

# AMERICAN CIVIL WAR TIMELINE

## Major Engagements & Turning Points (1861 - 1865)

### **April 12, 1861 Battle of Fort Sumter** *Charleston, South Carolina*

The bombardment of the federal garrison by Confederate forces, marking the official beginning of the Civil War.

### **July 21, 1861 First Battle of Bull Run** *Manassas, Virginia*

The first major land battle of the war; a decisive Confederate victory that dispelled hopes of a quick Northern triumph.

### **September 17, 1862 Battle of Antietam** *Sharpsburg, Maryland*

The bloodiest single-day battle in American history. It provided the political leverage for Lincoln to issue the Emancipation Proclamation.

### **July 1-3, 1863 Battle of Gettysburg** *Gettysburg, Pennsylvania*

Often cited as the war's turning point, General Lee's second invasion of the North was halted by Union forces.

### **July 4, 1863 Siege of Vicksburg** *Vicksburg, Mississippi*

The Union gained control of the Mississippi River, effectively splitting the Confederacy in two.

### **April 9, 1865 Appomattox Court House** *Appomattox, Virginia*

General Robert E. Lee surrendered the Army of Northern Virginia to General Ulysses S. Grant, leading to the end of the war.