Name _____ Date _____

Civil War Turning Points and Vocabulary: From Fort Sumter to Appomattox

Directions: Read the passage about the Civil War. Use clues in the passage to work out what history words mean. Then answer each question.

Turning Points of the Civil War

The Long Road to Union Victory

By February 1861, seven Southern states had voted to secede, or formally withdraw, from the United States. They formed the Confederate States of America, also called the Confederacy. The states that stayed loyal to the national government were called the Union. On April 12, 1861, Confederate guns fired on Fort Sumter, a U.S. fort in Charleston Harbor, South Carolina, and the war began. Four slave states, Delaware, Maryland, Kentucky and Missouri, stayed in the Union. They were called the border states.

Many Northerners expected a quick win. But in July 1861, Confederate troops defeated a Union army at Bull Run, in Virginia, and many people saw that the war would not end soon. The Union's plan was to squeeze the South. Its navy set up a blockade, a line of warships that kept ships from entering or leaving Southern ports. Union forces also worked to take control of the Mississippi River, which would cut the Confederacy in two.

In September 1862, the Confederate general Robert E. Lee led his army north into Maryland. On September 17, his army clashed with a Union army near Antietam Creek. In a single day, about 23,000 soldiers on the two sides were killed, wounded or missing. No other day in American history has seen so many. Losses like these are called casualties. Lee's army pulled back to Virginia, and President Abraham Lincoln used the moment to announce a plan for emancipation, the freeing of enslaved people.

That plan became the Emancipation Proclamation, which took effect on January 1, 1863. A proclamation is an official public announcement. It declared free the enslaved people in areas still in rebellion against the United States. It did not free enslaved people in the border states or in parts of the South already under Union control. Even so, it made ending slavery a goal of the war, and each Union advance now brought freedom to more people. It also allowed Black men to join the Union army and navy, and almost 200,000 served by the war's end. Slavery ended everywhere in the nation only with the 13th Amendment in 1865.

The summer of 1863 brought two more turning points. From July 1 to 3, Union troops defeated Lee's army at Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, ending his second invasion of the North. On July 4, the Confederate city of Vicksburg, Mississippi, surrendered after a siege. During a siege, an army surrounds a place and cuts off its supplies until it gives up. Soon the Union controlled the whole Mississippi River.

In 1864, General Ulysses S. Grant took command of all Union armies, and General William

T. Sherman's troops captured Atlanta, Georgia. On April 9, 1865, Lee surrendered to Grant at Appomattox Court House, Virginia. Other Confederate armies gave up in the weeks that followed. Historians estimate that more than 600,000 soldiers died in the war.

1. Read this sentence from the passage: "By February 1861, seven Southern states had voted to secede, or formally withdraw, from the United States." Which words in the sentence explain what secede means?

A. By February 1861
B. seven Southern states
C. had voted
D. formally withdraw

2. Why does the passage call Delaware, Maryland, Kentucky and Missouri border states?

A. They were free states that joined the Confederacy.
B. They were slave states that stayed in the Union.
C. They were states along the border with Mexico.
D. They were the states where the war's last battles took place.

3. According to the passage, why did the Union want to control the Mississippi River?

A. Union ships needed the river to sail to Britain.
B. The river was the only way to reach Fort Sumter.
C. Taking the river would end the blockade of Southern ports.
D. Control of the river would cut the Confederacy in two.

4. The passage explains each of these Civil War words. Pair each word with its meaning. Write the letter of the matching answer on each line.

1. _____ siege
2. _____ Confederacy
3. _____ blockade
4. _____ casualties

Choices for question 4

A. A line of warships that keeps ships from entering or leaving ports
B. The nation formed by the states that seceded
C. An official public announcement
D. Soldiers killed, wounded or missing in battle
E. Surrounding a place and cutting off its supplies until it gives up

5. As the passage uses it, what does emancipation mean?

A. The freeing of enslaved people
B. A count of the soldiers lost in one battle
C. The joining of more states to the Confederacy
D. A plan to buy new land in the West

6. Which of these was a result of the Battle of Antietam, as the passage describes it?

A. Lee's army captured the city of Washington, D.C.

B. The Confederacy surrendered at Appomattox.

C. France sent its warships to fight on the Union side.

D. Lincoln announced a plan to free enslaved people.

7. According to the passage, which enslaved people did the Emancipation Proclamation declare free?

A. Those in areas still in rebellion

B. Every enslaved person in every state

C. Those in the border states that stayed in the Union

D. Only those who had already joined the Union army

8. Which two statements describe what the Emancipation Proclamation did, according to the passage?

☐ A. It ended the war in 1863.

☐ B. It allowed Black men to join the Union army and navy.

☐ C. It made ending slavery a goal of the war.

☐ D. It freed the enslaved people of Delaware and Maryland.

☐ E. It ended slavery everywhere in the nation.

9. What made the summer of 1863 a time of turning points, according to the passage?

A. The Union won at Gettysburg and took Vicksburg, gaining control of the Mississippi River.

B. Lee captured Gettysburg and then marched on to take the city of Washington, D.C.

C. Lincoln was elected president for the first time, and South Carolina left the Union.

D. Seven states formed the Confederacy, and their guns fired on Fort Sumter.

10. According to the passage, what happened after Lee surrendered to Grant at Appomattox Court House?

A. Other Confederate armies gave up in the weeks that followed.

B. Seven more states voted to secede.

C. The Confederacy won its independence from the United States.

D. Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation.