

Civil War

Before the Civil War began, President Lincoln was elected as President of the United States.



Civil War

President Lincoln was against slavery. He also believed in a strong federal government.



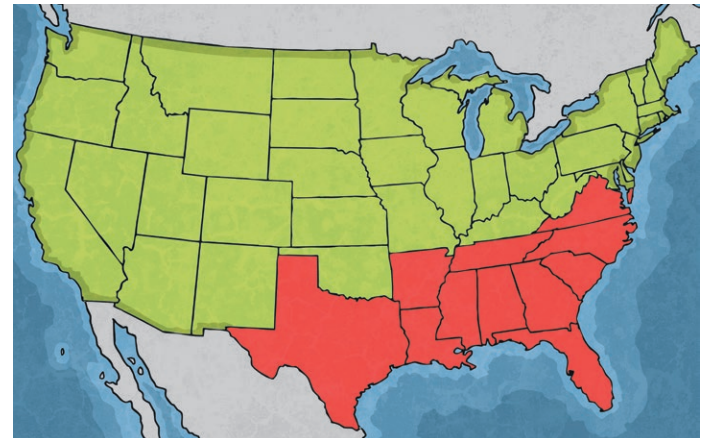
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Many Southern states supported slavery, as they used slaves to work on the large plantations common in the South.



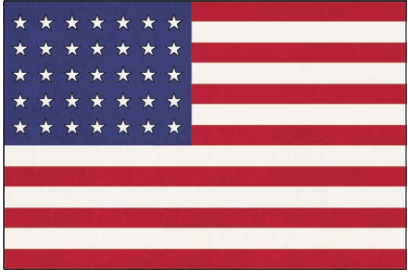
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Many Southerners did not think the federal government should have a lot of power. Rather, they thought the local state governments should have more power.



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After President Lincoln took office, a group of Southern states seceded from the Union to form their own country: The Confederate States.



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On April 12, 1861, Confederate troops attacked Union troops at Fort Sumter in South Carolina and began the Civil War.



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On January 1, 1863, President Lincoln enacted the Emancipation Proclamation which set slaves free.



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On April 9, 1865, after many battles were fought, General Robert E. Lee (of the Confederacy) surrendered to General Ulysses S. Grant (of the Union) and the war ended.



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During the Reconstruction Period, the states that seceded from the Union were readmitted and rebuilt.



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Also, three amendments to the Constitution were passed during the Reconstruction: the thirteenth, fourteenth, and fifteenth amendments. These amendments abolished slavery, guaranteed equal protection under the law to all people, and ensuring the right to vote regardless of race or color.

