

the civil war begins answer key

The Civil War begins answer key is a phrase that encompasses the crucial events, motivations, and outcomes surrounding the onset of the American Civil War. This conflict, which lasted from 1861 to 1865, was predominantly fought over issues such as slavery, states' rights, and economic differences between the North and South. Understanding the factors that led to the war's initiation is essential for grasping the broader historical context and implications of this pivotal era in American history.

Background Leading to the Civil War

The American Civil War did not occur in a vacuum; rather, it was the culmination of decades of growing tensions between the Northern and Southern states. The following points outline the key factors contributing to the outbreak of hostilities:

- **Slavery:** Central to the conflict was the issue of slavery, particularly its expansion into newly acquired territories after the Mexican-American War.
- **States' Rights:** Southern states championed the idea of states' rights, believing they had the authority to govern themselves and make decisions regarding slavery without federal interference.
- **Economic Differences:** The industrialized North and the agrarian South had developed distinct economic systems, leading to conflicting interests in trade and tariffs.
- **Political Divisions:** The emergence of the Republican Party in the 1850s, which opposed the spread of slavery, intensified political divisions. Abraham Lincoln's election in 1860 was seen as a direct threat to the Southern way of life.
- **Secession:** Following Lincoln's election, several Southern states chose to secede from the Union, leading to the formation of the Confederate States of America.

Key Events Leading to the Outbreak of War

The road to the Civil War was marked by a series of significant events that heightened tensions and set the stage for conflict. Some of these pivotal moments include:

1. The Missouri Compromise (1820)

The Missouri Compromise was an early attempt to address the issue of slavery in new territories. It allowed Missouri to enter as a slave state and Maine as a free state, maintaining the balance between

free and slave states. However, it also drew a line (36°30' parallel) to delineate future free and slave territories, which ultimately created further divisions.

2. The Compromise of 1850

This series of legislative measures aimed to address the territorial disputes arising from the Mexican-American War. It admitted California as a free state and included a stricter Fugitive Slave Act, which angered many in the North and fueled abolitionist sentiments.

3. The Kansas-Nebraska Act (1854)

This act allowed residents of Kansas and Nebraska to decide for themselves whether to allow slavery, effectively repealing the Missouri Compromise. The ensuing violence between pro-slavery and anti-slavery settlers in Kansas, known as "Bleeding Kansas," underscored the deepening divide.

4. The Dred Scott Decision (1857)

In this landmark Supreme Court case, the Court ruled that African Americans could not be considered citizens and that Congress lacked the authority to prohibit slavery in the territories. This decision further inflamed tensions and galvanized the abolitionist movement.

5. The John Brown Raid (1859)

John Brown's raid on Harpers Ferry was an attempt to initiate an armed slave revolt. Although it ultimately failed, it instilled fear in the South and was perceived as evidence of Northern aggression against the institution of slavery.

The Election of 1860 and Its Aftermath

The election of 1860 was a decisive moment in American history, as it resulted in the election of Abraham Lincoln, a candidate from the anti-slavery Republican Party. His victory was met with outrage in the South, leading to the following developments:

1. Secession of Southern States

In response to Lincoln's election, seven Southern states seceded from the Union, starting with South Carolina in December 1860. By February 1861, these states formed the Confederate States of America, with Jefferson Davis as their president.

2. Fort Sumter

The first military conflict of the Civil War occurred at Fort Sumter in Charleston, South Carolina. On April 12, 1861, Confederate forces opened fire on the fort, which was held by Union troops. The fort's surrender on April 13 marked the official beginning of the Civil War.

Immediate Consequences of the War's Outbreak

The initiation of the Civil War led to a series of immediate consequences that would shape American society and its future trajectory:

- **Mobilization for War:** Both the North and the South began mobilizing their resources, calling for volunteers to join the military.
- **Formation of Military Strategies:** The Union and Confederacy developed their military strategies, with the North focusing on a blockading strategy to choke off Southern supplies.
- **International Implications:** The war drew international attention, especially from European nations, which had vested interests in the outcome of the conflict.
- **Emergence of Civil Rights Issues:** The war would eventually lead to significant changes in civil rights, particularly regarding the status of enslaved individuals.

Conclusion: The Civil War's Legacy

Understanding the phrase the Civil War begins answer key is critical for grasping the complexities of American history. The war was not merely a struggle over territory or political power; it involved profound moral questions regarding human rights and the future of a nation. The Civil War ultimately resulted in the preservation of the Union and paved the way for significant social and political changes, including the abolition of slavery through the 13th Amendment.

The events leading up to the Civil War and its subsequent battles have left an indelible mark on American history. The lessons learned from this turbulent period continue to resonate today, reminding us of the importance of dialogue, understanding, and the ongoing fight for equality and justice.

Frequently Asked Questions

What event is commonly regarded as the start of the Civil

War?

The Civil War is commonly regarded as having begun with the attack on Fort Sumter on April 12, 1861.

Which states were the first to secede from the Union?

The first seven states to secede from the Union were South Carolina, Mississippi, Florida, Alabama, Georgia, Louisiana, and Texas.

What was the main cause of the Civil War?

The main cause of the Civil War was the contentious issue of slavery, particularly its expansion into new territories and states.

Who was the president of the Confederate States during the Civil War?

Jefferson Davis served as the president of the Confederate States during the Civil War.

What role did the abolitionist movement play in the start of the Civil War?

The abolitionist movement heightened tensions around the issue of slavery, contributing to the divide between the North and South that led to the Civil War.

What was the significance of the Dred Scott decision in relation to the Civil War?

The Dred Scott decision in 1857 ruled that African Americans could not be citizens and that Congress had no authority to prohibit slavery in federal territories, further inflaming sectional tensions.

How did the election of Abraham Lincoln in 1860 influence the start of the Civil War?

Abraham Lincoln's election in 1860, as a candidate opposed to the expansion of slavery, prompted several Southern states to secede from the Union, leading to the Civil War.

What was the impact of the Battle of Fort Sumter on the Civil War?

The Battle of Fort Sumter galvanized both the North and South, leading to a rapid mobilization of troops and establishing the war's initial hostilities.

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