

Civil War Timeline Information

November 1860

Abraham Lincoln is elected President of the United States. Lincoln is against the spread of slavery.

December 1860

South Carolina secedes from the Union.

Early 1861

Six more Southern states—Mississippi, Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Texas, and Louisiana—secede. Jefferson Davis is named its president.

April 1861

Confederate forces capture Fort Sumter in South Carolina. Virginia, North Carolina, Arkansas, and Tennessee secede. Richmond, Virginia is named the capitol.

July 1861

First Battle of Bull Run or the First Battle of Manassas, the Union army is forced to retreat northward toward Washington.

Fall 1861

The Union navy blockades the coastline of the Confederate states to limit their supplies.

May 1862

Confederate General Stonewall Jackson and his troops battle Union forces in the Shenandoah Valley, Virginia, forcing the Union soldiers to retreat.

August 1862

The Second Battle of Bull Run or the Second Battle of Manassas is a victory for the Confederacy.

September 1862

Harper's Ferry falls to Confederate troops. Battle of Antietam, known as the bloodiest day of the war.

January 1863

President Lincoln issues the Emancipation Proclamation, freeing all slaves in the Confederacy.

May 1863

Union has major loss at the Battle of Chancellorsville, Virginia, but Stonewall Jackson dies from his wounds a few days later.

July 1863

Gettysburg Campaign is turning point of the war, huge Confederate losses. Much of the Mississippi River is under Union control, splitting the Confederacy in half.

September 1863

Confederates win the Battle of Chickamauga, Georgia.

November 1863

Battle of Chattanooga, Union soldiers take control almost all of Tennessee. Lincoln delivers his famous Gettysburg Address.

May–June 1864

General Grant leads the Wilderness Campaign.

August–November 1864 Abraham Lincoln is re-elected to another term.

January 1865

The United States Congress approves the Thirteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution, abolishing slavery.

April 1865

The Confederate capitol of Richmond, Virginia, falls to Union forces. General Lee surrenders. President Lincoln is shot by John Wilkes Booth.

May 1865

All remaining Confederate troops surrender and Jefferson Davis, president of the Confederate States of America is captured in Georgia.

Cut and paste information on to timeline pieces, as desired.