

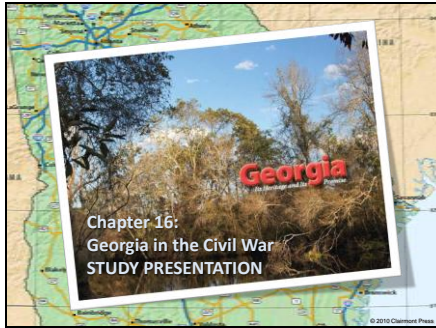
Georgia: Its Heritage and Its Promise

Chapter 16: Georgia in the Civil War

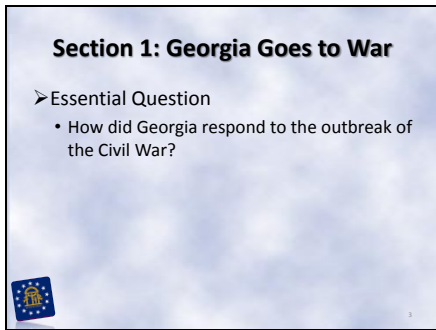
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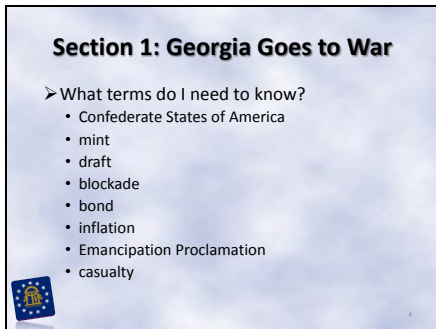
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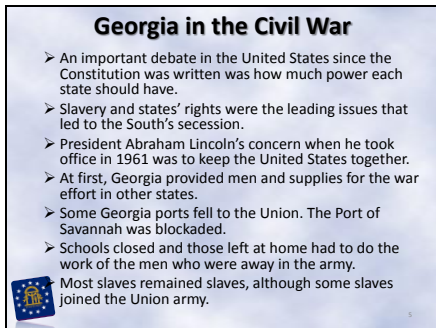
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Preparing for War

- By spring 1861, even after Georgia had seceded, many Georgians did not believe war would follow.
- Some Georgians hoped agreements with the Union could be worked out. Others hoped the North would let the southern states remain independent.
- The seven states that had seceded by January 1861 held a special conference in Montgomery, Alabama. These states voted to form the **Confederate States of America**.
- The **Confederate constitution** created a weaker central government and strongly supported states' rights.
- The delegates selected Jefferson Davis of Mississippi as President and Alexander Stephens of Georgia as Vice President.



Alexander H. Stephens of Georgia was named Vice President of the Confederate States of America.

Link: [Alexander H. Stephens Historic Home](#)

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The Beginning of the War

- Georgia Governor Joseph E. Brown called for volunteer soldiers, seized federal forts and arsenals in Georgia, and occupied the U.S. mint in Dahlonega, where gold and silver money was made.
- Lincoln tried to resupply a federal fort in Charleston Harbor, but Confederate troops forced the fort to surrender. Lincoln called for state militias to put down the rebellion.
- After Fort Sumter fell, four more states seceded: Virginia, North Carolina, Tennessee, and Arkansas.
- The slave states of Missouri, Kentucky, Maryland, and Delaware were divided as to what to do, but decided not to secede.
- After Virginia seceded, the western part of the state formed the new state of West Virginia and rejoined the United States.
- Initially, there were thousands of volunteers for both sides. Within two years, both governments began to **draft** (force men into military service).
- The Union had more people, most of the country's manufacturing, control of the Navy, and a stronger national government. The Confederacy had the advantage of fighting in familiar surroundings and the support of the local population.

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Georgia's Contributions to the War Effort

- Georgia became one of the major food producer's for the Confederate Army.
- Blockade runners, mostly private ships, smuggled in needed goods into Georgia's ports.
- Many Georgia towns started manufacturing goods for the war effort. Augusta became a major site for manufacturing gunpowder.
- Atlanta and its rail hub became a key center for storing and shipping goods to the Southern armies.

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Georgia Women and the War

- Most white women in Georgia were enthusiastic at the beginning of the war.
- Women wrote long letters to their men who were away. Some traveled to be nearer their husbands at the battle front.
- Women took over the plantations, farms, and shops. They raised funds and founded aid organizations to help wounded soldiers.
- During the war, women worked hard to grow food and even raise cash crops.



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The Economy of War

- Most southern states did not collect a property tax imposed by the Confederate government.
- The Confederacy issued **bonds** (documents that prove a debt exists and requires repayment plus interest), but many planters were unwilling to buy them.
- **Inflation** (when prices of goods and services increase) occurred as Confederate money lost its value.
- Union blockade of the South's ports caused shortages. Bread riots occurred in some Georgia towns.
- Great Britain had to buy cotton from India and Egypt because southern farmers could not ship their cotton to the British textile mills.


 The Confederate army found it difficult to provide enough food, clothing, and shoes as the war progressed.

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The Impact on Schools and Churches

- Many schools closed during the war, including the University of Georgia and the state's other colleges.
- More women entered teaching. They taught at the schools and academies that remained opened.
- Some ministers chose to fight, although not required. Others became chaplains to boost the spirits of soldiers.
- When the war began to go badly for the Confederacy, some ministers believed that God was angry because of the way the slaves had been treated.




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Early Fighting

- Georgia Governor Joseph Brown hoped to keep Georgians and their weapons in the state for defense. Thousands of Georgians signed up to serve.
- Georgians were soon fighting on battlefields in Virginia and Tennessee.
- Georgia planters fled as Union forces occupied the coastal islands.
- Union forces captured Fort Pulaski, on the mouth of the Savannah River, in April 1861. The Union occupied it until the war's end.
- Union occupation of Fort Pulaski made it impossible for ships to come into the port of Savannah, a major economic problem for Georgia.


 Link: [Fort Pulaski](#)

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The War in the East and the West

- The Union forces divided into two major armies. The plan was to fight in the east in Virginia and to fight in the west to control the major port and rivers.
- The eastern army sought to capture Richmond, Virginia, the new Confederate capital. The western army aimed at taking the Tennessee and Mississippi rivers and the important port of New Orleans.
- Union General Ulysses S. Grant won two victories in Tennessee in 1862 before the Confederates slowed him down at the Battle of Shiloh in northern Mississippi. The battle resulted in more than 20,000 **casualties** (dead or wounded men).
- Confederate General Robert E. Lee, commander of the Army of Northern Virginia, saved Richmond from Union capture during the Seven Days' Battles in the summer of 1862.

 Link: [Shiloh Battlefield](#)



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Antietam

- Confederate General Robert E. Lee took his Army of Northern Virginia to Maryland in 1862 to gain supplies, influence elections, and bring the war to the North.
- The battle resulted in 6,000 killed and 17,000 wounded. It was the bloodiest one-day battle of all U.S. wars.
- A Georgia brigade under Robert Toombs, who was wounded in the battle, held back Union troops trying to cross a key bridge over Antietam Creek.
- After the Battle of Antietam, Lincoln issued the **Emancipation Proclamation**, the act that freed the slaves.


 Link: [Antietam National Battlefield](#) 15

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The Emancipation Proclamation

- The document written by Abraham Lincoln stated that on January 1, 1863, slaves in the areas still in rebellion would be free.
- As the Union Army conquered areas of the South, slaves became free.
- As a result of the proclamation, Missouri and Maryland, though not in rebellion, freed their slaves.
- Congress and Lincoln supported a permanent amendment to the U.S. Constitution that would make slavery unconstitutional.


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Vicksburg and Gettysburg

- General Lee decided to invade Pennsylvania in 1863, hoping that a Confederate victory in the North would make the Union less willing to fight and negatively affect Northern elections.
- Lee hoped the British and French would also recognize the Confederacy as an independent nation.
- The July 1-3 battle at **Gettysburg** was a loss for the Confederacy and proved to be a turning point in the war for the Union. **Vicksburg, Mississippi** fell to the Union on July 4, giving the Union control of the Mississippi.


 All hopes of foreign help ended and all future battles were fought in the South. 17

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Section 2: The War Comes to Georgia

- Essential Question
 - How was Georgia affected during the last two years of the Civil War?

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Section 2: The War Comes to Georgia

- What terms do I need to know?
 - platform
 - racism



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The War Comes to Georgia

- By 1863, many Georgians were disheartened, as the death rate of soldiers grew due to battle and disease.
- Poor and middle class Georgians were drafted into the war. Wealthy families paid people to go to war as their substitutes.
- Inflation and shortages of goods hurt morale on the home front.
- In 1864, the Union army under General William Tecumseh Sherman entered north Georgia with plans to take Atlanta and then Savannah.

The battles and Sherman's march through Georgia left the state in ruins by the winter of 1864-65.



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Chickamauga

- Chickamauga was a major battle fought in Georgia, south of Chattanooga.
- The fighting at Chickamauga took place September 18-20, 1864. It resulted in the second highest losses of the war, after Gettysburg.
- Union troops under William Rosecrans were driven back into Tennessee by Confederate troops under Braxton Bragg, Joseph Johnston, and James Longstreet.
- Bragg laid siege to Chattanooga, but by November, Union troops reinforced by General William Tecumseh Sherman drove the Confederates back into Georgia.
- Both armies settled in as the winter of 1863-64 came.

Link: [Chickamauga Battlefield](#)




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The Campaign for Atlanta

- General Sherman took the war to the civilian population.
- Union soldiers destroyed private property, burned homes, seized livestock and food from fields, and lived off the land.
- General Joseph Johnston's Confederates fought a series of defensive battles as Sherman's army moved south toward Atlanta.
- The Union had five times the number of casualties at the Battle of Kennesaw Mountain on June 27.
- General John Hood led the Confederates at the Battle of Atlanta, July 20-22. By early September, Sherman moved into Atlanta.
- Lincoln was in danger of losing the 1864 election against Democratic Party **platforms** (principles) that opposed emancipation and sought peace with the South. Sherman's capture of Atlanta helped Lincoln win reelection.



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Sherman's "March to the Sea"

- Sherman was determined to march from Atlanta to the Atlantic Ocean to destroy the state and make Georgia's people understand the horrors of war.
- He hoped his destructive actions would end the war sooner.
- Union soldiers burned crops, destroyed railroads and bridges, and ate food from farmers' fields as they spread out 40 to 60 miles wide.
- Newly freed slaves followed the troops, but many faced **racism** from the Northern soldiers.
- Sherman captured Savannah in late December and left for South Carolina in February, where he destroyed Columbia, its capital.


 More and more Southerners were ready for peace. 14

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Andersonville Prison

- A 16-acre Confederate prison in southwest Georgia, built to house 10,000 men. By August 1864, more than 30,000 men were housed there.
- A small creek ran through the site for water.
- Overcrowding led to contaminated drinking water, garbage, and sewage. Disease swept through the prison.
- Heat, insects, and malnutrition due to food shortages also caused illnesses and death.
- Almost 30 percent of the prisoners sent to Andersonville Prison died there.


 The officer in charge, Captain Henry Wirz, was later executed for war crimes. 15 [Link: Andersonville Prison](#)

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The War's End

- The final action in Georgia led to the Union capture of Columbus and Macon in April 1865. Governor Joseph Brown, Confederate Vice President Alexander Stephens, and General Howell Cobb were arrested by the Union troops.
- In Virginia, Confederate General Robert E. Lee surrendered his army on April 9, 1865. Union General Ulysses Grant allowed Lee's men to leave for home to plant crops.
- All remaining Confederate armies surrendered by May 1865. More than 620,000 Union and Confederate troops died in the war. Many thousands more were wounded.
- Southern reactions to the war's end varied from feelings of defeat and depression to relief.

 For black men and women, the end of the war meant freedom. All Georgians faced an uncertain future. 16

Additional Notes:

