The American Civil War

Use this key to check answers and read the explanations.

1. Which fort in Charleston Harbor was the site of the Civil War's opening engagement?
   - A. Fort Sumter
   - B. Fort Donelson
   - C. Fort Wagner
   - D. Fort Pulaski

   Correct answer: A. Fort Sumter
   Confederate forces fired on the U.S. garrison at Fort Sumter in April 1861.

2. Who served as U.S. president from the opening engagement at Fort Sumter through Lee's surrender at Appomattox?
   - A. James Buchanan
   - B. Andrew Johnson
   - C. Abraham Lincoln
   - D. Ulysses S. Grant

   Correct answer: C. Abraham Lincoln
   Lincoln took office in March 1861. He was still president when Lee surrendered in April 1865.

3. Who became the provisional president of the Confederacy in 1861?
   - A. Robert E. Lee
   - B. Jefferson Davis
   - C. Alexander H. Stephens
   - D. P. G. T. Beauregard

   Correct answer: B. Jefferson Davis
   Davis took office as provisional Confederate president. Stephens served as vice president.

4. Which Confederate commander led the Army of Northern Virginia at Gettysburg?
   - A. Joseph E. Johnston
   - B. Stonewall Jackson
   - C. Braxton Bragg
   - D. Robert E. Lee

   Correct answer: D. Robert E. Lee
   Lee led that army into Pennsylvania, where it fought the Union Army of the Potomac in July 1863.

5. What event brought Lincoln to Gettysburg in November 1863 to deliver his famous address?

A. A surrender meeting between Grant and Lee
B. The dedication of a soldiers' cemetery
C. The opening of a session of Congress
D. A ceremony awarding the first Medals of Honor

Correct answer: B. The dedication of a soldiers' cemetery
Lincoln spoke at the dedication of a cemetery for Union soldiers killed at Gettysburg, several months after the battle.

6. A battlefield map labels the village of Sharpsburg, Maryland. Which battle should an archivist file it under?

A. Antietam
B. Shiloh
C. Chancellorsville
D. Cold Harbor

Correct answer: A. Antietam
Antietam took place near Sharpsburg and Antietam Creek in September 1862. Its casualties made it the war's bloodiest single day.

7. Which Union regiment of Black soldiers led the July 1863 assault on Fort Wagner?

A. 1st Minnesota Infantry
B. 20th Maine Infantry
C. 69th New York Infantry
D. 54th Massachusetts Infantry

Correct answer: D. 54th Massachusetts Infantry
The 54th Massachusetts, commanded by Robert Gould Shaw, led the assault. The fort held, and the regiment suffered heavy losses.

8. Why was the clash between USS Monitor and CSS Virginia at Hampton Roads a naval milestone?

A. It ended the Union blockade of Southern ports
B. It was the first naval engagement ever fought at night
C. It was the first battle between ironclad warships
D. It was the first Civil War battle on the Mississippi

Correct answer: C. It was the first battle between ironclad warships
Both vessels were armored. Their inconclusive engagement in March 1862 demonstrated a challenge to wooden warships.

9. Which group was covered by Lincoln's final Emancipation Proclamation on January 1, 1863?

A. Enslaved people in areas designated as in rebellion
B. All enslaved people in Union slave states
C. All residents of the Confederacy regardless of their legal status
D. Only people enslaved in the nation's capital

Correct answer: A. Enslaved people in areas designated as in rebellion
The proclamation declared enslaved people free in designated areas in rebellion. It excluded loyal slave states and specified areas already under Union control.

10. Why did the surrender of Vicksburg matter beyond the captured city?

A. It gave the Union its first route from the Atlantic to Chesapeake Bay
B. It brought the Confederate government in Richmond under Union control
C. It ended Confederate resistance throughout the Deep South
D. It helped the Union secure the Mississippi River and divide the Confederacy

Correct answer: D. It helped the Union secure the Mississippi River and divide the Confederacy
Vicksburg was a key point on the Mississippi. Its surrender, followed by Port Hudson's, gave the Union control of the river and split the Confederacy.

11. What correction should a museum make to a label saying every Confederate army surrendered at Appomattox?

A. Both governments signed a treaty taking effect nationwide
B. Grant surrendered his army there, and Lee negotiated a peace treaty
C. Lee surrendered his army there, and other forces surrendered separately
D. Only a local garrison surrendered, while Lee's army departed intact

Correct answer: C. Lee surrendered his army there, and other forces surrendered separately
Lee surrendered the Army of Northern Virginia. Other Confederate armies remained in the field and surrendered through separate agreements.

12. What did General Order No. 3 announce in Galveston on June 19, 1865?

A. The surrender of every Confederate army in Texas that day
B. The freedom of enslaved people in Texas
C. The ratification of the 13th Amendment by Texas
D. A federal requirement that free workers stay on former plantations

Correct answer: B. The freedom of enslaved people in Texas
The order announced emancipation in Texas. Its public issuance in Galveston is the event commemorated by Juneteenth.

13. Which goal best matches Lincoln's closing appeal in his Second Inaugural Address?

A. Settle blame before offering aid to veterans or families
B. Exclude former Confederate states permanently
C. Keep wartime rule in place until the next election
D. Care for people harmed by the war and pursue a lasting peace

Correct answer: D. Care for people harmed by the war and pursue a lasting peace
Lincoln appealed for care for those who had borne the battle and for their families. He tied that appeal to the work of restoring peace.

14. How did the 13th Amendment change the legal reach of emancipation after the Civil War?

A. It banned slavery nationwide, with an exception for punishment after conviction
B. It applied only to places still designated as in rebellion
C. It declared freedom in Texas while leaving the other states unchanged
D. It delegated the decision to each state's legislature

Correct answer: A. It banned slavery nationwide, with an exception for punishment after conviction
The wartime proclamation applied to designated areas. The 13th Amendment prohibited slavery and involuntary servitude throughout U.S. jurisdiction, except as punishment for crime after conviction.

15. Which sequence is in chronological order?

A. Antietam → Gettysburg cemetery dedication → final Emancipation Proclamation → Lee's surrender
B. Final Emancipation Proclamation → Antietam → Lee's surrender → Gettysburg cemetery dedication
C. Antietam → final Emancipation Proclamation → Gettysburg cemetery dedication → Lee's surrender
D. Gettysburg cemetery dedication → final Emancipation Proclamation → Antietam → Lee's surrender

Correct answer: C. Antietam → final Emancipation Proclamation → Gettysburg cemetery dedication → Lee's surrender
Antietam came in September 1862. The final proclamation followed in January 1863, the Gettysburg cemetery dedication in November 1863, and Lee's surrender in April 1865.