

American Civil War Trivia: Questions, Answers, and Facts Printable Trivia Pack

American Civil War trivia explores the 1861-1865 conflict between the Union and the Confederacy, a war sparked by secession and the defense of slavery after Abraham Lincoln's election. Its outcome reshaped the nation through Union victory, the collapse of the Confederacy, and the abolition of slavery for four million African Americans.

HARD AMERICAN CIVIL WAR TRIVIA

1. What failed 1860 proposal tried to head off secession and avert the coming Civil War?
Answer: The Crittenden Compromise was the unsuccessful 1860 attempt to avert the Civil War.
2. Which 1861 international scare pitted the United States against Britain in a diplomatic crisis?
Answer: The Trent Affair was the 1861 diplomatic crisis between the United States and Britain.
3. Name the 1862 Confederate victory that still failed to lock down the Southwest for the Confederacy?
Answer: Glorieta Pass was the Confederate victory in 1862 that did not secure the Southwest for the South.
4. Which battle is forever tied to Farragut's famous line, "Damn the torpedoes" ?
Answer: The Battle of Mobile Bay is remembered for that order.
5. Which 1862 victory turned Ulysses S. Grant into a national hero?
Answer: The Battle of Fort Donelson made Grant a national hero.
6. Nathan Bedford Forrest's major 1864 triumph came at Brice's Cross what?
Answer: Brice's Cross Roads.
7. What 1864 battle badly shattered the Confederate Army of Tennessee before its final destruction?
Answer: The Battle of Franklin devastated the Confederate Army of Tennessee.
8. Which 1864 battle finished Hood's army as an effective fighting force?
Answer: The Battle of Nashville destroyed Hood's army as an effective force.
9. Where was the Confederate government formed in February 1861?
Answer: It was formed at Montgomery, Alabama.
10. What nickname did Union legal-tender paper money earn during the war?
Answer: It was nicknamed greenbacks.
11. The July 1863 draft riots exploded in which city?
Answer: They erupted in New York City.
12. Which civilian aid organization supported Union soldiers with medical and camp

assistance?

Answer: The United States Sanitary Commission aided Union soldiers with medical and camp support.

13. Black Union troops launched a notable assault in July 1863 against which fort?

Answer: They attacked Fort Wagner.

14. Playful but precise: if you were handed Union paper money and told it wasn't silver, what wartime nickname would be in your pocket?

Answer: Greenbacks.

FUNNY AMERICAN CIVIL WAR TRIVIA

1. Which cavalryman seems to have dressed like he expected a dramatic entrance, complete with a plumed hat and flashy cape?

Answer: J.E.B. Stuart was known for wearing a plumed hat and flashy cape.

2. Which general gave the English language a grooming souvenir when his distinctive whiskers inspired the word "sideburns"?

Answer: General Ambrose Burnside inspired the word "sideburns."

3. At which battle did some civilians come from Washington as if they were headed to a battlefield picnic?

Answer: First Bull Run.

4. How tall was Abraham Lincoln, the man who could probably see over most stovepipe-hat racks?

Answer: About 6 feet 4 inches.

5. Pea Ridge sounds like a side dish, but in what state did the Battle of Pea Ridge take place in 1862?

Answer: Arkansas.

6. Ball's Bluff sounds almost cheerful until history steps in. In what state was the Battle of Ball's Bluff fought in 1861?

Answer: Virginia.

7. If you were trying to find the Battle of Stones River on a map, near which Tennessee town should you look?

Answer: Murfreesboro, Tennessee.

8. Wilson's Creek was fought in 1861 in which state, proving creeks can also have historical resumes?

Answer: Missouri.

9. Chickamauga was fought in 1863 in which state?

Answer: Georgia.

10. What common nickname was used for a Confederate soldier, as if the whole army had agreed

on one very specific guy?

Answer: Johnny Reb.

11. What common nickname was used for a Union soldier?

Answer: Billy Yank.

12. What did soldiers call those famously tooth-testing hard crackers?

Answer: Hardtack.

13. Which drink was prized in Union army camps, earning near-sacred status before sunrise?

Answer: Coffee.

FUN AMERICAN CIVIL WAR TRIVIA

1. Which Union general answered to the compact nickname "Little Mac" ?

Answer: General George B. McClellan

2. At First Bull Run, Thomas J. Jackson picked up what rock-solid nickname?

Answer: Stonewall

3. If someone says they're studying the Battle of Manassas, which more familiar battle name are they talking about?

Answer: The Battle of Bull Run

4. Shiloh had a second name on the historical mailbox. What was it?

Answer: Pittsburg Landing

5. True or false: Antietam and Sharpsburg are two labels for the same battle. True or false?

Answer: True

6. What Confederate craft made history as the first submarine to sink an enemy warship in combat?

Answer: CSS Hunley

7. In 1864, the Hunley sent which Union ship to the bottom?

Answer: USS Housatonic

8. The Confederate raider CSS Alabama had an overseas origin story. Where was it built?

Answer: Britain

9. What speedy communication technology buzzed across the Civil War for both sides?

Answer: The telegraph

10. Even with battles raging, soldiers often kept in touch with family by sending what?

Answer: Letters home

11. Which famous photographer turned the Civil War into a lasting visual record?

Answer: Mathew Brady

12. Before drones were even a dream, the Union looked down on battlefields from what inflatable helpers?

Answer: Balloons

13. Who organized the Union Army Balloon Corps?

Answer: Thaddeus S. C. Lowe

AMERICAN CIVIL WAR FAMILY TRIVIA

1. In what harbor is Fort Sumter located?

Answer: Fort Sumter is located in Charleston Harbor, South Carolina.

2. On what date did the Battle of Antietam take place?

Answer: The Battle of Antietam was fought on September 17, 1862.

3. Which battle is remembered as the bloodiest single day in American military history?

Answer: The Battle of Antietam.

4. Gettysburg stretched across three days and ended on what date in 1863?

Answer: The Battle of Gettysburg ended on July 3, 1863.

5. Which city surrendered to Union forces on July 4, 1863?

Answer: Vicksburg surrendered to Union forces on July 4, 1863.

6. Before sunrise on April 12, 1861, what fort came under fire?

Answer: Fort Sumter came under fire before dawn on April 12, 1861.

7. At what location did the Monitor and Virginia meet in battle?

Answer: Their naval battle took place at Hampton Roads.

8. Which Civil War nurse became famous for caring for wounded soldiers?

Answer: Clara Barton became famous for nursing wounded soldiers during the Civil War.

9. Who served the Union as both a scout and a spy?

Answer: Harriet Tubman served the Union as a scout and spy.

10. In which state was the Battle of Shiloh fought in 1862?

Answer: The Battle of Shiloh was fought in Tennessee.

11. After Chancellorsville, Stonewall Jackson was accidentally shot by whom?

Answer: Stonewall Jackson was accidentally shot by his own men.

12. Fredericksburg was fought in which month and year?

Answer: The Battle of Fredericksburg was fought in December 1862.

EASY AMERICAN CIVIL WAR TRIVIA

1. In what year did the American Civil War begin?

Answer: 1861

2. What year did the American Civil War come to an end?

Answer: 1865

3. Who was president of the United States during the Civil War?

Answer: Abraham Lincoln

4. The Civil War was fought between which two sides?

Answer: The Union and the Confederacy

5. What city served as the capital of the Confederacy?

Answer: Richmond, Virginia

6. Who served as president of the Confederacy?

Answer: Jefferson Davis

7. Which fort was attacked in April 1861, starting the war?

Answer: Fort Sumter

8. Who commanded the Confederate Army of Northern Virginia?

Answer: Robert E. Lee

9. Who became the top Union general in 1864?

Answer: Ulysses S. Grant

10. Gettysburg, one of the war's best-known battles, was fought in which state?

Answer: Pennsylvania

11. On what date did the Emancipation Proclamation take effect?

Answer: January 1, 1863

12. Which side won the American Civil War?

Answer: The Union

13. How many seceded states made up the Confederacy?

Answer: 11 states

Source: <https://triviagong.com/trivia/american-civil-war-trivia>