

The Civil War

Lesson 3: Hardships at Home

ESSENTIAL QUESTION

Why does conflict develop?

Terms to Know

home front the civilian world in wartime

homespun a coarse, loosely woven, homemade fabric

quinine drug used for fighting malaria and other fevers

collapse to break apart or fall down suddenly

What do you know?

In the first column, answer the questions based on what you know before you study. After the lesson, fill in the last column.

| Before | Questions | Now |
|--------|--|-----|
| | Who were Sam Houston's successors as governor of Texas during the Civil War? | |
| | What items were scarce during the war? | |
| | What was the last battle of the Civil War? | |

Identifying

- Who was elected to succeed Edward Clark as governor of Texas in 1861?

The Texas Home Front

Guiding Question *What was the Texas home front like during the Civil War?*

After secession, pro-Confederate leaders quickly took control of state offices in Texas. Edward Clark replaced Sam Houston as governor. Clark's successor was Francis R. Lubbock. He was elected governor in 1861, after having served as lieutenant governor. Lubbock was a lifelong Democrat and was involved in state and local politics.

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Determining Word Meanings

2. What is the meaning of the term *home front*?



Marking the Text

3. Highlight the effect of the Union blockade on the Texas home front.



Explaining

4. How did the Texas economy change during the war?



Reading Progress Check

5. What were some responses Texans made to the shortages caused by the blockade, and how successful were those responses?

As governor, Lubbock helped raise troops for the Confederacy and encouraged the growth of Texas factories to make military supplies. When his term ended in 1863, he joined the Confederate army. Pendleton Murrah became governor and held the office until the end of the war.

The war greatly affected the **home front**, or the civilian world, in wartime. These effects included

- a scarcity of goods caused by the Union blockade
- a struggling economy
- the need for women, children, and enslaved workers to do most of the farm work during the war while the men fought
- the need for women to do the jobs usually done by men, as well as the ones they had previously done

Some wealthy women helped poorer families. Others helped the soldiers. They cared for soldiers in their homes, turning sheets into bandages and providing comfort and food to the returning soldiers.

The economy of Texas changed during the Civil War. Shortages of war supplies and food influenced how farmers and industries in the Confederacy did their work. Small factories in Austin and Tyler were opened to manufacture weapons and ammunition for the war effort. Southerners had to find ways to produce other war supplies, such as saddles, shoes, tents, and blankets. Women often formed groups to make these goods.

Obtaining cloth was a major problem. Before the war, much of the cloth sold in the South was manufactured in the North. When war broke out, the South was not prepared to manufacture cloth. Instead, women wove a coarse, loosely woven fabric called **homespun** in their homes and used it to make clothing. This cloth replaced the machine-made fabrics from the North.

Basic food products such as coffee, tea, and flour were also in short supply. Instead of cotton, farmers were encouraged to grow corn and wheat to feed soldiers and civilians. Some Southerners became sick from the lack of healthful food.

There were other major shortages. Newspapers stopped printing due to a shortage of paper. Medicines were also hard to obtain on the home front, because most medical supplies went to the military. For example, a drug called **quinine**, used to treat the disease malaria, was scarce. Southerners tried find substitutes, but this was difficult. The lack of medicines and the unhealthy conditions of the war allowed diseases to spread quickly.

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The War Ends

Guiding Question *What led to the end of the Civil War?*

In the end, the Confederacy could not overcome the Union's advantages, including a larger population and more industry. In April 1865, Union troops entered Richmond, Virginia, the Confederate capital. The Confederate government fled, but President Jefferson Davis was captured. Union troops then surrounded General Robert E. Lee's army at Appomattox Court House in Virginia. On April 9, 1865, Lee surrendered to Union general Ulysses S. Grant.

Despite the surrender of Confederate armies in the East, nearly a month after Lee's surrender, General Edmund Kirby Smith declared that he would keep fighting. Smith commanded all Confederate forces west of the Mississippi River, which included Texas.

As a result of Smith's refusal to stop fighting, the last battle of the Civil War took place in Texas. Union forces believed that the Confederates were withdrawing from Brownsville, so they sent a force to investigate. However, the Confederates were not withdrawing, and the two forces met. After a brief fight, both sides pulled back and waited for reinforcements. More troops arrived, and the two sides clashed again in the Battle of Palmito Ranch in May 1865. Neither side was able to win until the Confederate cavalry arrived. The Union soldiers could not withstand the cavalry and retreated. The battle resulted in only a few casualties, but more than 100 Union soldiers were captured.

A few days later, Confederate governors in Texas and nearby states advised General Smith to end the fighting. Palmito Ranch became the last battle of the Civil War.

The aftermath of the war was challenging for the Confederacy. Many in the South had died and property was in ruins. State governments were able to perform only the most basic functions.

A huge change was that the South could no longer depend on enslaved labor. On January 1, 1863, President Abraham Lincoln had issued the Emancipation Proclamation. This declared that all enslaved people in the Confederate states were free. At the time, the proclamation could not be enforced in most of the Confederacy, but abolition became a major Union goal.

Then, just five days after Lee surrendered to Grant, President Lincoln was assassinated. His killer, John Wilkes Booth, believed he was helping the Confederate cause. Instead, the nation was forced to adjust to a new president at a difficult time. President Andrew Johnson had the huge task of reuniting the country.



Identifying Cause and Effect

6. What two factors helped the Union defeat the Confederacy in the Civil War?



Marking the Text

7. Highlight where and when General Lee surrendered to General Grant.



Explaining

8. What happened to give the Confederates the victory at Palmito Ranch?



Marking the Text

9. Underline the purpose of the Emancipation Proclamation.

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Reading Progress Check

10. What were some immediate problems the South faced as the war ended?

As Confederate armies surrendered, the Texas state government **collapsed**. Governor Murrah and other state officials fled to Mexico to avoid capture by Union forces. This left the state with no government. Groups of armed men attacked citizens.

To restore order, President Johnson named Andrew Jackson Hamilton as provisional governor of Texas. Hamilton was a Unionist and a Democrat. During the war, when his life was threatened because of his support of the Union, he had fled to Mexico. Then he toured the North, giving speeches critical of the South and slavery. In the North, he was a hero, but to most Texans he was a traitor.

It would be many years before the South was rebuilt and the nation fully reunited. Still, the war was over, and soldiers could return to their homes in Texas.

Writing

Check for Understanding

1. **Expository** Why was the Battle of Palmito Ranch the last battle in the Civil War?

2. **Persuasive** If you were a post-Civil War Texan, would you have supported Andrew Jackson Hamilton as governor? Why or why not?

