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The following test is designed for 8<sup>th</sup> grade American History students, as a pre-test of information known about the Civil War. Since it is a pre-test, the grade the student makes will not negatively affect their final course grade. If the students attempt to answer all questions on the test, they will receive a 100 homework grade. The test will be given during one 55-minute class period. The purpose of the test is to determine how much information the students already know about the Civil War. At the end of the unit, the students will be given a similar test about their knowledge of the Civil War. I will use the results of this test to determine where begin my instruction of the Civil War Unit.

I will not use the same test at the end of the Unit, because I will want to include detailed information that I will teach during the unit. The pre-test shows the basic information that I am curious to see if the students remember from previous classes.

On the day of the pre-test, I will read the instructions of the test to the students before I had out the test. I will take any questions they might have. I will also allow time for students to get out notebook paper if needed. I will notify the students when there are 15 and 5 minutes left in the test if needed. The students will know 10 points on the essays will come from the rubric. The other 10 points will come from the quality of information presented.

**Short answer**

Read the questions and answer with the correct word(s) or phase. Each question is worth 5 points each.

1. Who was commander of the Union troops at the end of the Civil War?

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2. Who was commander of the Confederate troops at the end of the Civil War?

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

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4. Who was the president of the Confederate States during the Civil War?

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5. Name three of the states that seceded from Union to form the Confederate States of America:

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6. Which state was the first to secede from the Union?

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7. Name one of the border states that proclaimed neutrality during the Civil War:

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8. Name the last state to secede from the Union, and then was the first state to re-enter the Union: \_\_\_\_\_

9. Which state entered the Union as a new state after seceding from a large Confederate State?

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10. In what Virginia town did the Confederate troops surrender to the Union?

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## Essay Section

Each question is worth 20 points. Each answer should include at least two four-sentence paragraphs, and all appropriate rules of grammar. You can answer the essay questions on this sheet or on a piece of notebook paper. If you use your own paper, remember your name or you will receive a **ZERO** on this portion.

1. You are commander of a Navy vessel for the Union, and receive commands to form a blockade around Charleston, South Carolina. Give two reasons you believe this assignment will harm the Confederate's chances of winning the war.
2. Harriet Beecher Stowe wrote a novel called "Uncle Tom's Cabin." Abraham Lincoln once told her "so you are the little lady who started the big war." Did "Uncle Tom's Cabin" have an impact on the Civil War? Why or Why not? Give at least two reasons to support your claim.
3. The Union command set in place a plan to secure the Mississippi River. The Confederate generals used a lot of troops and supplies to defend the River. Why was the Mississippi River such an important asset to each side? Give at least two reasons why.

### Rubric for essay questions

Following Directions	I did not listen to the directions, so I did not know what to do.	I did not follow the directions.  I was frequently off task.	I followed the directions but I had to be reminded to stay on task.	I followed the directions and stayed on task while I was working on my test, but not after.	I followed the directions, stayed on task, and sat quietly after finished with my test.
Completion of essay	My work is incomplete.	I worked on my essay, but only included 1 piece of information.	I completed (2) pieces of information on my essay, but it was incoherent.	I included all pieces of information.  My essay was rushed and grammatically incorrect.	I included all pieces of information. My essay was carefully detailed and grammatically correct.

