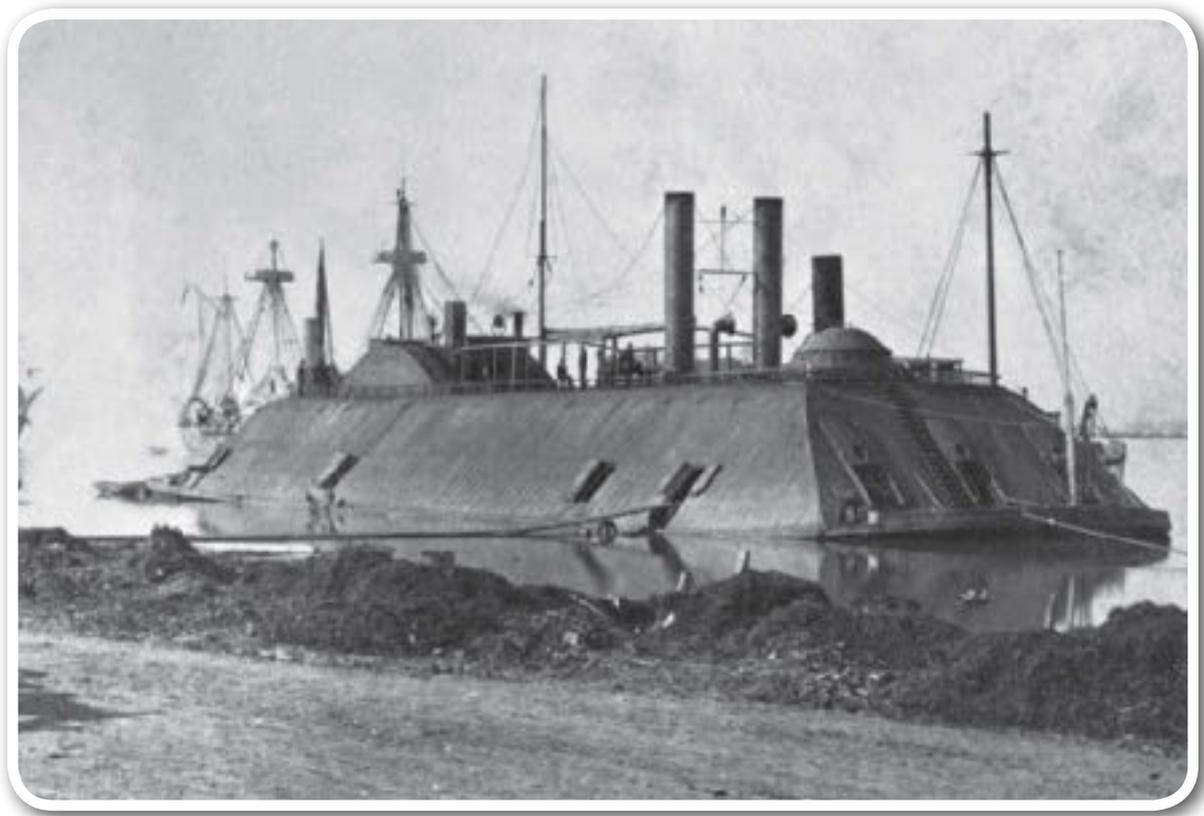




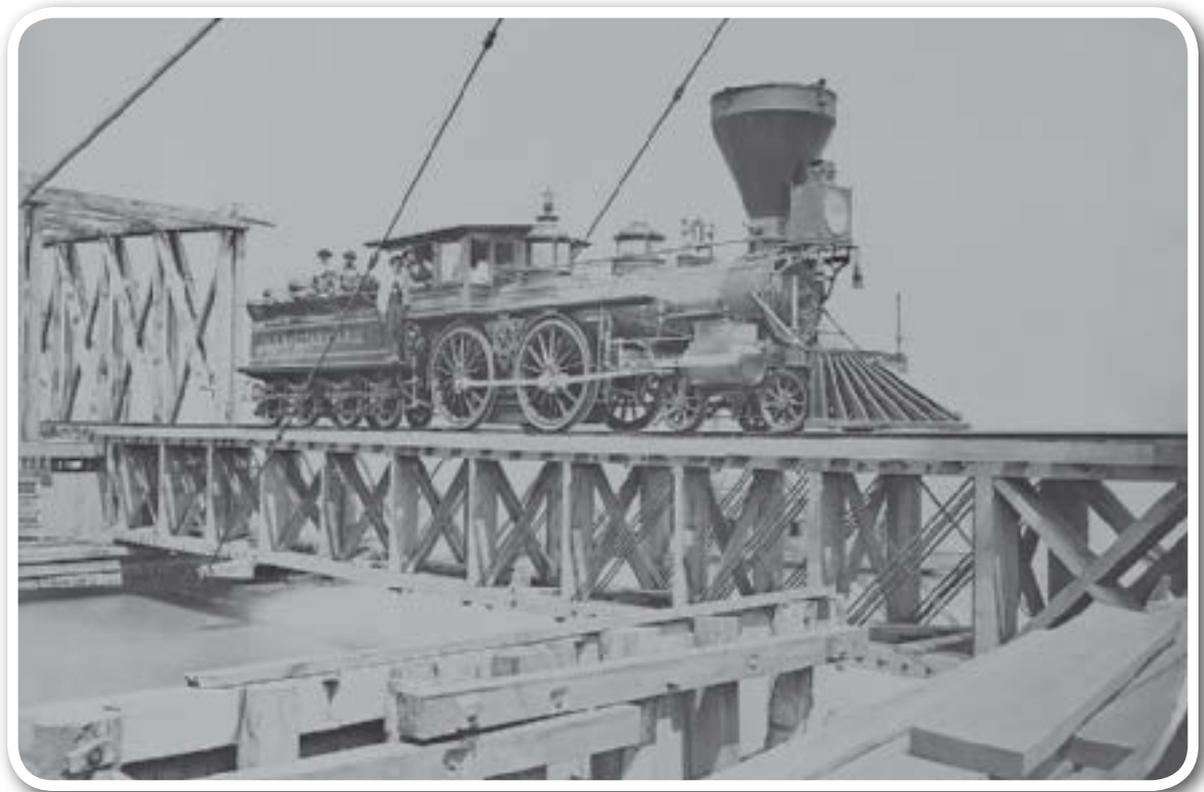
Union army band



Confederate army camp



USS Essex (ironclad)



Railroad engine used during Civil War







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