**Fort Sumter and Confederacy**

**Section 1**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 00:00:00 | TEACHER: Now in today's lesson, you're going to |
| 00:00:02 | attempt to answer the question, how did the Civil War begin. In the warm-up, you had a chance to learn a little bit about why some of the Southern states seceded from the Union, why the border states were so important to the Union's cause, and started to get an understanding of why it was so important for the Confederacy to really establish itself as a nation. |
| 00:00:21 | We're going to start off by trying to examine the difference between the two presidents and how they viewed secession. |

**Section 2**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 00:00:01 | TEACHER: As the Civil War began to unfold, the country |
| 00:00:04 | was divided and led by two leaders. In the Union, we had Abraham Lincoln as president. He was sworn into office in March of 1861. And on the other side, the Confederacy, we saw Jefferson Davis as the president, sworn into office in February of 1861. Now, both men wanted to avoid war, but they saw the country's future very differently. |
| 00:00:32 | Jefferson Davis, the president of the Confederacy, he supported secession. He wanted the Confederate states to become their own country. Abraham Lincoln, the president of the Union, would not accept secession. So this is where the big difference between the two lie. |
| 00:00:50 | Now, both men delivered what we called an inaugural address. An inaugural address is given on the day the president takes the oath of office. And in the photo here, we see President Obama taking the oath of office in January of 2009. Now, the inaugural address allows the president to address the people for the first time as |
| 00:01:15 | the nation's leader. And it gives the president an opportunity to let people know what his or her goals are and sets a tone for the presidency. Now, let's go back to the president of the Union at the time the Civil War was starting-- Abraham Lincoln. Once he was elected president in 1860, he faced |
| 00:01:38 | a tremendous challenge. His platform was to stop the spread of slavery into the West. And in response to that platform and his election, seven states seceded following his election. Now, his first inaugural address takes place in March of 1861. And in that inaugural address, Lincoln reached out to |
| 00:02:05 | Southern states. He said he would not interfere with slavery where it already existed. He promised to carry out the laws of the Constitution in all states. And he refused to use force unless he was required to do so. So when Lincoln became president, and he said he |
| 00:02:31 | refused to accept secession, he said he would not compromise on this issue. He felt it was his duty as president to preserve the Union. He wanted to avoid war. And he was very cautious about the use of force. In his inaugural address, he said, "Plainly the central idea of secession is the essence of anarchy. |
| 00:02:59 | A majority held in restraint by constitutional checks and limitations is the only true sovereign of a free people. The role of a minority, as a permanent arrangement, is wholly inadmissible." Now, again, he said that in his inaugural address in March of 1861. Let's take some time for you to independently explore Lincoln's inaugural address just a little bit further. |

**Section 4**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 00:00:01 | TEACHER: So let's examine Jefferson Davis' inauguration |
| 00:00:04 | and his opinion on secession as contrasted to Abraham Lincoln's. First, it's important to note that Davis was not in favor of war between the states. As early as the 1850s, he's encouraging both sides to come to some sort of agreement with one another. However, like many Southerners, he felt that slavery was in jeopardy with Lincoln as president. |
| 00:00:26 | And although he did not initially support the secession of South Carolina, he did feel that the states had the right to withdraw from the Union. This is because he feared that Lincoln would force the seceded States back into the Union. In his inaugural address, he discusses how the Confederacy will succeed on its own as a new independent nation. He first explains the reasons for secession. |
| 00:00:51 | He goes on to describe the form the new government would take and expresses that war was not wanted, but that the Confederate States would fight if necessary. He says that he believes the Southern states had the right to secede because their government had failed them. He believes that citizens had the right to end their relationship with their government if they wish to do so. |
| 00:01:14 | He says, "Our present political position has been achieved in a manner unprecedented in the history of nations. It illustrates the American idea the governments rest on the consent of the governed, and that it is the right of the people to alter or abolish them at will whenever they become destructive of the ends for which they were established. |
| 00:01:34 | This is said in his inaugural address on February 18, 1861. Let's break it down a bit. When we look at the first sentence, he says, "achieved in a manner unprecedented in the history of nations." he means that this has never happened before. He goes on to say "that governments rest on the consent of the governed," meaning with the approval. And so he feels that the Southern states have the right |
| 00:02:00 | to secede because their government has failed them. And it is the right of the people when the government is acting without their consent to end the relationship with that government. |

**Section 6**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 00:00:00 | TEACHER: In today's lesson, we're answering the question, |
| 00:00:02 | how did the Civil War begin? You've had a chance to learn a little bit about the differing views of President Lincoln and President Davis on the issue of secession. President Lincoln would not accept secession, whereas President Davis was a supporter of secession. This major disagreement is what ultimately led to the conflict. |
| 00:00:22 | But there was one single event that we're going to talk about now that actually led to the start of the Civil War, and that was the attack on Fort Sumter. |

**Section 7**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 00:00:01 | TEACHER: Now, Fort Sumter is one of a series of forts along |
| 00:00:04 | the southern coastline that's meant to protect the commercial interests of the United States. Now, Fort Sumter you'll notice here, is located in South Carolina, which in 1860, was under Union control. But after South Carolina secedes from the Union, it begins seizing federal property, like forts and ammunition depots, that are located within its territory. Now, the Union still occupies this fort because the Union is |
| 00:00:31 | not recognizing South Carolina's secession. And so, Lincoln finds himself facing an enormous challenge in this situation at Fort Sumter. Let's break this down. Lincoln finds himself in a position where he needs to resupply this fort. The soldiers were running out of food and supplies. And he worried that resupplying this fort would |
| 00:00:53 | risk an armed conflict with the South. Now, if you remember during his inaugural address, Lincoln outright rejected secession. He did not want to appear to be giving into the Confederacy by not resupplying the fort. He wanted to avoid war, though, at all costs. And so these two conflicting goals ultimately lead to this situation being an enormous challenge for him. |

**Section 9**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 00:00:00 | TEACHER: In March of 1861, the Confederacy demands the |
| 00:00:04 | surrender of Fort Sumter under the threat of attack. Now we know the fort was low on supplies and soldiers. And as a result, it would not be able to hold out much longer without reinforcements. Nonetheless, the Union refuses to surrender. The image on the screen here is a letter written to President Lincoln from one of his top advisers, William Seward, asking the president what his advice is to do about |
| 00:00:27 | the situation at Fort Sumter. Ultimately, President Lincoln decides to send unarmed ships to resupply that fort. Now we see on the screen here an image of that supply ship that Lincoln sends. He does send word ahead of time to the Confederate leaders, letting them know that he's sending this ship so that they wouldn't attack. |
| 00:00:51 | He promises that no men, weapons or ammunition would go along with that ship. |

**Section 11**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 00:00:03 | So now we've had a chance to examine the events leading up |
| 00:00:06 | to the attack on Fort Sumter. Fort Sumter was a union held fort in south Carolina that the Confederate states wanted to claim as their own. The Union did not to surrender the fort unless the Confederates felt no other choice but to use force. So when examining how the Civil War begins we're going to move forward and looking at the effects of this battle between the two sides. |

**Section 12**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 00:00:00 | TEACHER: With US Naval ships on the way to resupply Fort |
| 00:00:02 | Sumter, Confederate troops begin to open fire on the fort in the early morning hours of April 12. The Confederacy feels that the Union has provoked this conflict in its effort to resupply the fort. Ultimately, the fort could not hold up against the heavy artillery, the large, mounted guns, and as a result, surrenders the fort on April 13, just a day after this brief battle is begun. |
| 00:00:27 | And with this brief battle, the Civil War has officially started. Now, after the bombing at Fort Sumter, President Lincoln calls for volunteers to the US Army. He asks for 75,000 troops from each state, including those states that had seceded from the Union. Now, those seceded states refused to send troops. There was another major effect of this bombing. |
| 00:00:53 | Four more states secede from the Union. Many people within those states believed that Lincoln had provoked the conflict in his decision to resupply the fort. Now, these four new seceded states included Tennessee, Arkansas, North Carolina, and Virginia. But in Virginia, the western delegates who disagree with secession decide to break away, start a new state of |
| 00:01:20 | West Virginia. This state is ultimately admitted to the Union in 1863. |

**Section 14**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 00:00:01 | TEACHER: So at this point we know that there are two sides |
| 00:00:06 | in this conflict. You've got the northern states that make up the Union, you've got the southern states that make up the Confederacy, but it's important to acknowledge the border states. These border states were very key, especially to Lincoln because he was determined to keep them part of the Union. He needed these states to protect the capital. And the states we're looking at here-- |
| 00:00:27 | Delaware, Maryland, West Virginia, Kentucky, and Missouri-- three of which, West Virginia, Maryland, and Delaware are very close to the nation's capital, which we can see right there in southern Maryland. These border states contained almost all of the South's manufacturing capacity, so he knew that they would be valuable in defeating the South. |
| 00:00:52 | And they also contained rivers located in these border states flowing deep into the Confederacy, so that would give him an opportunity for fighting against the Confederate armies. Because these border states were slave states, Lincoln made it clear that the goal of the war was to preserve the Union, not to free enslaved people. Now to review what we've talked about to this point, |
| 00:01:20 | we're going to look at a timeline, beginning in November of 1860 with Abraham Lincoln's election. Within three months of this election, seven states had seceded from the Union. By February of 1861, Jefferson Davis is inaugurated as the Confederate president, and just a month later Lincoln is inaugurated as the Union president. In April of 1861, Fort Sumter is attacked, leading to the |
| 00:01:49 | beginning of the Civil War, and within a month of that attack, four more states seceded from the Union. |