The Civil War

The Legacy of the War

Terms and Names

National Bank Act Law that set up a system of federally chartered banks

Thirteenth Amendment Abolished slavery everywhere in the United States

Red Cross Relief agency founded by Clara Barton in 1881

John Wilkes Booth Assassin of President Lincoln

Before You Read

In the last section, you learned how the South lost important battles and surrendered at Appomattox. In this section, you will learn how the Civil War changed the nation in many ways.

As You Read

Use a diagram to take notes on the effects of the Civil War on the nation. List the political, economic, social, and technological changes.

THE WAR CHANGES THE NATION
(**Pages** 366–368)
How did the Civil War change the nation?

The Civil War changed the nation in many ways. The nation experienced significant political changes. After the war, no state ever threatened secession again. The federal government became much more powerful and a part of people's everyday lives. During the war, the federal government had passed conscription and an income tax for the first time.

The Civil War also affected the nation's economy. During the war, the federal government did much to help businesses in the nation. The government helped fund a national railroad system. The government also passed the **National Bank Act** of 1863, which created a new national banking system.

The war widened the economic gap between North and South. The Northern economy boomed, as the region produced many different kinds of goods. The Southern economy, however, had collapsed. The labor system of slavery was gone. Southern industry and railroads were destroyed. Many farms also lay in ruins. As a result, the South would remain poor for many decades.

The human cost of the war was huge. More than 600,000 soldiers died. More than 500,000 were wounded. Nearly 10 percent of the nation's population had served in the military, leaving their jobs, farms, and families.

1. What happened to the economies of the North and the South as a result of the Civil War?

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THE WAR CHANGES LIVES
(**Pages** 368–371)
How did African Americans' lives change?

The war also led to great changes in individual lives. After the war, African Americans' lives began to slowly improve—at least on paper. In 1865, the nation added the **Thirteenth Amendment** to the Constitution. It abolished slavery everywhere in the United States.

After the war, military leaders in both the North and South had to find a new direction for their lives. Many veterans returned to their small towns or farms. Some moved to large cities in search of work or to the West to build the railroads or to mine gold. Some turned their wartime experience to good. Clara Barton, for example, helped to start the American **Red Cross.** This organization provided help to civilians as well as soldiers in times of natural disaster or war.

Only five days after General Lee surrendered at Appomattox, President Lincoln was shot by a Southern sympathizer. Lincoln was at a play in Ford's Theater in Washington, D.C., when **John Wilkes Booth** shot him. The president died the next day. Lincoln's body was carried by train from Washington to his hometown of Springfield, Illinois. Seven million people, or almost one-third of the Union population, turned out to pay their respects.

2. What did the Thirteenth Amendment do?

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As you read about the consequences of the Civil War, make notes to trace
the effects of the war on different aspects of American life.

Effects of the Civil War . . .
1. On political life
2. On the nation's economy
3. On soldiers and civilians
4. On African Americans