THE CIVIL WAR
1861-1865
the major events and the roles of key leaders
Keep these questions in mind as you view this presentation:

- What were the major military and political events of the Civil War?
- Who were the key leaders of the Civil War?
- Why did Southern states secede?
- Did any state have a right to leave the Union?
- Was Lincoln right to use military force to keep the Union intact?
The secession of southern states triggered a long and costly war that concluded with Northern victory, a restoration of the Union, and emancipation of the slaves.
The Civil War put constitutional government to its most important test as the debate over the power of the federal government versus states’ rights reached a climax. The survival of the United States as one nation was at risk, and the nation's ability to bring to reality the ideals of liberty, equality, and justice depended on the outcome of the war.
MAJOR EVENTS
ELECTION OF LINCOLN (1860),

- Triggered the secession of South Carolina, followed by other Southern States (deep South)
- The South feared abolition of slavery
**FT. SUMTER: OPENING CONFRONTATION OF THE CIVIL WAR**

- April 12, 1861
- South attempted to take the fort
- Sparked secession of VA and upper South
McClellan attacked Lee, September 1862
Bloodiest day of battle in American History
Prompted Lincoln to consider the Emancipation Proclamation
GETTYSBURG: TURNING POINT OF THE CIVIL WAR

◆ July of 1863
◆ Lee attacked North to relieve pressure on Richmond
◆ Several fatal mistakes were made by South
◆ Ended any hope of Southern advance
◆ This is turning point of the war
Appomattox:

- Site of Lee’s surrender to Grant on April 9, 1865
- This formally ends the war
- Generous terms were offered by Lincoln and Grant

- “With malice toward none...”
Key leaders and their roles
Abraham Lincoln

- President of the United States during the Civil War,
- Insisted that the Union be held together, by force if necessary.
- Issued the Emancipation Proclamation
- The U.S. was not a collection of states but an indivisible nation!
JEFFERSON DAVIS

- U.S. Senator before the war
- Selected to be the President of the Confederacy in 1860
Ulysses S. Grant:

- Union commander who took over late in war
- Won victories over the South after several Union commanders had failed
- Gained early success in West
- Eventually defeated Robert E. Lee
Robert E. Lee:

- Confederate General of the Army of Northern VA
- Opposed secession as well as force to keep Union together
- Sided with South after Ft. Sumter
- Urged reunification after the war
Frederick Douglass

- Former slave who became prominent abolitionist
- Urged Lincoln to recruit former slaves to fight in Union Army