

American Civil War Quiz for Students

The American Civil War (1861–1865) was a defining moment in U.S. history, fought between the Union (North) and the Confederacy (South). It ultimately led to the abolition of slavery and reshaped the nation. When attempting these MCQs on American Civil War, make sure to read each question carefully before choosing your answer. Use the process of elimination to narrow down choices. Lastly, use the Answer Key at the end to see your progress.

1. What years did the American Civil War take place?

- a) 1850–1854
- b) 1870–1875
- c) 1861–1865

2. Which event helped spark the American Civil War?

- a) The signing of the Emancipation Proclamation
- b) The tariff increase in 1828
- c) The Missouri Compromise

3. Which state was the first to secede from the Union?

- a) South Carolina
- b) Alabama
- c) Virginia

4. What was the primary economic focus of the Southern states before the Civil War?

- a) Industrial manufacturing
- b) Agriculture and slavery
- c) Banking and insurance

5. Which crop was the defining agricultural product of the South before the Civil War?

- a) Tobacco
- b) Wheat
- c) Cotton

6. What were the Confederate States of America?

- a) A new government formed by the Southern states after secession
- b) A group of Northern states
- c) A military alliance between the Union and Southern states

7. Who was the Republican candidate in the 1860 U.S. presidential election?

- a) Stephen A. Douglas
- b) Abraham Lincoln
- c) John Bell

8. What event marked the first battle of the American Civil War?

- a) Battle of Gettysburg
- b) Battle of Antietam
- c) Battle of Fort Sumter

9. Which of the following amendments guaranteed civil and legal rights to African Americans and enslaved persons liberated after the American Civil War?

- a) 12th Amendment
- b) 11th Amendment
- c) 13th Amendment

10. Which Confederate general led the troops during the bombardment of Fort Sumter?

- a) P.G.T. Beauregard
- b) Robert E. Lee
- c) Stonewall Jackson

11. What was Abraham Lincoln's initial military request after the outbreak of the Civil War?

- a) 100,000 troops for one year
- b) 75,000 militiamen for three months
- c) 50,000 soldiers for six months

12. What did Lincoln declare to prevent trade with the Confederacy?

- a) Martial law
- b) A naval blockade
- c) The abolition of slavery

13. What was one of the major points of conflict between the Northern and Southern states before the Civil War?

- a) Industrialization vs. agriculture
- b) Trade relations with Europe
- c) The expansion of slavery into new territories

14. Where were the first shots of the war fired?

- a) Philadelphia
- b) Baltimore
- c) Fort Sumter

15. Which of the following battles resulted in the most deaths in a single day?

- a) The Battle of Antietam
- b) The Battle of Chickamauga
- c) The Second Battle of Bull Run

16. Which of the following battles is considered the first major engagement of the Civil War?

- a) The Battle of Gettysburg
- b) The Battle of Port Royal Sound
- c) The First Battle of Bull Run

Answer Key

1. c	9. a
2. b	10. a
3. a	11. b
4. b	12. b
5. c	13. c
6. a	14. c
7. b	15. a
8. c	16. c