Test Date_____

Civil War Facts to Know

Many Africans were kidnapped from their homes and brought to the United States. They were sold to farmers who owned large farms called plantations. They were owned by the farmer and called slaves.

The people in the southern states needed slaves to work on their tobacco and cotton plantations.

The people in the northern states thought slavery was wrong. They wanted to free the slaves.

The southern states decided to leave the United States and become a new, independent country. They decided to secede, or separate, from the United States.

The northern and southern states could not agree on slavery. The arguing continued until it erupted into fighting. The Civil War started in 1861 and lasted until 1865.

The Underground Railroad was a secret way for slaves to escape to the north. Harriet Tubman was a conductor on the Underground Railroad. She helped slaves run away from their masters.

Ulysses S. Grant was an important leader of the Northern Army. Robert E. Lee was an important leader of the Southern Army.

Clara Barton was a nurse who helped the soldiers on the battlefields. After the war she founded the American Red Cross, an organization that helps people in need.

Abraham Lincoln was President of the United States during the Civil War. He signed the Emancipation Proclamation, a document that told people the slaves were to be set free.

When the war ended, the North won. The United States was united again.

Vocabulary

- Union- the Northern states that remained in the United States
- Confederacy- the Southern states that wanted to leave the Union

Emancipation Proclamation- the document signed by Abraham Lincoln that freed the slaves

secede- to withdraw from a group

slavery- a system based on ownership of other people

Underground Railroad- a network of people who helped slaves escape to the North or to Canada