

THE CIVIL WAR

A FILM BY KEN BURNS

Question Sheet for the Union' Grand Strategy Student Copy

Questions from the video:

1. By the 1800s, the country was deeply divided. Describe the fears that Southerners and Northerners faced. How did the country's expansion west threaten to upset the delicate balance of power between slave and free states?
2. Lincoln described the United States as a "house divided." Discuss what he meant by this and how the country was at odds over the economic base of the South and the principles of the nation.
3. Why do you think President-elect Lincoln felt so strongly about preserving the Union? Conversely, why might Southerners have believed that secession was justified?

Questions from the Map

1. Look at the map of the Union's "Grand Strategy" and answer the following questions:
 - What role did the Union Navy play in this strategy?
 - What was the purpose of the Union campaign along the Mississippi?
 - Why did the Union plan to begin by exerting pressure on Tennessee?
2. What was the Union strategy in the East? As you look at the positions of the Northern forces, why do you think the Union strategy was nicknamed the "Anaconda" strategy?
3. If you had been given an opportunity to develop this strategy, what changes or additions would you make and why?
4. Imagine you are a Confederate General asked by President Jefferson Davis to develop a Southern strategy to combat McClellan's. What advice could you give the Confederate leadership in developing a battle strategy of its own?
5. Based on what you've researched and know about the Civil War, which particular aspect of the Union strategy do you feel was the most effective in ending the war? Which was the least? Explain your reasoning.