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How to Use This Product

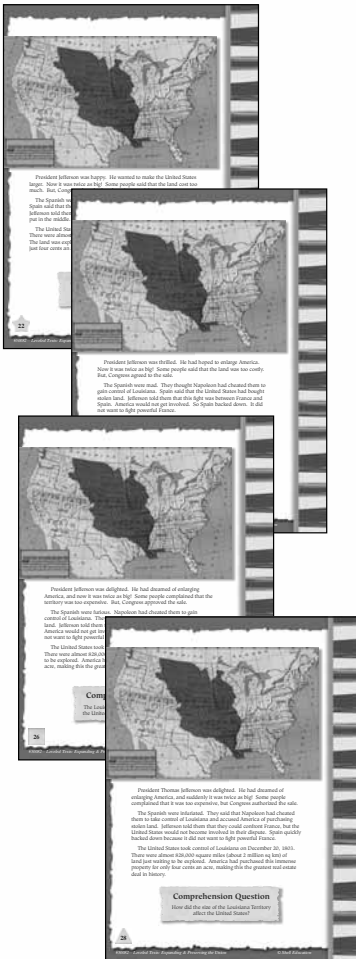
Readability Chart



Title of the Text	Star	Circle	Square	Triangle
The Louisiana Purchase	2.1	3.3	5.1	6.9
The Westward Journey of Lewis & Clark	1.7	3.0	5.0	6.7
Lewis & Clark Return Home	2.0	3.1	5.0	6.6
The War of 1812 Begins	2.2	3.4	5.2	6.9
The War of 1812 Ends	2.0	3.0	5.2	7.0
The Texas Revolution	2.0	3.0	5.2	6.9
The Mexican-American War	1.5	3.2	5.0	6.5
American Indians in the 1800s	1.7	3.0	5.0	6.5
Pioneer Trails	1.7	3.3	5.1	6.6
Indian Wars	1.5	3.0	5.0	6.5
Abolitionists and the Underground Railroad	1.5	3.1	5.0	6.5
Events Leading Up to the Civil War	1.8	3.0	5.1	6.5
The Civil War Begins	1.8	3.3	5.0	6.5
The Civil War Ends	1.7	3.0	5.0	6.5
Civil War Leaders	1.9	3.2	5.0	6.6

How to Use This Product *(cont.)*

Components of the Product



Primary Sources

- Each level of text includes multiple primary sources. These documents, photographs, and illustrations add interest to the texts. The historical images also serve as visual support for second language learners. They make the texts more context rich and bring the texts to life.

Comprehension Questions

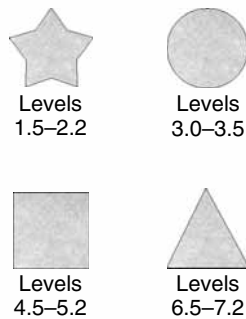
- Each level of text includes one comprehension question. Like the texts, the comprehension questions were leveled by an expert. They are written to allow all students to be successful within a whole-class discussion. The questions for the same topic are closely linked so that the teacher can ask a question on that topic and all students will be able to answer. The lowest-level students might focus on the facts, while the upper-level students can delve deeper into the meanings.
- Teachers may want to base their whole-class question on the square level questions. Those were the starting points for all the other leveled questions.

The Levels

- There are 15 topics in this book. Each topic is leveled to four different reading levels. The images and fonts used for each level within a topic look the same.
- Behind each page number, you'll see a shape. These shapes indicate the reading levels of each piece so that you can make sure students are working with the correct texts. The reading levels fall into the ranges indicated to the left. See the chart on page 18 for specific levels of each text.

Leveling Process

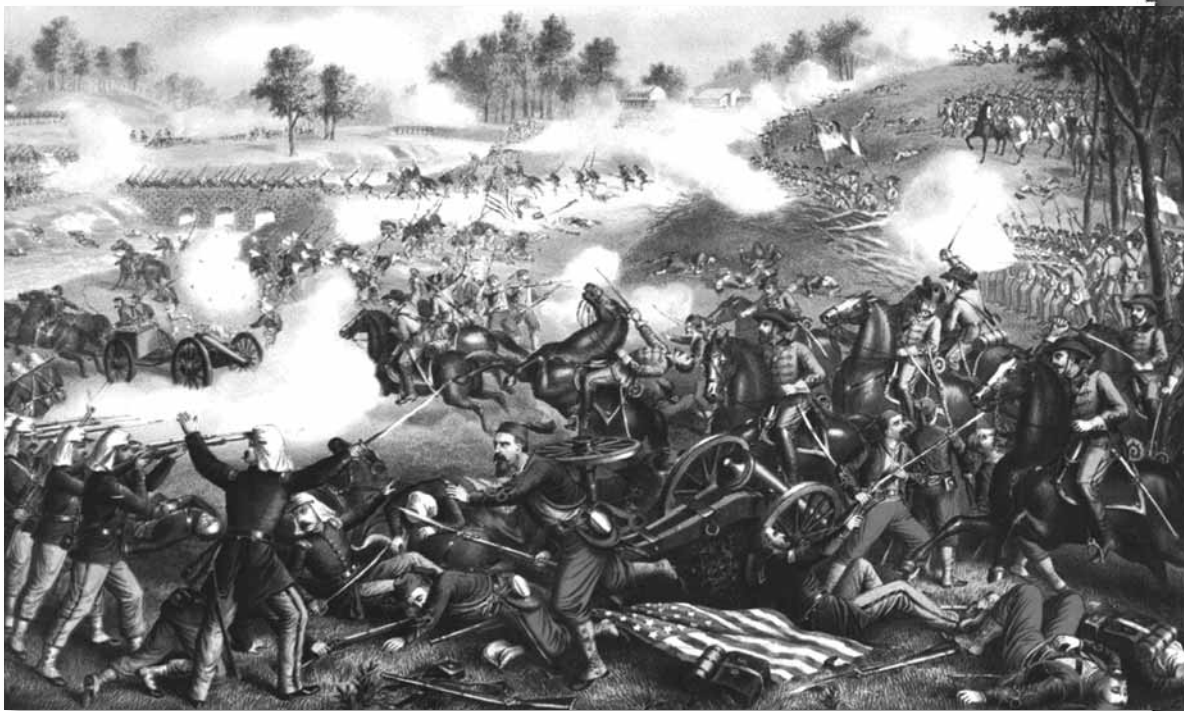
- The texts in this series are taken from the Primary Source Readers kits published by Teacher Created Materials. A reading expert went through the texts and leveled each one to create four distinct reading levels.
- After that, a special education expert and an English language learner expert carefully reviewed the lowest two levels and suggested changes that would help their students comprehend the texts better.
- The texts were then leveled one final time to ensure the editorial changes made during the process kept them within the ranges described to the left.



The Civil War Begins

The Civil War was the worst war in the history of the United States. More Americans died in this war than in any other war. People from the South were called Confederates (kuhn-FED-uhr-uhtz) or rebels. People in the North were from the Union.

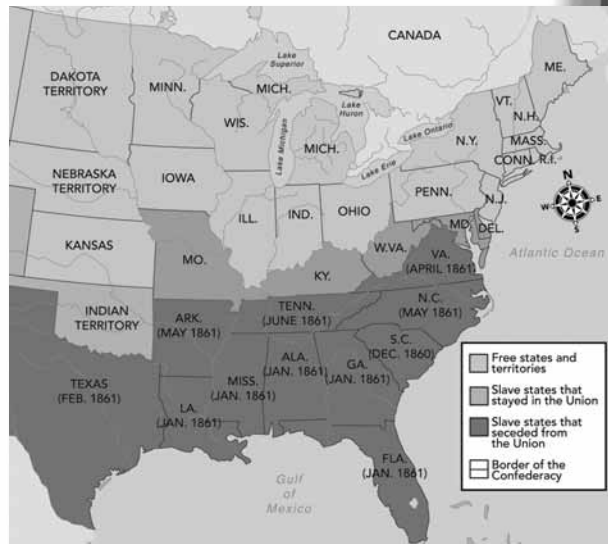
The war lasted four years. It started at Fort Sumter. The fort stood on an island. It was off the coast of South Carolina. South Carolina had seceded (suh-SEED-ed). So, it had left the Union. But, Union troops stayed at the fort. The rebels wanted the Union men to leave. The rebels would not let boats go near the fort. They told Union General Robert Anderson to give up. He was the leader of the fort. He said no. On April 12, 1861, Confederate General Pierre Beauregard (BOH-ruh-gahrd) fired cannons at the fort. It went up in flames. General Anderson and his men left.



Three months later, the war was in Virginia. Union General Irvin McDowell led a big group of men. They were not trained to fight. Still, in July 1861, it looked as if they would win the Battle of Bull Run. But, Confederate General Thomas Jackson's men would not give up. They fought hard. They sent the Union troops running.

The armies met again in Virginia the next summer. Confederate General Robert E. Lee took a big risk. He split up his army. Half of the men went to find General George McClellan. The other half went to fight General John Pope. The two armies met. A big battle began. The rebels pulled back. General Pope thought that they had given up. He was shocked the next day. The Confederate troops attacked. The Union troops fled.

It was late in 1862. The land and people in the Southern states were worn out. So, General Lee chose to take the war to the North. He needed food and supplies. So, Lee marched his men into Maryland. The state had good crops. And, its shops held lots of supplies.



The Union army had to stop General Lee. Then, a Union soldier found a paper. It had Lee's battle plan written on it. Now General McClellan knew what Lee planned to do.

The two armies met in September 1862. It was by a small town on Antietam Creek. At first it looked like the Union troops would win. Instead, General Lee won. But it left his army in bad shape. So he took his troops back to Virginia. They needed time to rest.

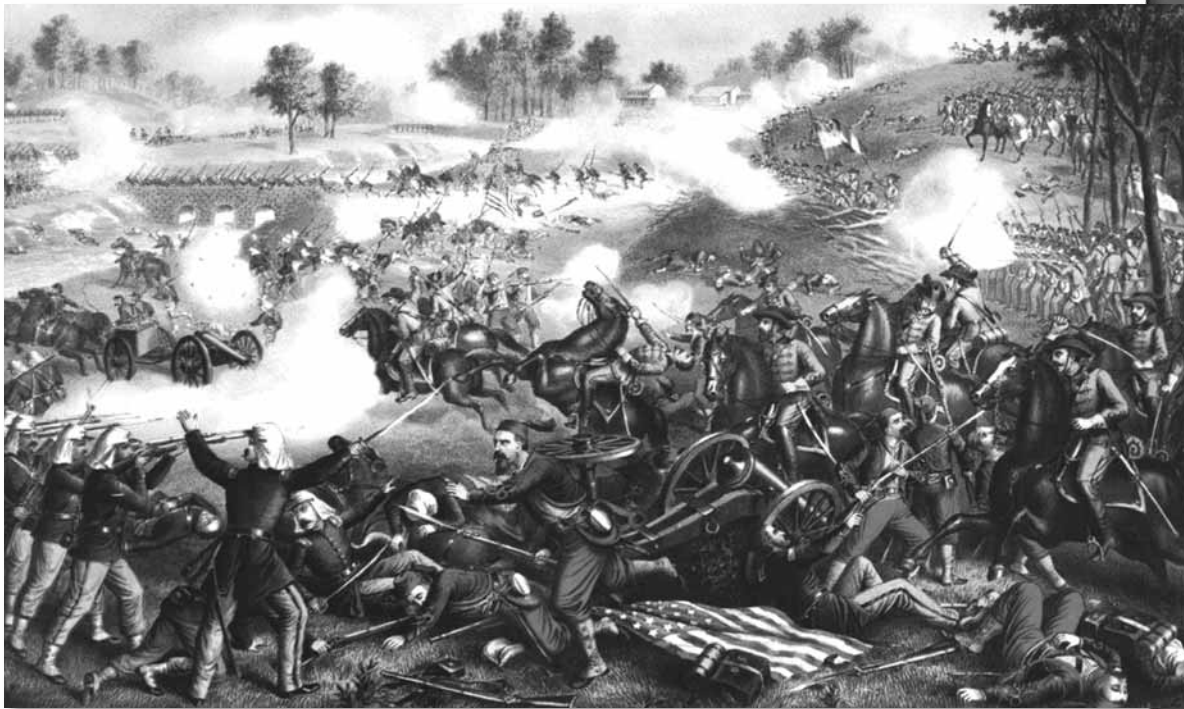
Comprehension Question

Name one reason that General Robert E. Lee took his army north.

The Civil War Begins

The Civil War was the worst war in United States history. More Americans died in this war than in any other war. Southerners were called Confederates (kuhn-FED-uhr-uhtz) or rebels. People in the North were from the Union.

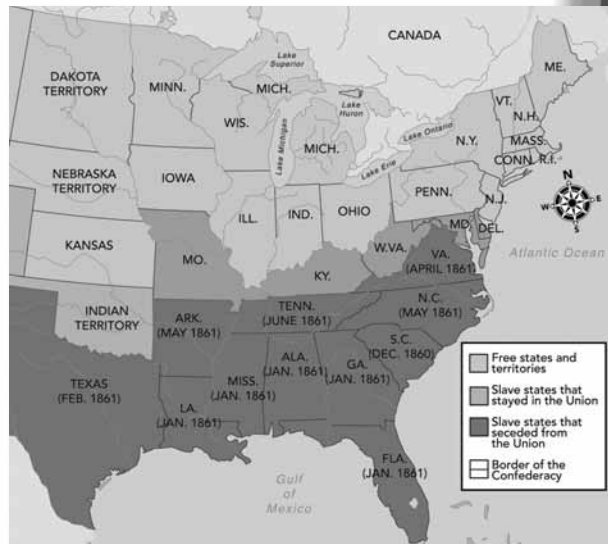
The war lasted four years. It started at Fort Sumter. This fort stood on an island off South Carolina's coast. Although this state had left the Union, Union soldiers stayed in the fort. The Confederates wanted them to leave. The rebels would not let any boats near the fort. They told Union General Robert Anderson to surrender (suh-REN-duhr). He was the leader of the fort. He refused. So, on April 12, 1861, Confederate General Pierre Beauregard (BOH-ruh-gahrd) fired cannons at Fort Sumter. It went up in flames. Then, General Anderson surrendered.



In July 1861, General Irvin McDowell had 34,000 Union soldiers in Virginia. But, they were not trained soldiers. At first, it looked like they would win the Battle of Bull Run. But Confederate General Thomas Jackson's men held their position. They sent the Union soldiers running.

The next summer, Confederate General Robert E. Lee took a big risk. He split up his army. Half went to find General George McClellan. The other half went to fight General John Pope. When those two armies met, a huge battle began. The rebels pulled back. Pope thought that they had retreated. He was shocked the next day. The Confederates attacked. The Union soldiers fled back to Washington, D.C.

By late 1862, the land and people in the Southern states had been worn out by the war. So, General Lee chose to take the war to the North. He needed a lot of food and supplies. He marched his men into Maryland. There, the farms were full of crops and the shops were filled with supplies.



The Union army had to stop General Lee. By chance, a Union soldier found a paper. It may have fallen from a Confederate officer's pocket. It had Lee's battle plan written on it. Now, McClellan knew what Lee planned to do.

The two armies met near a small town on Antietam Creek. It was September 1862. At first it looked like the Union troops would win. Instead, General Lee won. But it left his army in trouble. So, he turned his troops around. He took them back to Virginia to regroup.

Comprehension Question

What made General Robert E. Lee take his army to Maryland?

The Civil War Begins

The Civil War was the most destructive war in United States history. More Americans died in this war than in any other war.

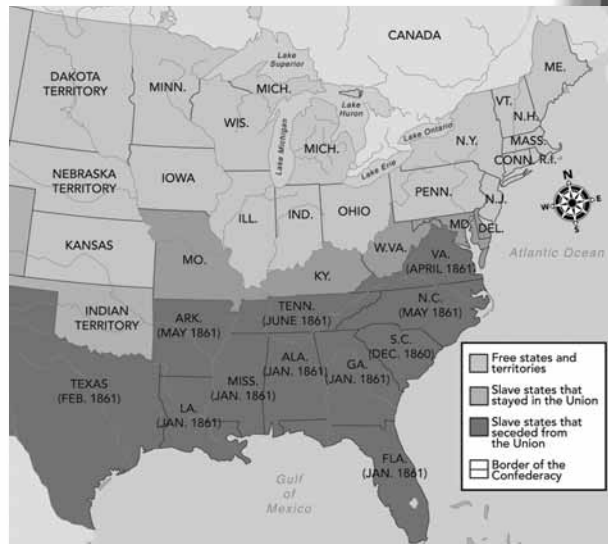
The war lasted four years. It started at Fort Sumter, which stood on an island off South Carolina's coast. Although this state had left the Union, Union soldiers stayed inside the fort. The Confederates (kuhn-FED-uhr-uhzt), or rebels, wanted them to leave. The rebels would not let any boats near the fort. They told Union General Robert Anderson, the leader of the fort, to surrender (suh-REN-duhr). He refused. On April 12, 1861, Confederate General Pierre Beauregard (BOH-ruh-gahrd) fired cannons at Fort Sumter, making it go up in flames. General Anderson surrendered.



By July 1861, General Irvin McDowell had 34,000 Union soldiers in Virginia. Although they were not trained soldiers, they fought well, and it looked like they would win the Battle of Bull Run. However, Confederate General Thomas Jackson's men held their position and sent the Union soldiers running.

The next summer, Confederate General Robert E. Lee took a big risk by splitting up his army. Half went to find General George McClellan, and the other half went to fight General John Pope. When those two armies met, a huge battle began. The rebels pulled back, and Pope thought that they had retreated. He was shocked the next day. The Confederates attacked, and the Union soldiers fled back to Washington, D.C.

By late 1862, the land and people in the southern states had been worn out by the war. Lee decided to take the war to the North. He needed a lot of food and supplies, so he marched his men into Maryland where the crops were plentiful and the shops were filled with supplies.



The Union army had to stop Lee. By chance, a Union soldier found a paper that may have fallen from a Confederate officer's pocket. It had Lee's battle plan written on it. Now, McClellan knew what Lee planned to do. This gave him an advantage.

The two armies clashed near a small town on Antietam Creek in September 1862. At first it looked like the Union troops would win. Instead, Lee won, but it left his army in shambles. So he turned his troops around and took them back to Virginia to regroup.

Comprehension Question

General Robert E. Lee moved his army north.
How did this help the people of Virginia?

The Civil War Begins

The Civil War was the most destructive war in United States history, and more Americans died in this war than in any other.

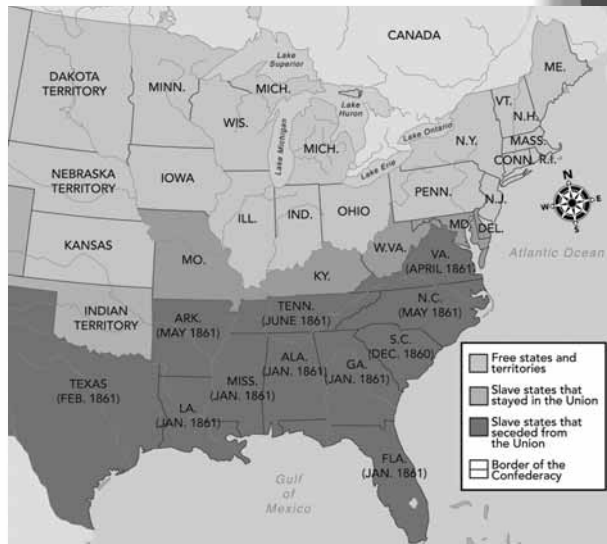
The war lasted four years. It started at Fort Sumter, which stood on an island off South Carolina's coast. Although this state had left the Union, Union soldiers remained inside the fort. The Confederates (kuhn-FED-uhr-uhzt), or rebels, wanted them to depart and would not let any boats near the fort. They advised the fort's leader, General Robert Anderson, to surrender (suh-REN-duhr), but he refused. On April 12, 1861, Confederate General Pierre Beauregard (BOH-ruh-gahrd) fired cannons at Fort Sumter, causing it to go up in flames and Anderson to surrender.



In July 1861, General Irvin McDowell had 34,000 Union soldiers in Virginia. Although they were not trained soldiers, they fought well, and it appeared that they would win the Battle of Bull Run. However, Confederate General Thomas Jackson's men held their position and sent the Union soldiers running.

The next summer, Confederate General Robert E. Lee took an immense risk by separating his army. Half went to find General George McClellan, and the other half went to fight General John Pope. When those two armies came in contact, a huge battle ensued. The rebels withdrew, and Pope thought that they had retreated. He was astonished the next day when the Confederates attacked and made the Union soldiers retreat to Washington, D.C.

By late 1862, the land and people in the Southern states had been exhausted by the war. Lee decided to take the war to the North. He needed a lot of food and supplies, so he marched his soldiers into Maryland where the crops were plentiful and the shops were filled with goods.



The Union army had to stop Lee. By chance, a Union soldier found a paper that may have fallen from a Confederate officer's pocket. It had Lee's battle plan written on it. Now, McClellan knew what Lee intended to do. This gave him an advantage.

The two armies clashed near a small town on Antietam Creek in September 1862. At first it looked like the Union would win. Instead, Lee won, but it left his army in shambles. The Southerners returned to Virginia to regroup.

Comprehension Question

For what reasons do you think that so many battles took place in Virginia?

How to Use This Product

Readability Chart



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