

A-Level History
Transition work 2021-22
Section 2: The American Civil War



Key Information:

- History is a challenging and rigorous A Level that is respected by employers and universities alike. Our students do well in the subject with many deciding to study it further at degree level.
- This transition work will help you to make an excellent start to your American Civil War studies in September.
- The Civil War was fought between 1861 and 1865 and resulted in the deaths of over 600,000 soldiers. It pitted Northern and Southern states against each other after decades of rising tension over issues such as slavery, westward expansion, and states' rights. In Year 12 you will study the causes of the Civil War, and in Year 13 the War itself and the tense period after called Reconstruction.
- Complete each activity to an excellent standard, and contact either Mrs Black, Mr Bond or Miss Cole if you have any questions.
- Your A-Level History 'journey' starts here – Remember, you are in control of whether you are successful or not – Good luck!

History Department

Name:

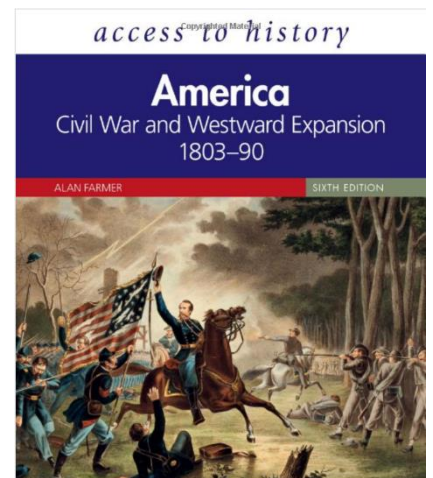
Transition Activities:

Instructions: Complete each of the three 'Transition Activities' below. Submit your completed work via the 'Teams Page – Civil War Transition Work'

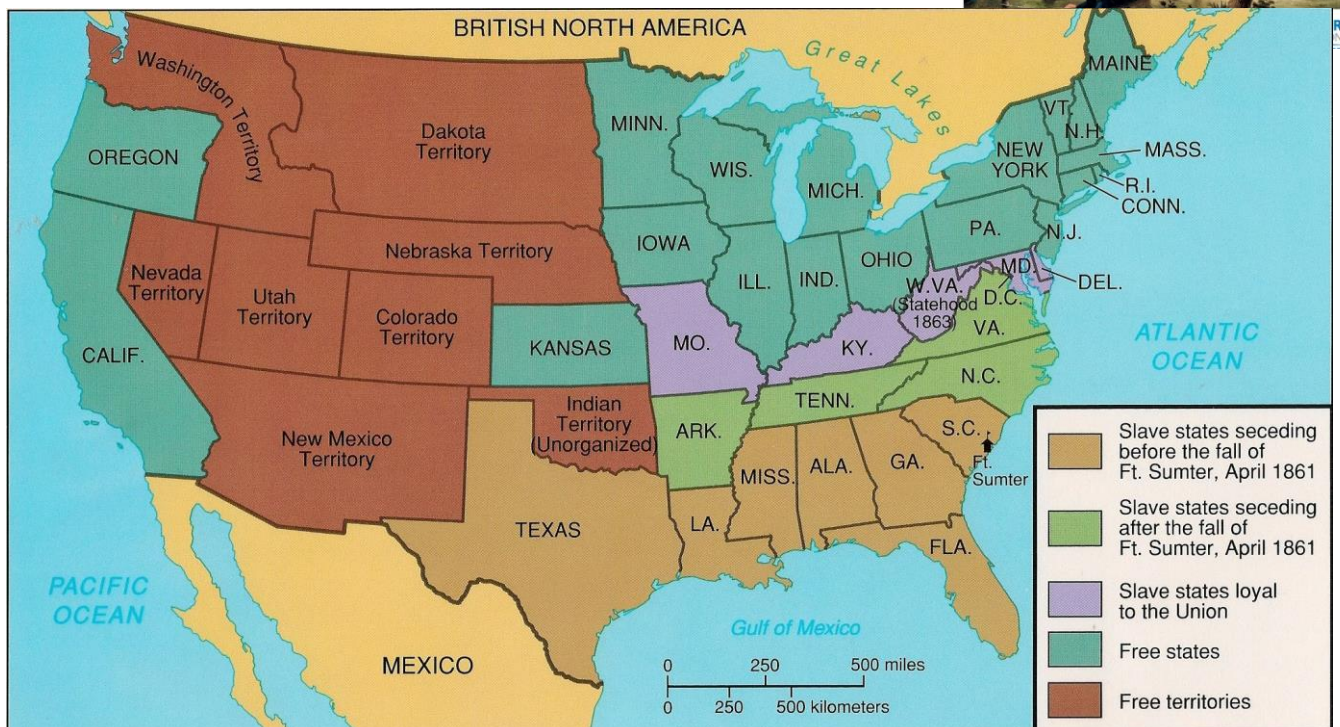
1. Key Terminology
2. 12 Years a Slave - Film
3. Battle Cry of Freedom, James McPherson – Article

Further Information

Textbook: We use this textbook throughout our two-year studies of the Civil War. You can purchase it from Amazon:



America, 1860: Start 'learning' your pre-Civil War geography of America...!



Activity One: Key Terminology

Instructions: Use the internet and/or your textbook to define each of the following key-terms.

1. Antebellum
2. Plantation
3. Abolitionist
4. The Frontier
5. Tariffs
6. Federal Government
7. Supreme Court
8. Compromise
9. Fugitive Slave
10. Constitution
11. Confederate States
12. Secession
13. Inaugural Address
14. Emancipation
15. Amendment

Activity two: 12 Years a Slave

Instructions: Watch the film (or read the book) '12 Years a Slave'. Write a maximum 500 word evaluation of the film or book, using the following prompt questions to support you.

1. How, when and why was Solomon Northup captured?
2. What do we learn from this biography about:
 - a. Slave sales
 - b. Punishments for slaves
 - c. Run-away slaves
 - d. Working life on a cotton plantation
3. How different are Northup's owners to each other?
4. How does Northup eventually escape slavery?
5. Why didn't this story become famous until very recently?
6. How useful is this film which is based on a biography as evidence about slavery in America in the 1840s? Put forward arguments for and against.



Activity three: Battle Cry of Freedom, James McPherson

Instructions: James McPherson is a wonderful historian of the Civil War. He has written a brilliant book which covers most of our course, called Battle Cry of Freedom. We all thoroughly recommend this book, so have a look and see if you can get a cheap copy from Amazon! It might seem a bit daunting at this stage, but it is perfect for during the course, as you can read along with the topics as well go through them in lessons.

To get you started, we would like you to read this article by McPherson. It may seem a bit tough in places but take your time and read in small chunks. There are some questions here for you to answer as you go through. Sorry that a few of the lines are cut off!

1. What were the dates of the American Civil War?
2. What does the word 'seceded' mean? It doesn't define it in the article, so you will need to look it up!
3. On page 83 and 84, McPherson explains why he thinks the war happened. What does he think caused it?
4. How many states seceded from the United States and formed the Confederate States of America?
5. What major advantage did the Union (the United States of America) have over the Confederates? (p.85)
6. How many black soldiers and sailors fought in the Union army? Why did they fight for the Union, and not for the Confederates?
7. At first, Lincoln did not want to accept black soldiers in to the Union army. Why not?
8. What did the Confederate soldiers believe they were fighting for? (p.86)
9. When men were conscripted (forced to fight) in to the Confederate army, this created a problem on plantations. What was the problem? How did the Confederate Congress try to deal with this problem?

10. What did the Union soldiers (fighting on the side of the United States of America) say that they were fighting for? (p.87)
11. Abolitionists were people who wanted to abolish (get rid of) slavery. Why were they critical of Abraham Lincoln?
12. What did the Fourteenth and Fifteenth Amendments do? (you will need to research this)
13. On p.88, McPherson summarises what he thinks the war was about. What does he say?