

Fight against Slavery? The American Civil War (1861–1865). Ursachen und Verlauf des Amerikanischen Bürgerkriegs nachvollziehen (Klasse 8)

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Lincoln and a freed slave: Emancipation Memorial in Washington D. C. (erected in 1876)

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Der Amerikanische Bürgerkrieg ist – neben der Unabhängigkeitserklärung – das prägende Ereignis der US-amerikanischen Nation. Bis heute sind die Unterschiede zwischen den nördlichen und den südlichen Bundesstaaten existent. Noch immer kann nicht von einer völligen Gleichberechtigung der weißen und der schwarzen Einwohner der USA gesprochen werden. Immer wieder kommt es aufgrund ungleicher Behandlung und Übergriffen zu sogenannten „Rassenunruhen“.

Um diese zu verstehen und darüber diskutieren zu können, erarbeiten die Lernenden die Ursachen des Bürgerkriegs und setzen sich mit dessen Verlauf und Nachwirkungen auseinander. In einem Rollenspiel versetzen sie sich in die Lage der verschiedenen Akteure.

Klassenstufe: 8

Dauer: 6 Unterrichtsstunden

Bereich: 19. Jahrhundert, Geschichte Nordamerikas

Kompetenzen:

- die Ursachen des Amerikanischen Bürgerkriegs bestimmen
- den Verlauf des Bürgerkriegs in groben Zügen beschreiben
- den Amerikanischen Bürgerkrieg, die Sklavenbefreiung und den heutigen Umgang mit Schwarzen in den USA in Beziehung setzen

Verlaufsübersicht zur Reihe

- 1./2. Stunde:** Causes of the war
3./4. Stunde: The course of the war
5./6. Stunde: Equal rights for Blacks

Verlaufsübersicht zu den Stunden

- 1./2. Stunde:** Causes of the war

Material	Verlauf
M 1	Civil War memorials today / Aktivierung von Vorwissen und Motivation anhand von Fotos
M 2–M 3	Pair work: Causes of the Civil War (A) / Differences between the North and the South (B) / Herausarbeiten der Ursachen des Bürgerkriegs im Rahmen eines Partnerpuzzles
M 4	Political decisions before the War / Herausarbeiten der vorangehenden politischen Vorgänge
M 5	For fast learners / Bearbeiten einer Differenzierungsaufgabe für Schnelle
M 6	Role play / Erteilen der Arbeitsanweisung zum folgenden Rollenspiel

- 3./4. Stunde:** The course of the war

Material	Verlauf
M 7–M 10	Group work: beginning of war (A) / preconditions of the North and the South (B) / further course of the war (C) / end of the war (D) / Erarbeiten des Verlaufs des Amerikanischen Bürgerkriegs im Rahmen eines Gruppenpuzzles
M 11	Writing a newspaper article / Erteilen der Arbeitsanweisung zur folgenden handlungsorientierten Weiterarbeit (Schreiben eines Zeitungsartikels)

- 5./6. Stunde:** Equal rights for Blacks

Material	Verlauf
M 12	The war is over / Erarbeiten der Verfassungszusätze zu den Rechten der ehemaligen Sklaven
M 13	Writing a diary entry / Verfassen eines Tagebucheintrags als kreative Weiterarbeit
M 14	160 years after the American Civil War / Herausarbeiten vom Umgang mit Schwarzen in den letzten Jahrzehnten bis heute
M 15	Writing a speech / Verfassen einer eigenen Rede zur kreativen Anwendung aller neuen Lerninhalte in einer handlungsorientierten Weiterarbeit

Materialübersicht

1./2. Stunde		Causes of the war
M 1	(Fo)	American Civil War memorials today
M 2	(Bd)	Causes of the war – slavery: the matter of dispute (Partner A)
M 3	(Tx)	Causes of the war – differences between the North and the South (Partner B)
M 4	(Tx)	Political decisions before the war
M 5	(Tx)	For fast learners
M 6	(Im/Tx)	The abolition of slavery – a role play

3./4. Stunde		The course of the war
M 7	(Ka/Tx)	The beginning of the War – Fort Sumter (A)
M 8	(Ka/Tx)	Preconditions of the North and the South (B)
M 9	(Ka/Tx)	The further course of the war (C)
M 10	(Ka/Tx)	The end of the war (D)
M 11	(Im/Tx)	Continued application – a newspaper article

5./6. Stunde		Equal rights for Blacks
M 12	(Tx)	The war is over – and now?
M 13	(Bd)	160 Years after the American Civil War
M 14	(Tx)	Continued application – a diary entry
M 15	(Im/Tx)	Continued application – a speech
M 16	(Ab/LEK)	The American Civil War – test your knowledge

Ab: Arbeitsblatt – **Fo:** Folie – **Im:** (Gesprächs-/Handlungs-)Impuls – **Ka:** Karte – **Tx:** Text

M 1 American Civil War memorials today



Photos: 1. Emancipation Memorial (showing Lincoln and a freed slave) in Washington D.C., erected in 1876; 2. Statue of African American Union Army soldier during the American Civil War, United States Colored Troops Memorial Statue in Lexington Park, Maryland; 3. Descendants of Civil War soldiers holding the American and the South Carolina flag (right) marking Confederate Memorial Day at Magnolia Cemetery (2014).

Tasks

1. Describe the photos.
2. What do you think: Who were the two opposing troops? Think of reasons for the American Civil War.

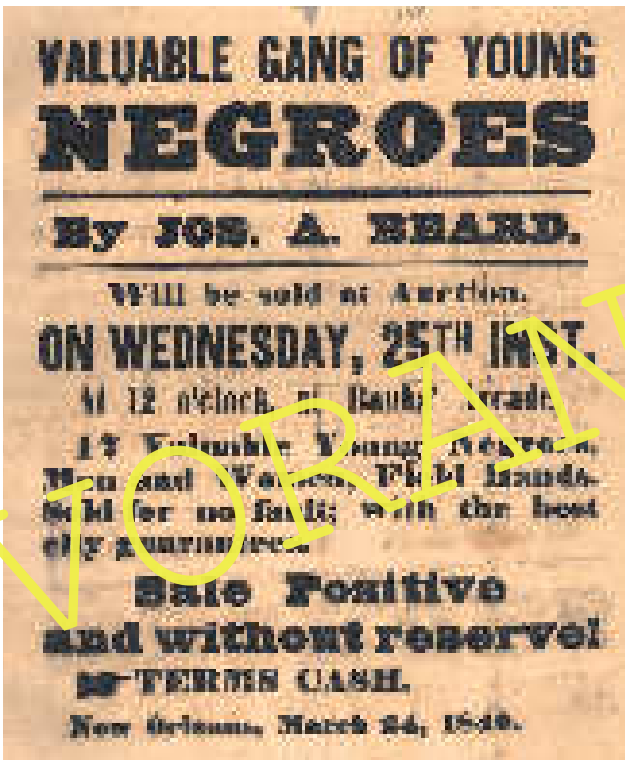
M 2 Causes of the war – slavery: the matter of dispute

(A)

The causes of the American Civil War were manifold. Beside the central matter of dispute (see partner A), the great contrasts between the **Northern States (Union)** and the **Southern States (Confederation)** played a major role.

Since America's colonisation by the Europeans, slavery belonged to people's daily life. Slaves were men, women and children from Africa caught by slave hunters and then brought by ships to America. There, they were sold by slave traders on slave markets. Many of them had to work under degrading¹ conditions on their owners' plantations where overseers watched them. Slaves could be sold, punished, whipped² and killed anytime at will³.

But by the beginning of the 19th century, voices that demanded the abolition⁴ of slavery became louder. Thus, the official reason for the war was the different view of the American states about slavery: the Northern States wanted to abolish slavery, the Southern States wanted to keep it. This matter of dispute was linked to the great economical and societal⁵ contrasts between the **Northern States** and the **Southern States** (see partner B).



Poster advertising slaves for sale. USA (1840)



Ex-slave Gordon displaying whipping scars during a medical examination in 1863 at a Union military camp in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

Source: 1. Wikipedia/Jos A. Beard, Public Domain; 2. Wikipedia/William D. McPherson, Public Domain

Annotations

1 **degrading**: menschenunwürdig – 2 **to whip**: auspeitschen – 3 **at will**: nach Belieben – 4 **abolition**: Abschaffung – 5 **societal**: gesellschaftlich

Tasks

1. Describe the living conditions of the American slaves.
2. Explain how people became slaves.
3. The American Declaration of Independence states: "All men are created equal." Comment on that.

M 7 The beginning of the war – Fort Sumter

A

The American Civil War (War of Secession¹) took place from 1861–1865 between the Northern States (Union) under President Abraham Lincoln and the Southern States (Confederacy) under President Jefferson Davis. Find out with which event it began.

On 12 April 1861, the Confederates attacked **Fort Sumter**, a federal military base off the coast of Charleston in South Carolina. The Southerners could not tolerate troops of the Union positioned on their territory.



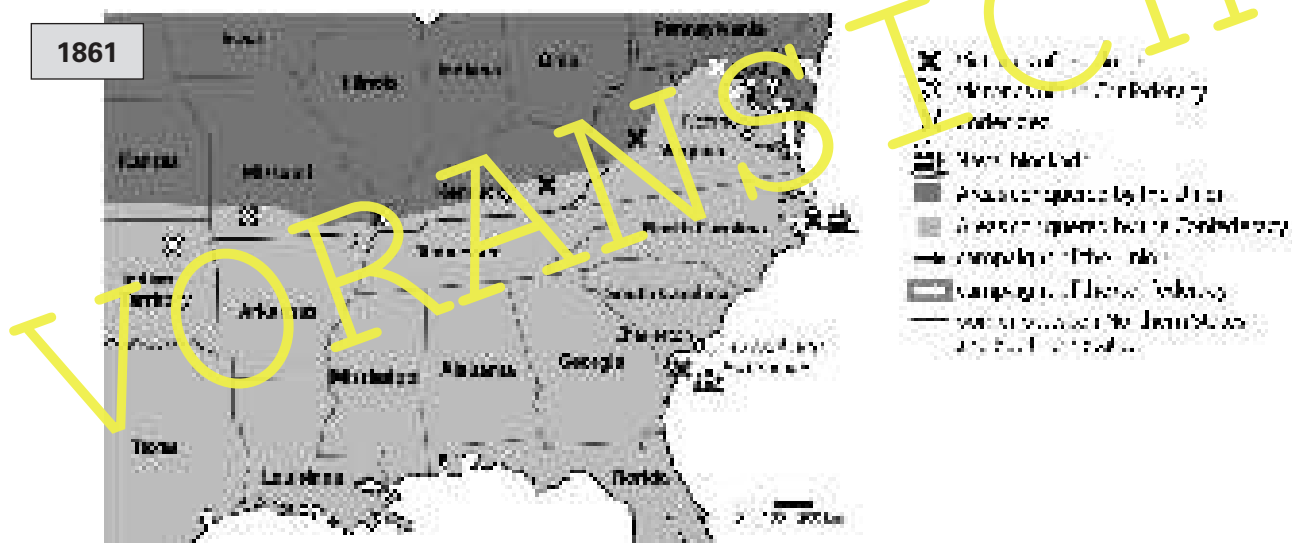
Source: Wikipedia/
National Park Service

Fort Sumter National Monument

5 After attempts² failed to force capitulation through siege³, the first shot was fired by the Southern States at 4:30 am. Initially⁴, the Yankees (= soldiers of the Northern States) held off⁵, but then returned fire. The first fight of the American Civil War had taken place.

10 Lincoln did not want to give up the fort, but since the only half finished, poorly equipped fort with little ammunition, food and few soldiers did not receive reinforcements⁶, the garrison⁷ had to surrender⁸ after 33 hours of shelling⁹. This was granted¹⁰ in an honourable¹¹ way under cheering and applauding by hundreds of onlookers. Nobody suspected yet the bloody war that would follow.

This incident¹² was not a battle – the fort was quickly captured and there were only few injured. But immediately after capitulation of Fort Sumter on 13 April, both sides mobilised armed forces and banged the war drums. This collision ignited¹³ four years of civil war.



Annotations

1 **War of Secession:** Sezessionskrieg – 2 **attempt:** Versuch – 3 **siege:** Belagerung – 4 **initially:** anfangs – 5 **to hold off:** abwehren – 6 **reinforcement:** Verstärkung – 7 **garrison:** hier: Besatzung – 8 **to surrender:** aufgeben – 9 **shelling:** Artilleriebeschuss – 10 **to grant:** gewähren – 11 **honourable:** ehrenvoll – 12 **incident:** Ereignis – 13 **to ignite:** hier: entfachen

Tasks

1. Create a flow chart, in which you describe the beginning of the Civil War in great detail.
2. Explain why Fort Sumter was attacked.
3. Present your flow chart to your group members. Use the map as an aid. Your flow charts will be compiled into a complex wall newspaper on the Civil War.

M 11 Continued application – a newspaper article

It is 1864 and the American Civil War is raging¹. You are a war correspondent and receive two honourable assignments².

Source: Wikipedia/Foto: Alexander Gardner



President
Abraham Lincoln
(1809–1865)

Greetings to you! I was informed that you are an excellent war correspondent and that's why I need your help. You know, the Union is not winning right now, but our people desperately³ need good news so that they are willing to continue supporting⁴ the war.

Please do the following: Decide on a **battle** or a point in time when our army achieved⁵ military successes and write a **newspaper article** in which you give them rave⁶ reviews about it! Also illustrate **why** we Northern States are definitively **superior** and therefore will **win** the war!

Please do your best! You will be richly rewarded⁷! Thank you very much!

Greetings to you! I have heard that you are an excellent war correspondent. That's why I have a request to you.

You know, that the Confederates are not winning right now, but our people desperately³ need good news so that they are willing to continue supporting the war.

Please do the following: Decide on a **battle** or a point in time when our army achieved⁵ military successes and write a **newspaper article** in which you give them rave⁶ reviews about it! Also illustrate **why** we Southern States are definitively **superior** and therefore will **win** the war!

Please do your best! You will be richly rewarded⁷! Thank you very much!



Source: Wikipedia/Foto: National Archives and Records Administration

President
Jefferson Davis
(1808–1889)

Annotations

1 **to rage**: wüten – 2 **assignment**: Auftrag – 3 **desperately**: dringend – 4 **to support**: unterstützen – 5 **to achieve**: erzielen – 6 **rave**: hier: lobend – 7 **to reward**: belohnen

Tasks

1. Choose one client and write this newspaper article as requested by him.

Important: – Give your newspaper article an expressive title.

– Add sketches or pictures to illustrate the content.

2. Walk through the classroom and read your articles to each other. Give feedback.

3. Discuss some articles in class. Did they complete the task?

M 16 The American Civil War – test your knowledge

Don't forget:
No spaces or hyphens

- | | | | |
|---|--|----|--|
| 1 | President of the USA (1861–1865) | 8 | Different name for the American Civil War |
| 2 | Southern States | 9 | Month in which Lincoln was assassinated |
| 3 | Military objective starting 1863: abolition of ... | 10 | Place of a decisive battle |
| 4 | Party from the Southern States | 11 | Party from the Northern States |
| 5 | Engl. <i>Grenzstaaten</i> | 12 | The Southern States attacked this at first |
| 6 | Addition to the constitution | 13 | Law about keeping slaves of 1854 |
| 7 | Frequent work place of slaves | 14 | Northern States |