

A low-angle photograph of the Georgia State Capitol building, showing the golden dome and the statue of Liberty on top. The sky is blue with some clouds.

Georgia Studies

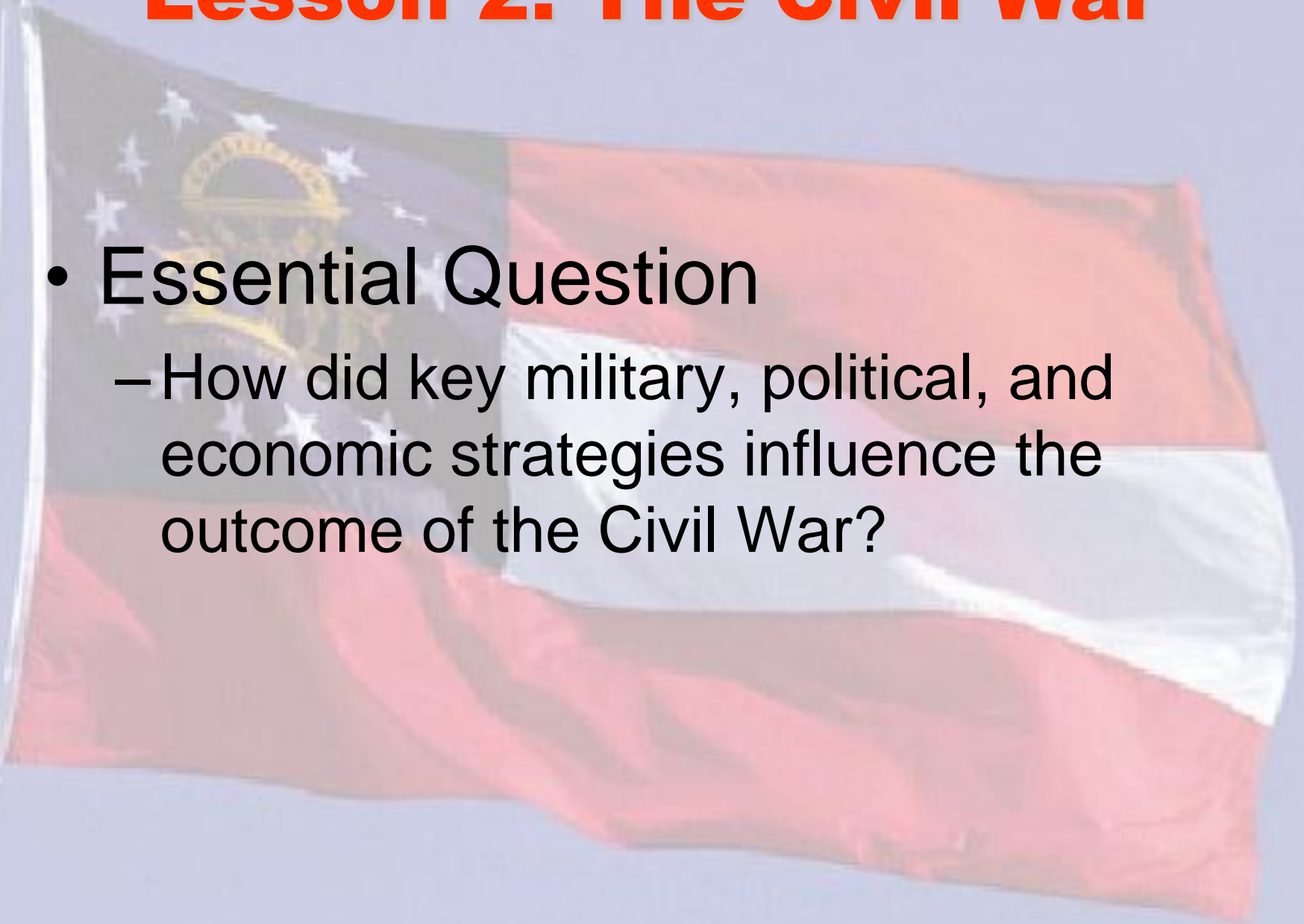
**Unit 5: Civil War and
Reconstruction**

**Lesson 2: The Civil
War**

Study Presentation

Lesson 2: The Civil War

- Essential Question
 - How did key military, political, and economic strategies influence the outcome of the Civil War?



The War Begins: Southern Secession

- April 10, 1861, Major General P.G.T. Beauregard leads bombardment of Fort Sumter, in Charleston Harbor
- Federal troops and laborers inside Fort Sumter surrender on April 13
- Arkansas, North Carolina, Tennessee, and Virginia secede from the Union
- President Abraham Lincoln calls for 75,000 troops to put down the rebellion and protect Washington

Assembling Armies

- Most soldiers volunteered at first, but later men were conscripted (drafted to serve in the armies)
- Some men received bounties (money) to sign up; some signed up, received the bounty, then deserted (ran away)
- Poorer men sometimes accepted money to fight in place of wealthier men who didn't want to serve
- Some 178,985 enlisted men served in black regiments during the Civil War; almost all fought for the Union
- Boys as young as 10 served in both armies; thousands of soldiers were between 14 and 16 years old

Resources – North and South

Industry v. Agriculture

- North had more people from which to create and resupply armies
- North had more factories, better railroad system, and most of the nation's food growing farms and wealth
- South had more experienced military leaders, and were highly motivated to defend their familiar homeland and to win independence.
- Most Southern farms were used to grow cash crops (cotton, etc.), so trade (cotton for weapons/supplies) was very important to the South.

Military Strategies

Union (North):

- **Union blockaded of GA's coast** – Close all Southern ports (using ironclads – armored ships) to prevent cotton exports and imports of weaponry from foreign countries
- Destroy Confederate armies on the battlefield
- Lay waste to the Southern land, so that civilians would call for an end to the war

Confederacy (South):

- Wear down the Union armies, which would hasten the northerners' desire to end the war
- Use swift raiders (small, fast ships) to help break the Union blockade
- King Cotton Diplomacy: Convince France and England to help the Confederacy by stopping the export of Cotton to these countries

Notable Battles Outside of GA

- **Battle of Antietam** – Sept. 17, 1862 near Sharpsburg, Maryland. Bloodiest single day of the Civil War. Union Army defeated the Confederate Army (under the leadership of Robert E. Lee). About 2,000 Northerners and 2,700 Southerners were killed and 19,000 people were wounded.
- **Battle of Gettysburg** – July 1 to July 3, 1863 in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. Union Army defeats the Confederates. Union suffers 23,000 casualties (dead and wounded soldiers). Confederacy suffers 28,000 casualties

Freeing the Slaves

- President Abraham Lincoln issued the *Emancipation Proclamation* on September 22, 1862
- Document gave the Southern Confederacy a choice: Quit the war and keep slavery alive or keep fighting and slaves would be forever free
- Deadline was January 1, 1863
- The Confederate leaders continued the war and the slaves were declared free by the United States government in 1863

The Fall of Fort Pulaski

- More than 100 battles or skirmishes in Georgia; 92 happened in 1864 during the Atlanta and Savannah campaigns
- First battle, April 10, 1862, was at all-brick Fort Pulaski, near Tybee Island
- Rifled cannon used by U.S. Army in warfare for the first time; the Confederates surrendered the fort in less than two days
- No brick American forts were built after this battle

The Battle of Chickamauga

- Fought in September 1863
- Seven miles south of Chattanooga, Tennessee
- Chattanooga was major railroad center and was important to the movement of supplies and troops for the Confederacy
- Union troops were driven back to Chattanooga; Confederates did not follow-up on their victory by attacking retreating soldiers
- Union reinforcements later recaptured the city of Chattanooga

Sherman's Atlanta Campaign

- Late Spring/Early Summer 1864: William Tecumseh Sherman's Union Army fought series of battles against Joseph E. Johnston's Confederate Army in an attempt to capture/destroy the important Confederate rail and supply center of Atlanta
- Confederates continued to retreat further southward into Georgia
- June 27, 1864: Sherman attacked Johnston at Kennesaw Mountain; Sherman was unable to defeat the Confederate troops but continued toward Atlanta
- July 1864: Confederate General John Bell Hood replaced Johnston, battled Sherman, then concentrated defenses in Atlanta

The **Battle of Atlanta**

- Sherman surrounded the city and laid siege
- Hood wanted to lure Sherman into the city to fight, but that didn't work
- Fighting continued during July and August 1864
- Hood and Atlanta's citizens finally evacuated the city on September 1, 1864
- Sherman burns the city in mid-November then begins his march toward Savannah and the sea. The Army then burned all but about 400 of Atlanta's buildings (approximately 90% of Atlanta was burned/destroyed)

Sherman's March to the Sea

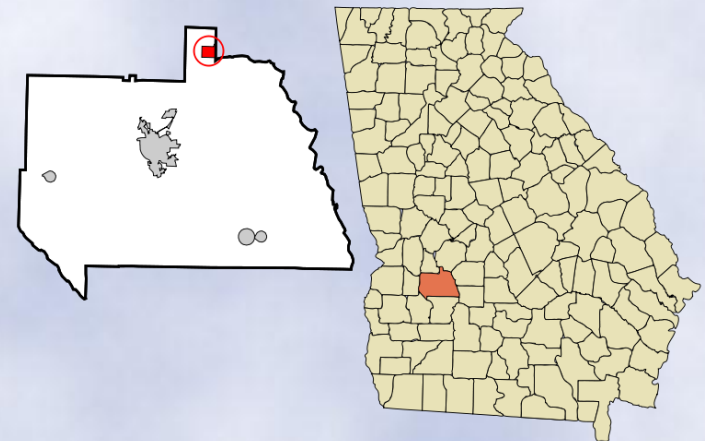
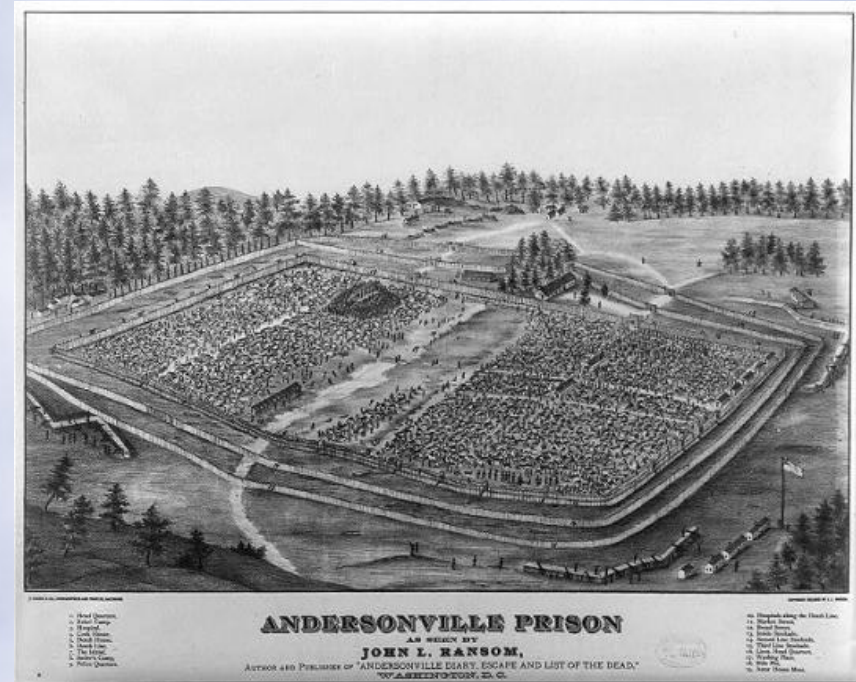
- Part of the Lay Waste Strategy - Sherman's Union army destroys everything in its path, 300 miles from Atlanta to Savannah
- A sixty mile-wide area is burned, destroyed, and ruined during a two-month period
- Estimated losses exceeded \$100 million
- Captured, but did not burn, Savannah in December 1864
- Union troops loaded and shipped \$28 million worth of cotton, stored in Savannah, to the North

The Civil War Ends

- January 13, 1865: Fort Fisher in North Carolina captured; the last Confederate blockade-running port
- General Robert E. Lee's Army of Virginia cannot defeat Union General Ulysses S. Grant at Petersburg; he surrenders his army at Appomattox Courthouse on April 9, 1865
- Confederate President Jefferson Davis and Vice President Alexander Stephens (from GA) flee and are eventually captured

Civil War Prisons

- Both North and South had prisons for captured soldiers; thousands of men on both sides died in these prisons
- **Andersonville** Prison, in southwest Georgia, was overcrowded, and offered poor food, contaminated water, and poor sanitation; 13,700 Union soldiers are buried there
- Captain Henry Wirtz, **Andersonville** Prison commander, was later hanged for “excessive cruelty”
- **Andersonville** is now home to the National Prisoner of War Museum



The Aftermath

- 620,000 people died during the war; about two-thirds died from diseases, wounds, or military prison hardships
- In order to reenter the United States the South would have to endure political, emotional, and physical reconstruction
- Healing of emotional wounds took far longer than the war itself
- The North or the South would never be the same again