

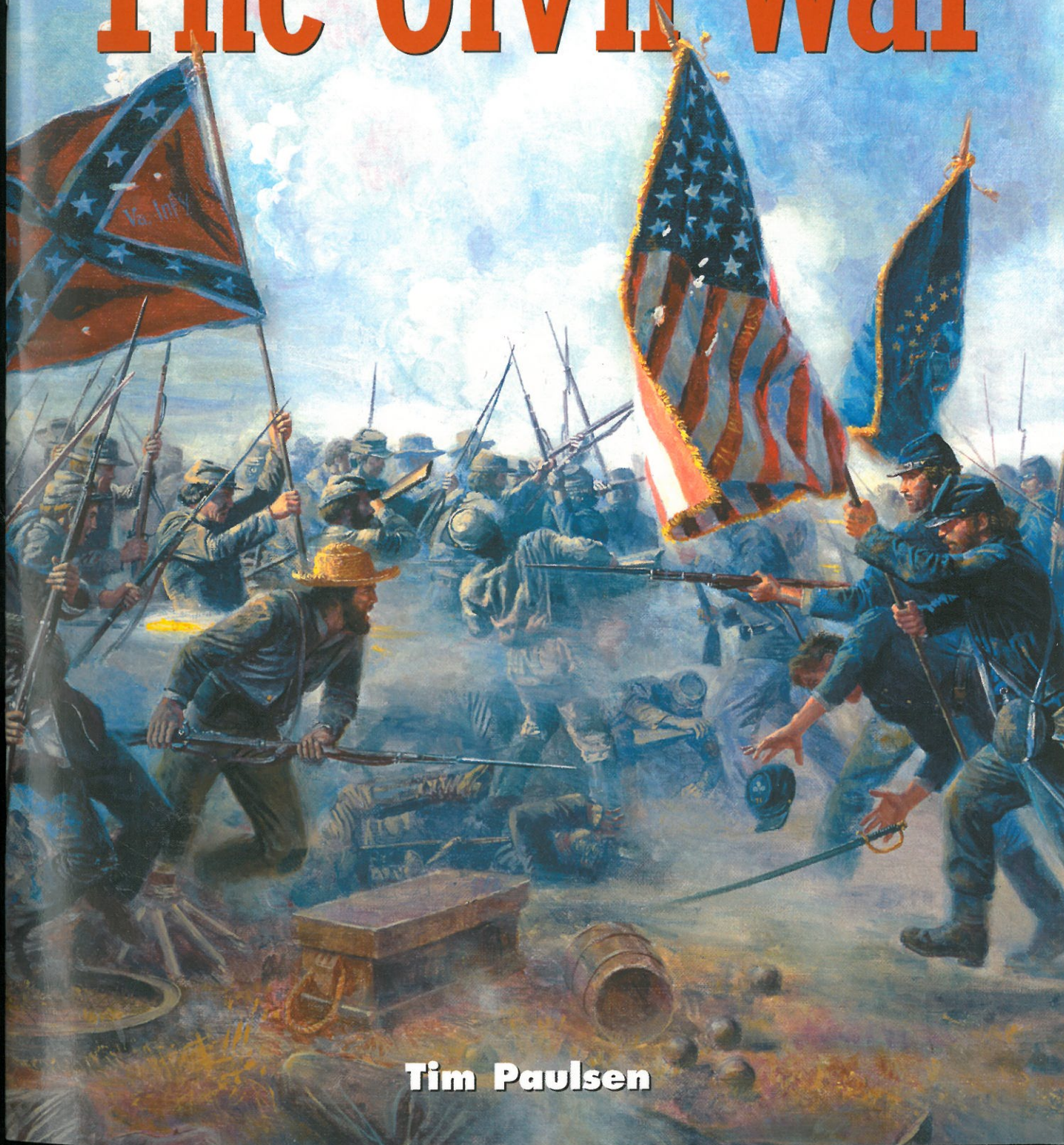
Language, Literacy & Vocabulary!

U.S. History & Life

NATIONAL  
GEOGRAPHIC

READING EXPEDITIONS®

# The Civil War



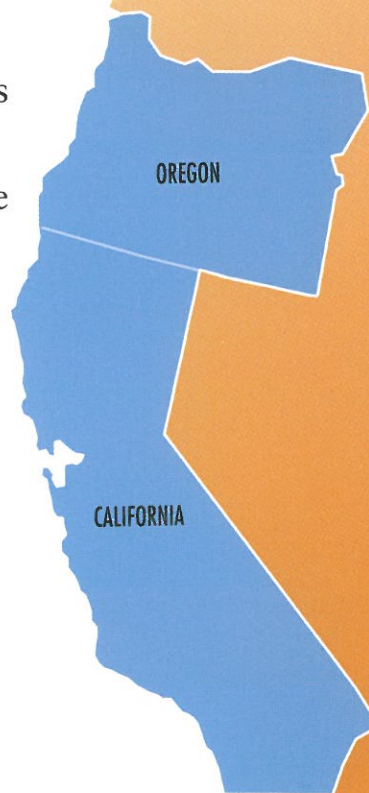
Tim Paulsen

# What Is a

People have fought wars throughout history. Some wars are fought between countries. Some wars are between people of the same country. These wars are called **civil wars**.

In the mid 1800s, a terrible civil war was fought in the United States. Eleven states in the South broke away from the rest of the country. They wanted to create a new country. The states in the North fought the states in the South for four long years.

.....  
**civil war** – a conflict in which two groups in the same country fight for control of that country



# Civil War?



1

## Understand the **Big Idea**

### Big Idea

From 1861 to 1865,  
a war divided the  
United States.

### Set Purpose

Find out about the  
events that led to  
the Civil War.

# THE A



▲ Many people died in the Civil War.



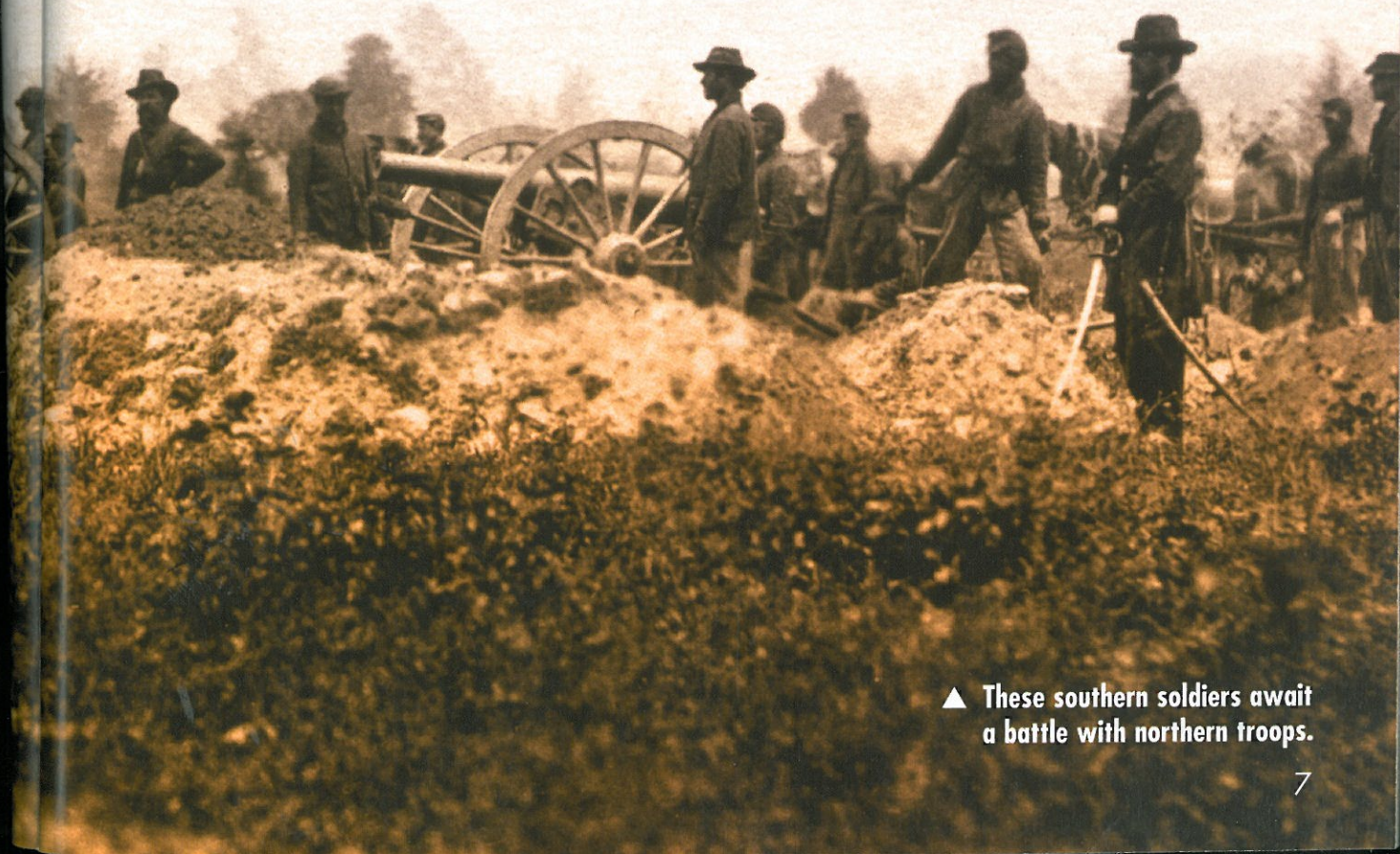
### Questions You Will Explore

**What** caused the Civil War?

**How** did the Civil War divide  
the United States?

# AMERICAN Civil War

The Civil War was fought by Americans on American soil. Men of all ages fought. Grandfathers fought. Teenage boys fought. About 620,000 people lost their lives in the Civil War.



▲ These southern soldiers await a battle with northern troops.

## Southern Farms

In the 1800s, a lot of people in the North and South had different ideas. For example, many people had different ideas about **slavery**. Slavery is when one person owns another and forces him or her to work.

Most whites in the South believed slavery was right. They kept slaves to work for them on their farms. They thought it would be hard to run their farms without slaves.

.....  
**slavery** – when one person owns another person

▼ Slaves worked in the cotton fields around the time of the Civil War.



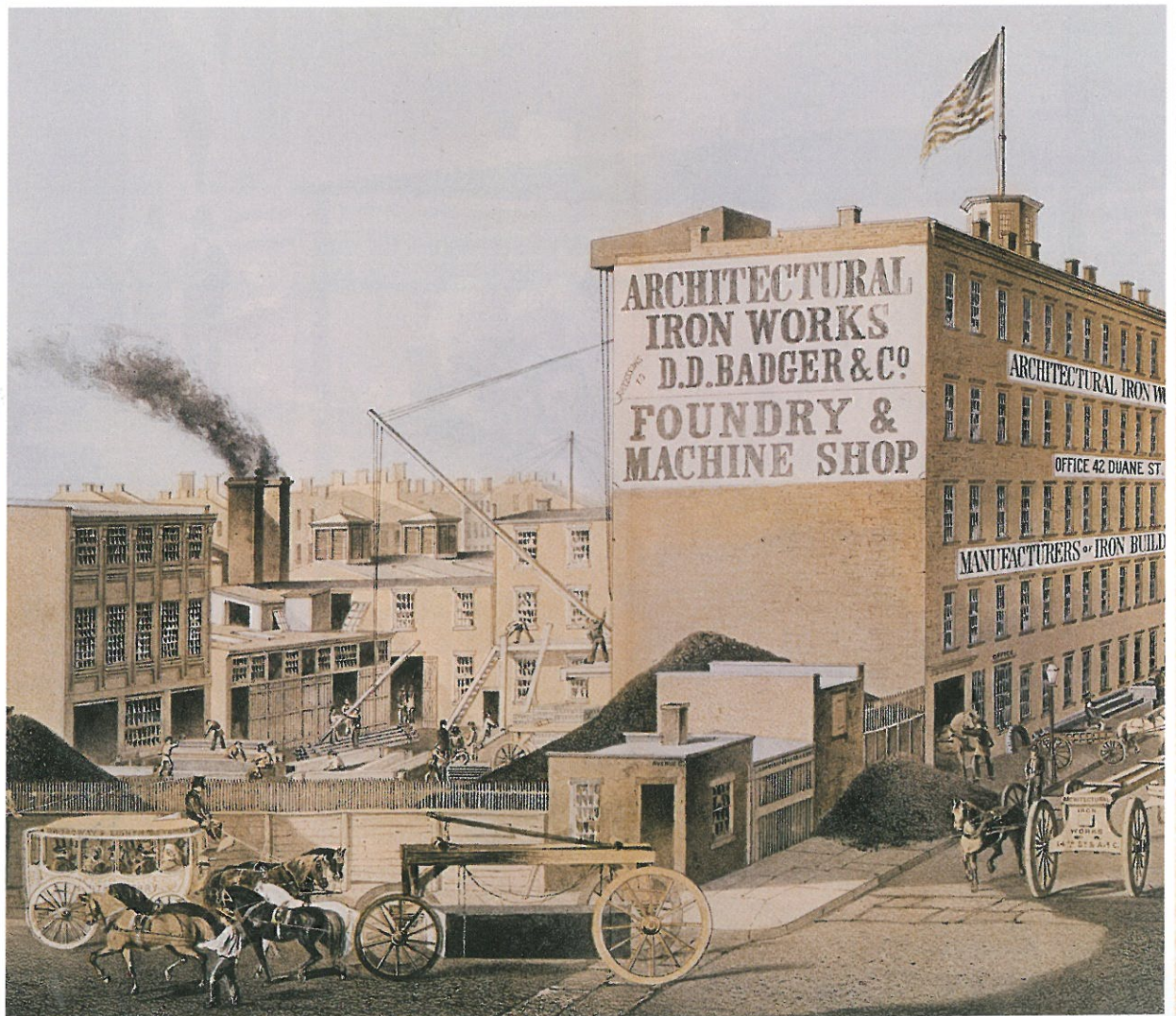
## Northern Factories

There were more factories in the North than in the South. People worked in the factories for pay. Many people in the North felt that slavery was wrong. Slavery was against the law in most of the North.

People in both the North and the South had strong **opinions** about slavery. After many years, these differences led to war.

.....  
**opinion** – a belief or point of view

▼ People in the North built many factories like these.



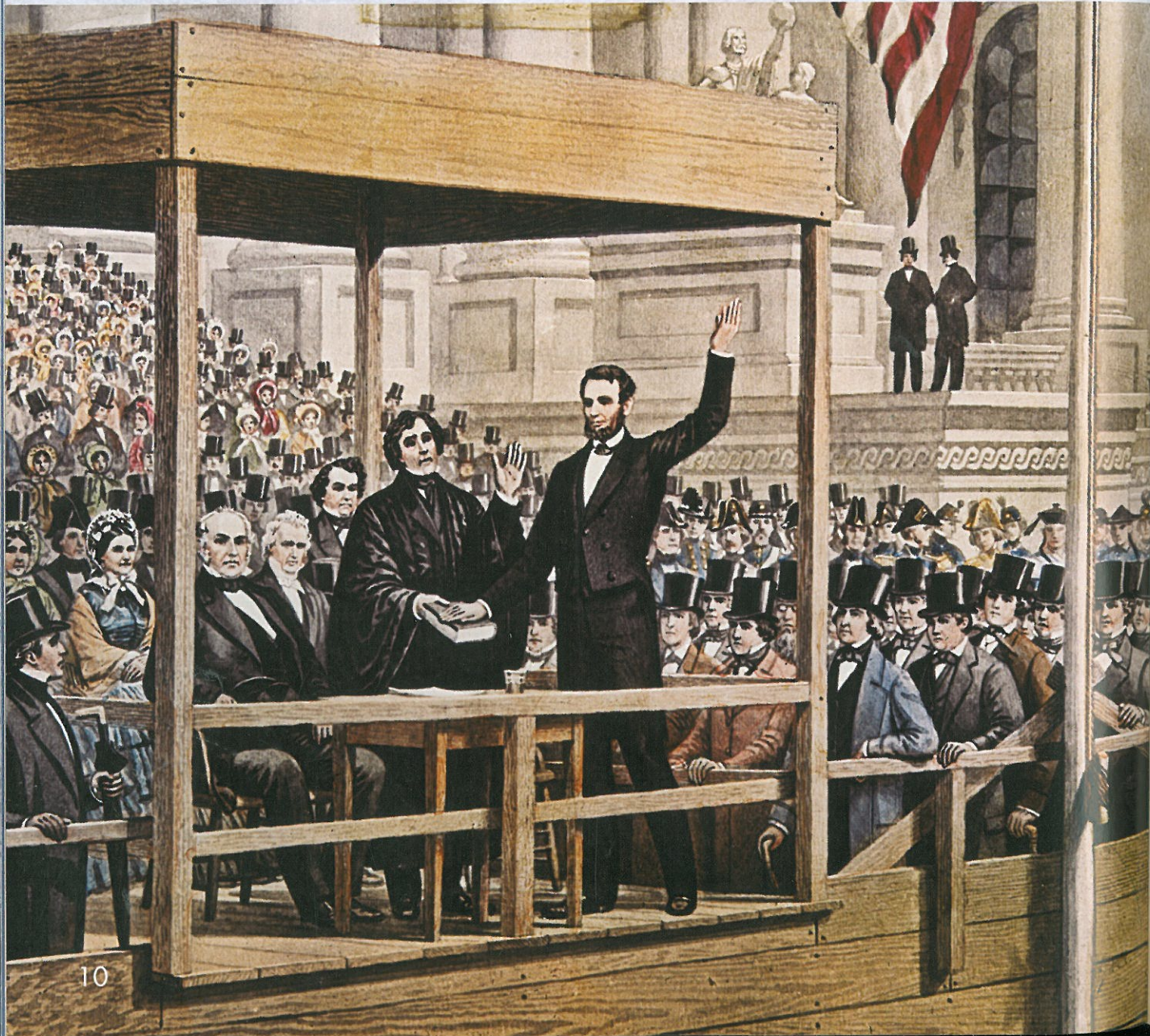
## A New President

Abraham Lincoln was elected President in 1860. Lincoln did not support slavery. People in the North were happy Lincoln was elected.

In the South, however, many people were not happy. Some Southerners feared that Lincoln planned to end slavery. They decided to secede, or break away, from the United States. They wanted to form a separate country.

.....  
secede – to break away from

▼ Abraham Lincoln became President of the United States in 1861.





## A Country Divides in Two

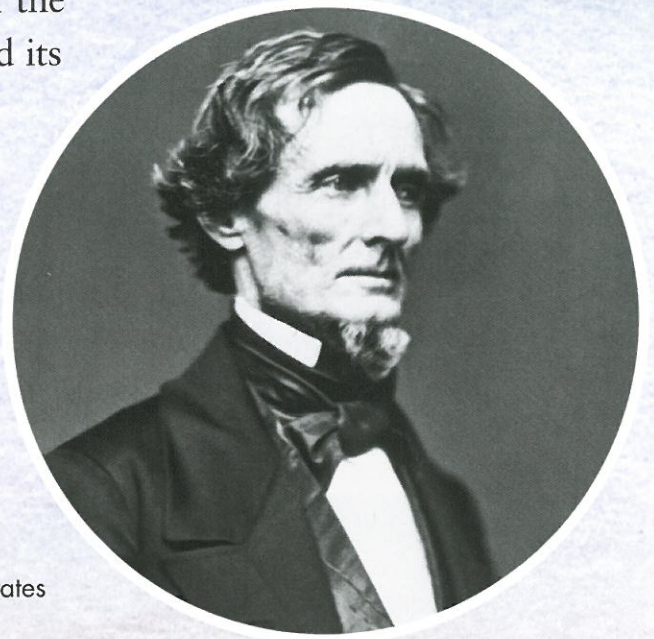
In all, eleven states seceded. These southern states started a new country. They called it the Confederate States of America, or the Confederacy. The Confederacy elected its own President. His name was Jefferson Davis.

The states that remained were still the United States of America. They were called the Union. Abraham Lincoln was its President.

**Confederacy** – the states that seceded from the United States during the Civil War

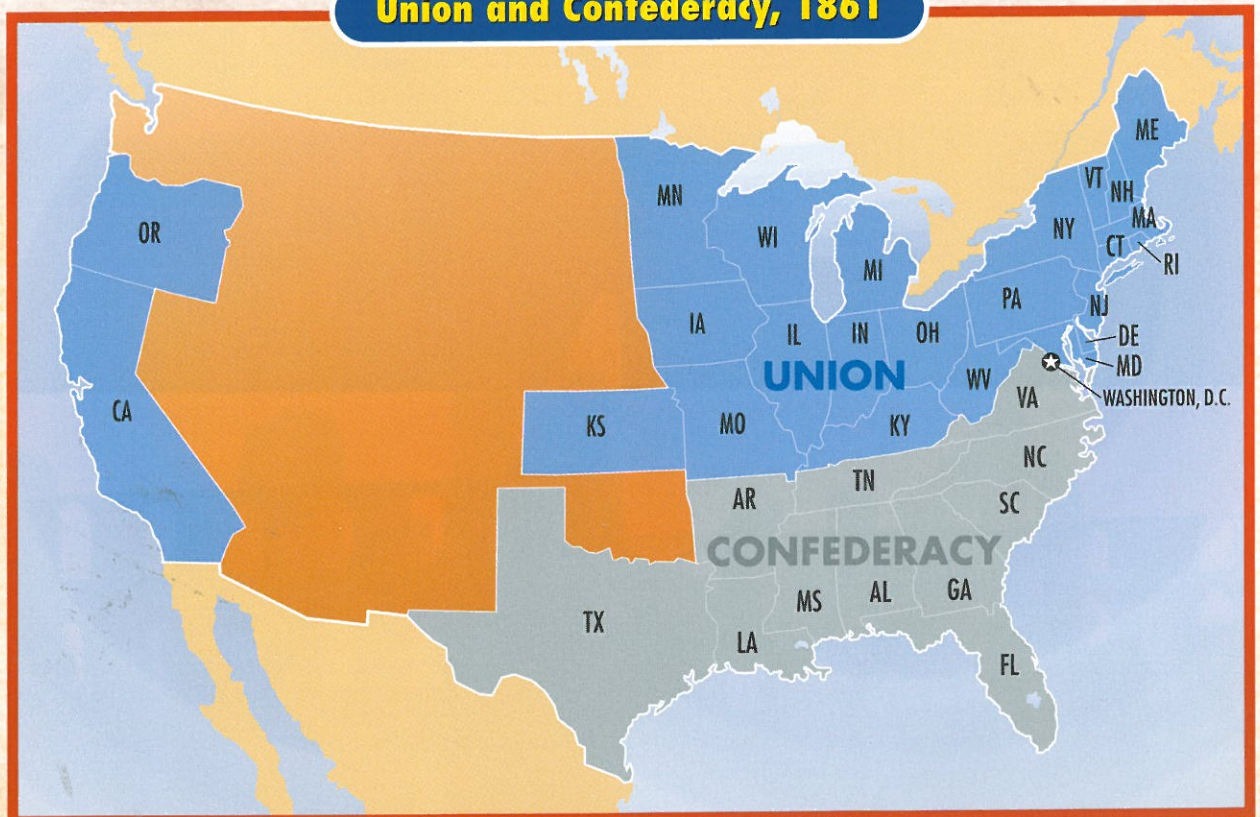
**Union** – the states that remained with the United States during the Civil War

▼ Jefferson Davis was President of the Confederacy.



▼ Eleven states seceded from the United States.

### Union and Confederacy, 1861



## The Civil War Begins

President Lincoln did not want war. He told the nation, "There needs to be no bloodshed or violence." But there was.

On April 12, 1861, Confederates fired on Union soldiers at Fort Sumter in South Carolina. The Union soldiers quickly gave up. The Confederacy had its first victory. The Civil War had begun.

.....  
**violence** – an action that destroys things or injures people

**victory** – a win

▼ **The Confederates started the war when they attacked Fort Sumter.**



## Fighting the War

The fighting damaged homes, towns, and families. Land everywhere became battlefields. Some cities were burned to the ground.

Churches and schoolhouses became hospitals for wounded soldiers. Thousands of men died.

▼ A nurse cares for two Union soldiers in a hospital during the Civil War.



▼ Much of Richmond, Virginia, was destroyed during the Civil War.

