Essential Understanding: Life on the battlefield and on the homefront was extremely harsh. Many died from disease and exposure.

- Effects of the Civil War | SOL USI. 9f

**General effects of the war:**

- Families and friends were often pitted against one another.
- Southern troops became increasingly younger and more poorly equipped.
- Much of the South was devastated at the end of the war.
- Disease was a major killer.
- Clara Barton, a Civil War nurse, created the American Red Cross.
- Combat was brutal and often man-to-man.
- Women were left to run businesses in the North and farms and plantations in the South.
- The collapse of the Confederacy made Confederate money worthless.

**Effects of the war on African Americans**

- African Americans fought in both the Confederate and Union armies.
- The Confederacy often used enslaved African Americans as naval crew members and soldiers.
- The Union moved to enlist African American sailors early in the war.
- African American soldiers were paid less than white soldiers.
- African American soldiers were discriminated against and served in segregated units under the command of white officers.
- Robert Smalls, a sailor and later a Union naval captain, was highly honored for his feats of bravery and heroism. He became a congressman after the Civil War.