

Section

5

The End of the War

Main Ideas

1. Decisive Union victories in 1863, 1864, and 1865 ended the Civil War.
2. The Texas economy was badly damaged by the Civil War.

Why It Matters Today

The Civil War left much of the South in ruins. Use current events sources to learn more about a nation or group today that is rebuilding after a war.

Key Terms

- March to the Sea
- Emancipation Proclamation

The Story Continues

The Union advance had become unstoppable. General William T. Sherman's army pushed relentlessly through the South toward the Atlantic coast, destroying whatever lay in its path. After one battle, Texan Oscar Alexander rode out to look at the Georgia countryside. An elderly woman on crutches looked up at Alexander. "I do not know where those two little children and I are going to stay," she said. Alexander had no response. All he could see in every direction was the smoke of burning houses.



TEKS: 1A, 5B, 21A, 21B, 21C, 21D, 21E, 22A, 22C

myNotebook

Use the annotation tools in your eBook to take notes on the effects of the Civil War on Texas.



The War Draws to a Close

After the Battle of Gettysburg and fall of Vicksburg in July 1863, Union forces moved steadily into the South. In 1864 President Lincoln ordered General Ulysses S. Grant to take command in the eastern theater. Grant moved his army into eastern Virginia and engaged General Lee's troops in a series of battles. Lee's army was now on the defensive. Both sides suffered heavy losses, but Grant's army greatly outnumbered the Confederate forces. He continued to drive toward Richmond.

Meanwhile, Union general William Tecumseh Sherman led an army south from Tennessee toward Atlanta, an important railroad center. After capturing Atlanta in September 1864, Sherman set out across Georgia to Savannah. As he marched through the state, his army destroyed crops, livestock, railroads—any resources that could help the South. General John Bell Hood of Texas was unable to stop Sherman.



Interpreting Visuals

Surrender. General Lee surrenders to General Grant at Appomattox Courthouse, Virginia, marking the end of the Civil War. **How does the artist show the importance of this event?**

Sherman completed his **March to the Sea** when he reached Savannah in December. A Texas soldier remembered the ruin that Sherman's army left behind. "On Gen. Sherman's 'destruction' to the sea . . . the Yanks had burned and destroyed everything." While Sherman marched north through the Carolinas, Grant was pursuing Lee. In April 1865, Union forces surrounded Lee's army near the town of Appomattox Courthouse, Virginia. With few options left, Lee met with Grant on April 9 and agreed to the Union's terms of surrender.

Reading Check Analyzing Information Why did Sherman destroy property on his March to the Sea?



Battle at Palmito Ranch

Word of Lee's surrender reached Confederate troops in the Brownsville area by May 1865. Hundreds of soldiers left their posts for home. But many stayed when General E. Kirby Smith, the commander of the western Confederate states, urged the soldiers to continue the war.

On May 12, Union troops moved inland to occupy Brownsville. The next day—more than a month after General Lee's surrender—Union and Confederate forces clashed at Palmito Ranch near Brownsville. Led by Colonel John S. Ford, the Confederate troops defeated the Union forces and captured more than 100 prisoners. A few days later, Union officers met with Ford to arrange a truce. The last land battle of the Civil War was a Confederate victory, but the South had already lost the war.

Reading Check Supporting a Point of View Do you agree or disagree with the soldiers' decision to continue fighting after Lee surrendered? Explain your answer.

★ Consequences of the War

About 620,000 Americans lost their lives in the Civil War, making it the deadliest conflict in U.S. history. Some 90,000 Texans served, and thousands were killed or wounded. Many soldiers suffered serious injuries such as the loss of an arm or leg. One Texas soldier remembered how he felt after the war. “I came home in May, 1865, not . . . scrappy as I started out, but . . . well versed [familiarized] in hardships, privations [loss], dangers and the art of war. . . . All I wanted in this life was some old clothes and something to eat.”

Although Texas suffered few battles, the war left the state’s economy in shambles. The cotton trade had nearly stopped. The deaths of many men placed hardships on Texas businesses, farms, and plantations. Fields needed to be plowed, and businesses needed to be reopened. Much work needed to be done to rebuild the state. When Governor Murrah and other officials fled to Mexico at the end of the war, the state’s government had collapsed. No one seemed to know who was in charge. It took some time before Union forces could move in and restore order.

Enslaved Texans saw the war as a struggle for freedom. African American William Adams remembered, “We sure didn’t want the South to win.” After the war African Americans in Texas wondered about their future. The quarter million slaves in Texas did not learn of their freedom until after the war’s end, on June 19, 1865. More than two years before, President Lincoln had issued the **Emancipation Proclamation**, stated that slaves were free in those areas rebelling against the United States. As the Union army advanced into a Confederate state, slaves were freed.

Reading Check Summarizing How did the Civil War affect the Texas economy?



The Emancipation Proclamation freed all slaves in areas “in rebellion against the United States.”



Section 5 Review



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ONLINE QUIZ

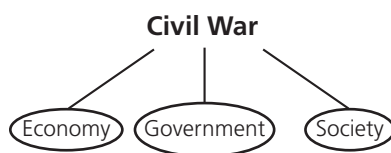
1. Identify and explain

the historical significance of:

- March to the Sea
- Emancipation Proclamation

2. Summarizing

- Copy the graphic organizer below. Use it to show the effects of the Civil War on Texas.



3. Finding the Main Idea

- Describe the final events and battles of the Civil War.
- Why do you think some Texas soldiers continued to fight even after Lee surrendered?

4. Writing and Critical Thinking

myWriteSmart

Making Generalizations and Predictions

Imagine that you are a Confederate or Union soldier who has returned to Texas after the war. Write a letter to a friend explaining what you think is in store for Texas.

Consider the following:

- the condition of the state’s economy
- the condition of the state’s government