

CIVIL WAR SIMULATION

Battle Journal

PAY ATTENTION TO · WHILE YOU PLAY HISTORICAL MODE

1. After **each battle**, write your choice, check whether it **matched history**, and **sum up the key idea** in your own words (don't just copy it).
2. After each **Act review screen**, answer that act's **reflection question** in the box.
3. Your final job: **How was the Union able to defeat the Confederacy?** Build evidence as you play, then answer on the back.

ACT I · THE WAR BEGINS · 1861–1862

Fort Sumter

My choice

Matched history? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Why it mattered (sum up the key idea in your own words)

Bull Run

My choice

Matched history? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Why it mattered (sum up the key idea in your own words)

Shiloh

My choice

Matched history? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Why it mattered (sum up the key idea in your own words)

ACT I REFLECTION · ANSWER AFTER THE ACT I REVIEW SCREEN

After Shiloh, Grant wrote that he abandoned all hope of saving the Union 'except by complete conquest.' How did the unprecedented scale of violence at Shiloh reshape military thinking about the war's nature? What does Grant's evolution from expecting a short war to embracing 'complete conquest' reveal about how warfare transforms those who wage it?

EVIDENCE FOR THE BIG QUESTION

One way this act helped the Union win:

ACT II · A NEW KIND OF WAR · 1862–1863

Antietam

My choice

Matched history? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Why it mattered (sum up the key idea in your own words)

Fredericksburg

My choice

Matched history? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Why it mattered (sum up the key idea in your own words)

Chancellorsville

My choice

Matched history? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Why it mattered (sum up the key idea in your own words)

ACT II REFLECTION • ANSWER AFTER THE ACT II REVIEW SCREEN

Chancellorsville is often called Lee's masterpiece, yet it cost him Jackson, arguably the Confederacy's single most irreplaceable asset. How do we evaluate a tactical triumph that inflicts strategic damage on the victor? Consider the concept of a 'Pyrrhic victory': when does the cost of winning exceed the benefit?

EVIDENCE FOR THE BIG QUESTION

One way this act helped the Union win:

ACT III • THE TIDE TURNS • 1863

Vicksburg

My choice

Matched history? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Why it mattered (sum up the key idea in your own words)

Gettysburg

My choice

Matched history? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Why it mattered (sum up the key idea in your own words)

Chickamauga

My choice

Matched history? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Why it mattered (sum up the key idea in your own words)

ACT III REFLECTION · ANSWER AFTER THE ACT III REVIEW SCREEN

A single miscommunicated order created the gap that enabled the Confederate breakthrough. To what extent does this illustrate the role of chance versus planning in warfare? The Prussian theorist Clausewitz called this 'friction': the unpredictable factors that make real war chaotic. How do modern militaries attempt to reduce the impact of such friction?

EVIDENCE FOR THE BIG QUESTION

One way this act helped the Union win:

ACT IV · THE WAR'S LEGACY · 1864–1865

Wilderness

My choice

Matched history? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Why it mattered (sum up the key idea in your own words)

Atlanta

My choice

Matched history? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Why it mattered (sum up the key idea in your own words)

Sherman's March

My choice

Matched history? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Why it mattered (sum up the key idea in your own words)

Appomattox

My choice

Matched history? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Why it mattered (sum up the key idea in your own words)

ACT IV REFLECTION • ANSWER AFTER THE ACT IV REVIEW SCREEN

Grant's generous terms embodied Lincoln's vision of reconciliation: 'with malice toward none, with charity for all.' Five days later, Lincoln's assassination placed Reconstruction in the hands of Andrew Johnson, a figure far less sympathetic to Black rights. How might Reconstruction have differed under Lincoln's leadership? More broadly, how do nations balance the competing imperatives of reconciliation with former enemies and justice for those who suffered? Consider modern examples of post-conflict societies grappling with these same questions.

EVIDENCE FOR THE BIG QUESTION

One way this act helped the Union win:

PART 2 • BUILD YOUR ANSWER

How Did the Union Win?

Look back at your four "**One way this act helped the Union win**" lines. You already have your evidence. Use them to build your answer below.

WORD BANK • CIRCLE EACH TERM WHEN YOU FIND IT IN THE GAME

Anaconda Plan: the Union strategy to blockade Southern ports and take the Mississippi River, squeezing the South like a snake.

total war: destroying not just enemy armies but the farms, factories, and railroads that support them.

Siege of Vicksburg: 47-day siege ending July 4, 1863; the Union won the entire Mississippi River and split the Confederacy in two.

William T. Sherman: Union general whose 1864 march from Atlanta to Savannah pioneered total war in the South.

Emancipation Proclamation: Lincoln's 1863 order freeing enslaved people in Confederate states; turned the war into a fight against slavery.

Battle of Gettysburg: July 1863 battle in Pennsylvania; Lee's invasion failed and the Confederacy never went on offense again.

Ulysses S. Grant: Union general who refused to retreat after hard battles; promoted to lead all Union armies in 1864.

54th Massachusetts: Black Union regiment that fought heroically at Fort Wagner in 1863, proving Black soldiers would fight for their freedom.

PROMPT How was the Union able to defeat the Confederacy? Use at least **three specific advantages or events** from the game.

Q1 Build your thesis. Fill in three reasons.

The Union defeated the Confederacy because _____, _____, and _____.

Q2 Evidence from your journal. For each reason, give one specific battle, person, or event that proves it.

REASON 1

REASON 2

REASON 3

Q3 Of the 8 Word Bank terms, which one was **most important** to the Union's victory? Pick one and explain in one sentence why.

My pick: _____

Q4 The South had brave soldiers and skilled generals too. Write one sentence explaining why **bravery and leadership were not enough** for the Confederacy to win.