

AMERICAN CIVIL WAR TIMELINE

Major Engagements 1861 – 1865

APRIL 12, 1861

Fort Sumter

Charleston, South Carolina

The opening engagement of the war. Confederate forces fire upon the Federal fort, leading to its surrender.

JULY 21, 1861

First Battle of Bull Run

Manassas, Virginia

The first major land battle. A decisive Confederate victory that shattered Union hopes for a quick resolution.

APRIL 6, 1862

Battle of Shiloh

Hardin County, Tennessee

A bloody Union victory in the West that demonstrated the high cost of the conflict.

SEPT 17, 1862

Battle of Antietam

Sharpsburg, Maryland

The bloodiest single day in American history. Provided Lincoln the political capital to issue the Emancipation Proclamation.

JULY 1-3, 1863

Battle of Gettysburg

Gettysburg, Pennsylvania

The turning point of the war. General Lee's second invasion of the North is halted by the Army of the Potomac.

JULY 4, 1863

Siege of Vicksburg

Vicksburg, Mississippi

The Union gains control of the Mississippi River, effectively splitting the Confederacy in half.

APRIL 9, 1865

Appomattox Court House

Appomattox, Virginia

General Robert E. Lee surrenders the Army of Northern Virginia to General Ulysses S. Grant, effectively ending the war.