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The Civil War

America at War book series

Americans fighting Americans
Americans fought each other in the Civil War between the years of 1861 and 1865. The war was fought to end the crime of slavery. The Civil War cost the country thousands of soldiers' and civilian lives.
Before the war started, the Southern States had giant farms called plantations where they grew cotton.
The plantation farmers used slavery as a way to force people into picking cotton. The plantation farmers became very rich.
Many people in the North worked in factories and most were against slavery. Many people moved...
West to live in the new states that were being formed. The South said that each new state should decide for themselves if they want to use slaves. Most of the Northern States disagreed with this idea.
A new political party was formed in the North called the Republican Party. They voted against slavery.

Abraham Lincoln became our president. He told the South they could not have slaves. The south warned the North that they would not put up with Lincoln being President. They kept their slaves.
The South seceded, which means to break away. They said that the South was no longer a part of the United States. They became the Confederate States of America. They chose a man named Jefferson Davis as their president. The South declared war in 1861.
The first attack of war was made by the South. They attacked Fort Sumpter in South Carolina starting the Civil War.
The Southern States called themselves the Confederates.

The Northern States were called the Union.

Most people from the North and South thought that the war would end quickly.

Instead, the Northern Army was poorly trained and lost several battles to the South.
Southern forces led by General Lee won several battles and were ready to try attacking the Union in the North.
The Union Army got lucky and found out the Confederates had a plan to attack Washington DC.
The Union Army pushed back the Confederates at the second battle of Bull Run and the battle of Antietam. The Confederates were able to escape, it was still a victory for the Union Army.
Lincoln then declared all slaves be freed in the Emancipation Proclamation speech.
The turning point of the war happened at the Pennsylvania town of Gettysburg near the Union Capitol.

The plan was to defeat the Union Army and march to the White House in Washington DC.
At the battle of Gettysburg, General Lee tried to break the Union line. He could not do it. The Confederates would never again attack the Union in the northern states. All future battles would now be fought in the South. Fifty Thousand men died during the battle of Gettysburg.
President Lincoln then read a speech known as the Gettysburg Address.
General Ulysses Grant moved the Union Army South and took Virginia. Ulysses Grant kept the Confederates from getting supplies. The Union Navy cut off supplies from the sea.
The Confederates were forced to surrender at the Appomattox Court House in Virginia. This marked the end of the Civil War.
Many freed slaves moved North to where they could start a new life.

Slavery was finished in our country.
The End