

AMERICAN CIVIL WAR TIMELINE

Major Engagements & Turning Points (1861-1865)

April 12, 1861

Battle of Fort Sumter

The opening engagement of the war in Charleston Harbor.

Victor: Confederacy

July 21, 1861

First Battle of Bull Run

The first major land battle, proving the war would be long and costly.

Victor: Confederacy

Sept 17, 1862

Battle of Antietam

The bloodiest single day in American military history.

Victor: Inconclusive/Union Strategic Win

July 1-3, 1863

Battle of Gettysburg

The high-water mark of the Confederacy and a major turning point in the East.

Victor: Union

July 4, 1863

Siege of Vicksburg

Union gains control of the Mississippi River, splitting the Confederacy.

Victor: Union

April 9, 1865

Appomattox Court House

General Robert E. Lee surrenders the Army of Northern Virginia to Ulysses S. Grant.

Result: Union Victory