

## Section

# 2

## The Civil War Begins

### Main Ideas

1. Texans responded swiftly to the Confederate call to arms to join the Civil War.
2. Texas prepared for the war by establishing new industries.
3. The South's experienced military leaders were an important resource during the first half of the war.

### Key Terms and People

- **regiments**
- **Albert Sidney Johnston**
- **Thomas Green**
- **cotton diplomacy**
- **ironclads**

### Why It Matters Today

The North and the South debated their differences for years before going to war. Use current events sources to learn about peace talks today. Record your findings in your journal.



**TEKS:** 1B, 1C, 5A, 5C, 9C, 13A, 17C, 20A, 21A, 21B, 21C, 21D, 21E, 22A, 22B, 22D

### myNotebook

Use the annotation tools in your eBook to take notes on early events of the Civil War.

## The Story Continues

People gathered on balconies and rooftops overlooking Charleston Harbor. They watched Fort Sumter, wondering if the federal soldiers inside would surrender without a fight. The soldiers within the fort waited in the early morning darkness. They wondered if Confederate forces would actually fire upon them. They soon found out—at 4:30 A.M. cannons on the shore opened fire. Soon, as a Union soldier noted, “shot and shell went screaming over Sumter as if an army of devils were swooping around it.”



### A Call to Arms

The Confederate attack on Fort Sumter in April 1861 marked the beginning of the Civil War. A civil war is a war between factions, or opposing groups, within the same country. The news of war “fell on the land like a thunderbolt,” one person remembered. The day after Fort Sumter surrendered, President Lincoln called for 75,000 volunteers to help put down the rebellion. In response, Virginia, Arkansas, Tennessee, and North Carolina seceded from the Union.

### KEY DATE 1861

The Civil War begins with the Confederate attack on Fort Sumter in South Carolina.

Thousands of Texans responded to the Confederate call to arms. Even many Texas Unionists supported the Confederacy once the war began. “The North will never subdue [conquer] the South. Never, never!” vowed one Texas volunteer. By the end of 1861, some 25,000 Texans were in the Confederate army. Confederate president Jefferson Davis welcomed the first Texas troops in 1861.

### TEXAS VOICES

“Texans! The troops from other States have their reputation to gain, but the sons of the defenders of the Alamo have theirs to maintain. I am sure you will be faithful to the trust.”

—Jefferson Davis, address to Texas troops

Texas troops soon gained a reputation for spirit and daring in battle. Texans usually joined **regiments**—units of around 1,000 soldiers—from their hometowns or counties. The units took the names of the people who organized them. Terry’s Texas Rangers, a cavalry unit organized by B. F. Terry, fought in battles throughout the Civil War. Hood’s Texas Brigade, under the command of John Bell Hood, became a lead unit in the Army of Northern Virginia. It fought in some of the most important battles of the war. Ross’s Texas Brigade, headed by Lawrence “Sul” Ross, fought in Georgia, Mississippi, and Tennessee.

Texas also contributed many officers to the Confederacy. **Albert Sidney Johnston** was the second-highest-ranking officer in the army until his death in battle. Unionist James W. Throckmorton became a brigadier general. Texan **Thomas Green** was another key Confederate officer who would later rise to the rank of brigadier general.

**Reading Check Making Generalizations and Predictions** How do you think the war will affect Texans?

### Analyzing Primary Sources

#### Identifying Points of View

Why did Davis think that the Texan volunteers were different from soldiers of other southern states?



### Interpreting Visuals

**Terry's Texas Rangers.** Texas volunteers were known for their fighting skills and daring in battle. What particular skills does this painting of Terry's Texas Rangers show?

## ★ Texas Cities ★



### Brownsville

**History:** Spanish settlers arrived in the area of Brownsville in the late 1700s. In 1846 the U.S. Army established a post there. During the Civil War, Brownsville prospered as an important trading post.

**Population in 2012:** 180,097 (estimate)

**Relative location:** Southern edge of the South Texas Plains

**Region:** South Texas Plains

**County:** County seat of Cameron County

**Special feature:** Brownsville has a twin city—Matamoros—across the Rio Grande in Mexico.

**Origin of name:** Originally a fort named Fort Brown, established at the beginning of the Mexican War

**Economy:** Brownsville's economy is based on agriculture, shipping, tourism, and the manufacture of a variety of goods, including transportation equipment, metal goods, and petrochemicals.



## Texas Readies for War

Many of the Texas troops were ill-equipped, reporting with a variety of weapons, uniforms, and supplies. One Texas soldier remembered that “most of our blankets were pieces of carpets taken from floors.” The Texans needed all the supplies they could get. Even before the state had officially seceded, the Texas government moved to seize federal property. In February 1861 a force led by Ben McCulloch surrounded the U.S. commander's headquarters in San Antonio. U.S. Army general David E. Twiggs quickly surrendered all federal property in Texas. Without firing a shot, the Texas militia captured more than \$1 million in military supplies.

Texans also established new industries to get ready for the war. Thomas Anderson ran a gunpowder mill near Austin. A factory in Tyler made cannons and ammunition, while iron foundries opened in Jefferson and Rusk. Prisoners at Huntsville made 3 million yards of cloth during the war. Texas businesses made saddles, tents, uniforms, and wagons. The state's plentiful resources of cattle, cotton, and food crops such as corn were also a great help to the Confederacy.

**Reading Check Summarizing** How did preparation for war affect the Texas economy?



## Resources and Strategies

The North had a number of advantages at the beginning of the conflict. With a larger population, it could recruit more soldiers. Because the North had more railroads, it could move troops and supplies more easily. The North had far more factories than the South did, so it could produce more weapons and supplies. The North also had an established government ready to conduct and raise money for the war.

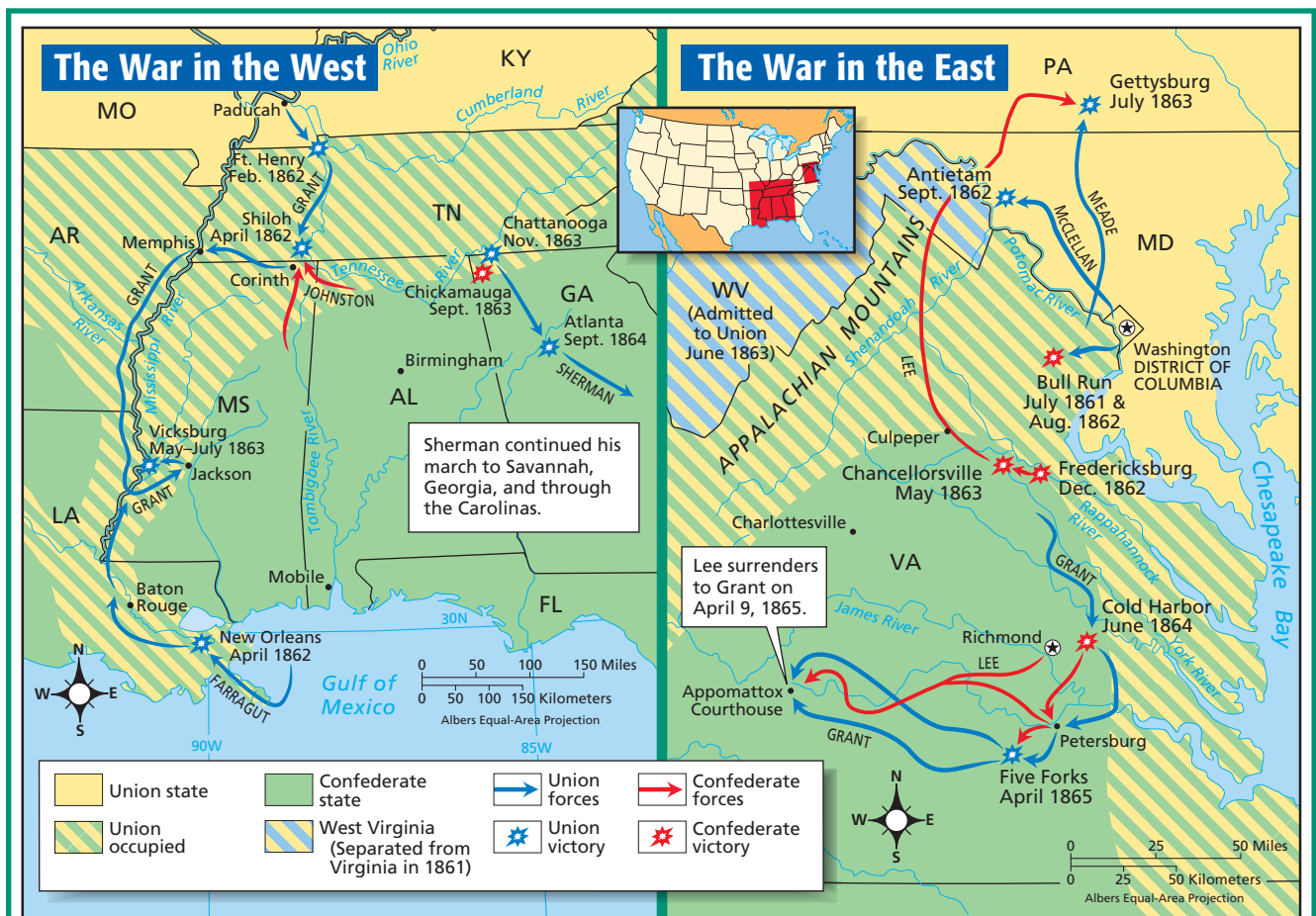
The South did have some advantages. It had experienced military leaders, many of whom had served in the U.S. Army during the Mexican War. Many southerners, particularly Texans, were experienced in riding horses and using firearms. By the end of 1861, two thirds of Texans serving in the Confederate army were in the cavalry. A British observer noted Texans' preference for fighting on horseback. “No Texan walks a yard if he can help it.”

At the beginning of the war, the Confederacy planned to stay on the defensive and wear down the Union's will to fight. The South hoped to maintain its ability to fight by getting war supplies from Europe. Southern leaders tried to gain foreign support, particularly from Great Britain, through the use of **cotton diplomacy**. The Confederacy withheld cotton shipments to British textile mills, hoping to force Britain to offer help. This strategy failed, partly because European storehouses had been fully stocked before the war.

The North faced the difficult task of having to conquer large amounts of enemy territory. The Union used a naval blockade to cut off southern seaports and prevent the Confederacy from importing war supplies. The blockade eventually extended from Virginia to Florida on the Atlantic coast and from Florida to the southern tip of Texas on the Gulf Coast. At the same time, Union forces planned to take control of the Mississippi River and cut the Confederacy in two. This would separate the important food-producing areas of Arkansas, Texas, and most of Louisiana from other southern states. Union forces also planned to capture Richmond, Virginia, the capital of the Confederacy.

These strategies resulted in three theaters, or regions, of war. The first theater was in the East, centered around Washington and Richmond. A second developed in Tennessee and Mississippi, and the third was west of the Mississippi River. Texans fought in all three theaters.

**Reading Check Evaluating** How do you think the northern strategy of taking control of the Mississippi River would affect Texas?



## Major Battles of the Civil War

**Interpreting Maps** Union forces tried to divide the Confederacy by gaining control of the Mississippi River. Meanwhile, Union forces in the East tried to capture the Confederate capital.

**Physical Systems** How did rivers affect the location of battles?



## GLOBAL CONNECTIONS

### Global Trade and the Civil War

Before the Civil War, the South had traded with European nations for many items it did not produce. The Union blockade greatly limited the South's ability to obtain supplies during the war. Texas, however, bordered Mexico, and the Union navy could not block Mexican ports. Texans took cotton across the Rio Grande to trade for supplies. Hundreds of ships from Europe brought military supplies to Mexico to trade for the cotton. **How did the location of Texas affect the South in the Civil War?**

## ★ The Major Battles of the Civil War

The major battles of the war took place east of the Mississippi River. In July 1861 a Union army marched south to capture Richmond. Confederate forces stopped the advance at the First Battle of Bull Run. Confederate troops held off Union attacks the following year, eventually driving most Union troops from Virginia. In late September 1862 General Robert E. Lee's army clashed with a Union force in Maryland. The Battle of Antietam was an important Union victory. In late June 1863 Lee moved north again and battled Union forces at Gettysburg, Pennsylvania on July 1–3. They suffered heavy losses and retreated on July 4. The Battle of Gettysburg was a turning point—Lee was on the defensive for the rest of the war.

Meanwhile, Confederate and Union armies battled for control of the Mississippi River valley. Union general Ulysses S. Grant gained the upper hand in April 1862 in the Battle of Shiloh. It was a costly battle for both sides. General Albert Sidney Johnston of Texas was among those killed. Grant pressed on toward Vicksburg, Mississippi, which controlled traffic on the river. A Texas soldier noted the town's importance.

### TEXAS VOICES

“Even if I could get leave of absence now I would not accept it when every man . . . will be so much needed in the coming contest before Vicksburg—which I regard as the hinging point in the destiny of our nation.”

—J. C. Bates, quoted in *A Texas Cavalry Officer's Civil War*, edited by Richard Lowe

Grant began the six-week Siege of Vicksburg, supported by a fleet of **ironclads**—ships heavily armored with armored plates. When the town surrendered on July 4, 1863, the Confederacy was split in two. It became very difficult to get supplies from Arkansas, Louisiana, and Texas to the battlegrounds in the East.

**Reading Check Drawing Inferences and Conclusions** In addition to Gettysburg, what other battle could be considered a turning point, and why?



## Section 2 Review



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ONLINE QUIZ

### 1. Define and explain:

- regiments
- cotton diplomacy
- ironclads

### 2. Identify and explain

the historical significance of:

- Albert Sidney Johnston
- Thomas Green

### 3. Summarizing

Copy the chart below. Use it to describe the major battles of the Civil War and their significance.

Battle	Significance

### 4. Finding the Main Idea

- How did Texans respond to news that war had begun?
- What did Texans do to prepare for war?

### 5. Writing and Critical Thinking

myWriteSmart

**Analyzing Information** Write a paragraph describing each side's main strategies in the Civil War.

Consider the following:

- cotton diplomacy
- the blockade