

Lesson 4: The First Shots Are Fired

Vocabulary

secede to break away

Confederacy states that broke away from the United States to form their own government

Union states that remained loyal to the United States government

border state a state that allowed slavery and was unsure of whether to stay in the Union; border states were located between the Union and the Confederacy

civil war a war between people of the same country

Southern States Secede

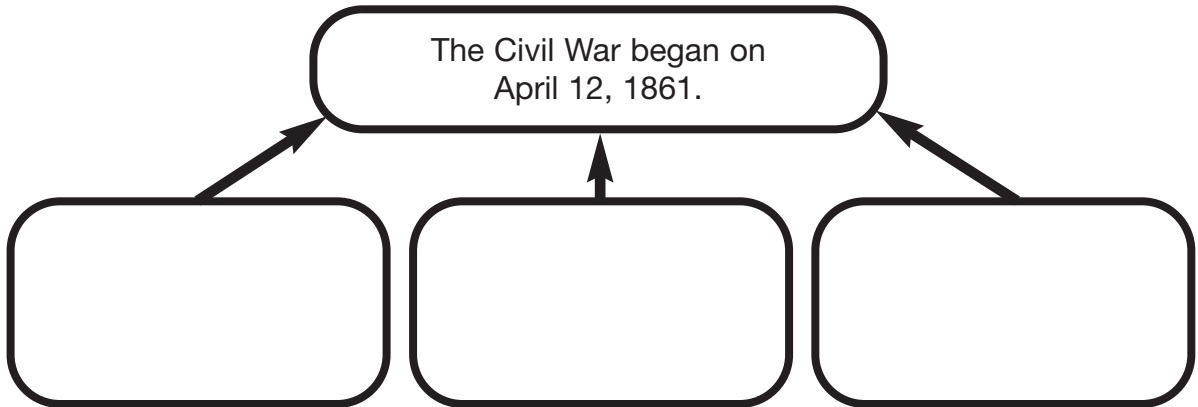
By February 1, 1861, seven Southern states had **seceded**, or broken away, from the United States. They formed their own government. It was called the **Confederacy**. The Confederate constitution supported slavery and states' rights. Jefferson Davis was elected President of the Confederacy. Abraham Lincoln was inaugurated as President of the United States on March 4, 1861. By this time the Confederacy controlled most of the United States forts in the South. States that stayed loyal to the United States government were called the **Union**.

The War Begins

Fort Sumter in South Carolina was one of the forts that the Union still controlled in the South. Jefferson Davis sent Confederate soldiers to make Fort Sumter surrender. The Confederates attacked and took over the fort in 1861. The battle at Fort Sumter began the American Civil War. A **civil war** is a war between people of the same country. President Lincoln asked Union states to supply troops to fight against the Confederacy. He believed the fight would not last long. Lincoln's call for soldiers angered some states. Four more states joined the Confederacy. There were 11 Confederate states and 23 Union states. Four Union states—Delaware, Maryland, Missouri, and Kentucky—were **border states**. These border states allowed slavery. They were unsure of whether to stay in the Union. Lincoln wanted to keep these states in the Union, even though they allowed slavery. He told the country that his main goal was to keep the United States together, not to end slavery. Other supporters of the North wanted to fight to end slavery. Southerners fought for states' rights and to keep slavery legal.

Lesson 4: Review

1.  **Main Idea and Details** Complete the graphic organizer to show the details that support the main idea.



2. Describe two key goals of the Confederate constitution.

3. Identify the event that started the Civil War.

4. Describe Abraham Lincoln's main reason for fighting the Civil War.

5. **Critical Thinking: Express Ideas** Why do you think that at the beginning of the Civil War Lincoln did not say that he was fighting the war to end slavery?
