

# The Civil War

## TOPIC SUMMARY

As the Civil War began, the North and the South had different strengths and weaknesses that helped determine their military strategies. In the North, abolitionists helped define the war as a fight for freedom. Lincoln’s Emancipation Proclamation freed all enslaved people in Confederate territory. Both the North and the South suffered during the war, with most of the destruction occurring in the South. The Battle of Gettysburg in July 1863 marked a turning point in favor of the Union. Ending in April 1865, the Civil War—America’s deadliest conflict—freed millions of African Americans, strengthened the federal government, and created bitter feelings among defeated Southerners.

**FOLDABLES™**  
Study Organizer

**Organizing Information** Make this Foldable to help organize facts about the Civil War.

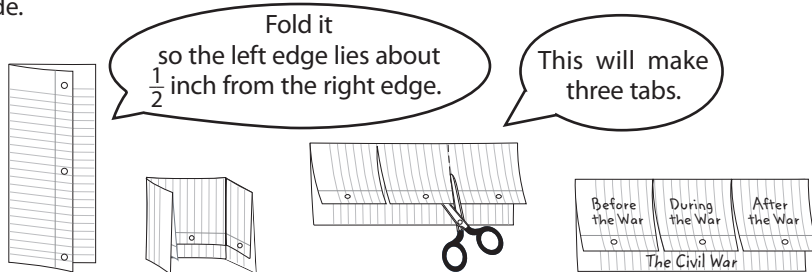
**Step 1** Fold a sheet of paper in half from side to side.

**Step 2** Turn the paper and fold it into thirds.

**Step 3** Unfold and cut the top layer only along both folds.

**Step 4** Label your Foldable as shown.

**Reading and Writing** List events that occurred before, during, and after the Civil War under the appropriate tabs of the Foldable.



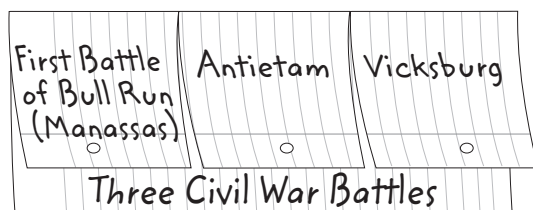
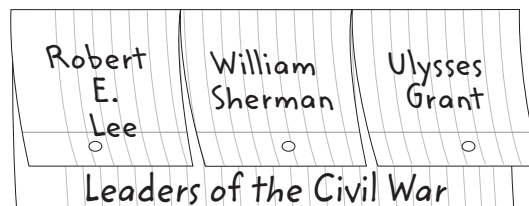
## TOPIC ACTIVITY IDEAS

### Time Line

Have students create the Study Foldable above, including the Reading and Writing activity. Then have each student find a partner. Working together with their completed Foldables, have each set of partners create an illustrated time line of the events that occurred before, during, and after the Civil War. Encourage students to be creative by using different kinds of paper, colored markers or pencils, and pictures to illustrate important events.

**LISTING**

Have students label their Foldables as shown to the right. Have students note the roles, contributions, and successes of the leaders and write these under the appropriate tab. Discuss the leaders as a class, and ask students who they found most interesting and why.



**DESCRIBING**

Have students select three Civil War battles to research and then write the information they find on their Foldables. Ask students to include the dates and locations of each battle, the military leaders involved, the significance of the battle, the outcome, and any other interesting facts they may discover. Organize the class into groups of four or five. Have the students in each group take turns reading details about one of the battles out loud until the other students in the group are able to guess which battle is being described.

**Student Study Tip**

To remember Civil War battles and dates, students could create flashcards to serve as a quick reference and study guide. Have students create interesting cards with mini maps or sketches, and then have them use the cards in groups to study for the test.