A. READING

Introduction to the Blue & Gray Civil War Battle Games and Their Historical Context

The Civil War, 1861-1865, was the most important event in mid-nineteenth century American history. The Civil War decided that there would be only one nation on the North American Continent between Canada and Mexico. It decided that no man would henceforth be allowed to own another human being as his property. Our powerful, modern industrial nation became possible as a result of the war growth of American factories and American know-how. Fifty years of industrial progress were accomplished in the years between 1861 and 1865. The United States emerged from the Civil War a very different nation from the one it had been. For these and many other reasons that have affected all our lives, the American Civil War is one of the most important subjects in American history to study.

There were hundreds of battles in the Civil War, but only a handful could be thought of as important turning points. Two such battles were at Antietam, September of 1862, and Gettysburg, July of 1863. The Blue & Gray battle simulations, Antietam and Cemetery Hill (the battle of Gettysburg) are games that allow you to re-fight these two important battles. The only difference is that you have a chance to change history. You will be given command of either the Union or Confederate Army, and it will be up to you to win or lose the battle. Both sides have a roughly equal chance to win.

The Battle of Antietam
17 September 1862

Importance of the Battle

One of America’s most famous Civil War historians, Bruce Catton, has called Antietam the most decisive battle of the war, “affecting the whole course of American History ever since.” The Battle of Antietam was the bloodiest day of the war, where the number of dead and wounded for both sides was well over 20,000 men. The battle and the many dead did not end the Civil War. Three more years of fighting lay ahead before the Confederacy was defeated. The Battle of Antietam did affect the Southern states’ war for independence. President Lincoln had been waiting for a Union Victory to issue his Emancipation Proclamation, declaring that a major goal of the war would be to end slavery throughout the United States. Because the fight at Antietam Creek was the closest the Union had come to winning a battle, Lincoln used the “victory” to issue his Emancipation Proclamation. The stopping of the Confederate invasion of the North also persuaded several European nations that 1862 was not the time to interfere.

For the Confederacy, 1862 had been filled with victories. The Southern armies under Robert E. Lee and other Confederate generals had twice defeated the Union armies. The first Union defeat was at the Seven Days Battle, from 26 June to 1 July, and the second was at the Second Battle of Bull Run, which lasted from 29 August to 2 September. After these two losses, the Union Army rebuilt its heavily injured forces. Thirty-five replacement regiments, each of which could include as many as 1,000 soldiers, were distributed to fill in the battle casualties.

Decision to Invade the North

The commander of the Southern army that was to fight at Antietam was General Robert E. Lee, on whose shoulders Southern hopes for victory rested. His army, named the Army of Northern Virginia, was the best of all the Confederate forces. Lee now felt confident enough to try an invasion of the North. A Southern victory on Northern soil might be the key that would unlock the door for European help.

The Union naval blockade of Southern ports and river inlets prevented Southern shipping from entering and leaving without the risk of destruction or capture. Support from one or more European countries might include warships to help break the blockade, enabling the South to obtain badly needed manufactured goods.

The Invasion Begins

On 4 September 1862, Lee’s army crossed the Potomac River into Maryland, splitting his army into several parts and sending them toward different targets. Maryland was a loyal Union state, despite the fact that under its laws slavery was legal. General Lee did not have a firm plan of action, and his supply situation was dangerous. Supplies, the lifeblood of an army, are made up of ammunition, food for the soldiers and horses, ambulances, spare uniforms, boots, and hundreds of other items an army on the move could need. Without a steady flow of supplies, the Confederate invasion of the North would turn into a defeat. Lee may have planned an attempt to cut the major Union east-west railroad, an important Northern supply line. But any victory on Northern soil, whether a crushing victory or not, would get results across the Atlantic Ocean in Europe.

McClellan and the Army of the Potomac

The Commanding General of the Union Army, George McClellan, has been nicknamed “tardy George” because of his slowness in moving his army. On 6 September, McClellan responded to Lee’s invasion and began slowly moving troops into Maryland. Maryland proved to be a poor state for McClellan to gather information about the movement of Lee’s army. McClellan came to believe that there were as many as 120,000 Confederate soldiers marching north when, in fact, McClellan’s army outnumbered Lee’s by almost two to one.
A. READING

Then, as often happens to affect the course of battles, McClellan had a stroke of good luck. A copy of General Lee’s battle orders was found, wrapped around three Havana cigars, by some Union soldiers. First, McClellan made sure that the letter was actually in Robert E. Lee’s handwriting. Next, he set the Army of the Potomac in motion to destroy the split up parts of the Confederate army. It was McClellan’s plan to have the whole Northern army to destroy each part of Lee’s separated army, one part at a time. In this way Lee would not have the chance to bring the scattered parts of his army together.

Fighting broke out in several areas as McClellan’s soldiers fought with units of Lee’s army, positioned to block important roads through the mountains. One battle was fought at Crampton’s Gap on 14 September. On 15 September, the town of Harper’s Ferry was captured by the Confederate General Stonewall Jackson. [General Jackson got the name “Stonewall” at the first battle of Bull Run in 1861. Southern troops fleeing the battle gained courage at the sight of Jackson and his men standing firm. “Look! There is Jackson, standing like a stonewall! Rally behind the Virginians!”] Lee realized what McClellan was up to and recalled his scattered army to the area around Sharpsburg (hexes 0616–0716–0816 on the game map). Here, near Sharpsburg and Antietam Creek (hexes north 2001, south to hex 1128) Lee decided to stand and fight.

There were at least three reasons why the area around Antietam was a poor place to defend. The first reason was that the Union artillery could fire support for almost the entire Southern battleline. The Union artillery contained rifled cannons which had a superior range but could not be moved as easily as the lighter smoothbore southern artillery. The Union artillery was to be very effective in this battle due to the work of artillery spotters. These spotters directed the fire of the cannon and made the shot much more accurate. The second reason that the area was poorly suited to defense is that Antietam Creek can be crossed in many places. There are four bridges and five fords (shallow areas that can be crossed by men on foot), too many for Lee to defend. The third reason is the distance to Lee’s only supply source: Boelter’s Ford (hexes 0126–0124) on the Potomac River. Boelter’s Ford was also the only place that Lee could retreat to the Southern side of the Potomac River. If the Union Army could get between the Confederate Army and Boelter’s Ford, the Army of Northern Virginia would be trapped.

McClellan’s Errors

Both armies spent 15 and 16 September in skirmishes (small fights) and in preparation for battle. By 16 September, McClellan was to make many errors in the fighting to come. His first major error was his failure to provide his generals with written battle orders. The Northern generals who would do the actual fighting had no clear idea of what they were supposed to do. If the separate elements of the Union army had attacked all at one time, they could have defeated the Southerners. Unfortunately, most of the Union attacks were launched by different portions of the army at different times of the day, allowing the outnumbered Confederates to rush reserve units from one part of the battleline to another. McClellan also failed to scout Lee’s defensive positions or discover which portions of Antietam Creek could be crossed.

17 September:
A Day of Six Attacks

The battle opened on 17 September with an attack by Union forces on the west side of Antietam Creek. The day’s fighting was to last from 6 a.m. until after 4 p.m. There would be six separate attacks, five by the Union and one by the Confederate troops. The attacks came clockwise from northwest of the Sunken Road (hexes 1012–1113) to Sharpsburg, and the area around Burnside’s Bridge (hexes 1218–1318).

The first attack came from General Hooker’s Corps of three divisions (units around hex 0907 in game set-up) at 6:00 a.m. The Union soldiers managed to push the Rebels back and almost out of West Woods (hexes 0609 to 1009). A counterattack by General Hood’s division stopped Hooker’s advance. Hooker, wounded later in the day, was to take part in no further action on the 17th. The Confederates in this area were attacked again at 7:30 a.m. by General Mansfield’s Corps (units around hex 1305 in game set-up). General Mansfield was killed early in the fighting, and his corps failed to break the Confederate battleline. The third Union attack was made at 9:00 a.m. by General Sumner with only one division of his corps. This force had the misfortune to attack the Southern line where a fresh Confederate division had just arrived. The Union soldiers found themselves in a bad position, and within a few minutes, 2,000 men were killed or wounded.

Bloody Lane

The fourth Union attack, launched at 10:30 a.m., was made by the two remaining divisions of Sumner’s Corps. These troops clashed with Confederates commanded by D. M. Hill at the Sunken Road. This area, in the center of the Southern battleline, was the scene of a struggle so fierce that it became known as “Bloody Lane” (hexes 1012–1113). Thousands of men were slaughtered in the bitter fighting, which ended when the Confederates withdrew, leaving “Bloody Lane” in Union hands. A Union Army correspondent, Charles Coffin, witnessed the fighting at “Bloody Lane” and reported...

Memory recalls the advance of the line of men in blue across the narrow... The line halted for alignment. The skirmishers are in the advance. There are isolated puffs of smoke...up the slope moves the line to the top of the knoll. Ah! What a crash! A white cloud, gleams of lightning, a yell, a war whoop, and then up in the cornfield a great confusion of men firing... into each other’s faces, the Confederate line breaking, the ground strewn with prostrate forms. The Confederate line in “Bloody Lane” has been annihiliated, the center pierced.

Just here McClellan lost a great opportunity.... Porter’s eleven thousand should have been sent across Antietam Creek, thrown... upon the enemy.... But not a soldier stirred from his position. McClellan saw it, but issued no orders.

Both Generals Sumner and McClellan thought a second attack was not the right thing to do. General Lee’s army was spared a damaging defeat because of the decision of these two generals.

Burnside’s Bridge

The fifth Union attack took place at Burnside’s Bridge (hexes 1218–1318). Beginning with attacks in the morning, General Burnside had been trying to get his men across Antietam Creek. Even though the creek was shallow enough in places to walk across, it took three attempts before Union troops (around hex 1690 in game set-up) successfully crossed Burnside’s Bridge. Another attack was made by Brigadier General Issac Rodman’s men at Snively Ford (hexes 1021–1121).

At 1:00 p.m., Burnside’s soldiers rushed the bridges and found the Confederates had retreated to the high ground east and south. The cavalry units of General Pleasonton, along with General Sykes infantry (units around hex 1516 in game set-up), began to cross Antietam Creek at Middle Bridge (hexes 1314–1413). Both Pleasonton and Sykes asked McClellan for permission to attack, but McClellan refused.

By 3:00 p.m., Burnside was ready to make the sixth Union attack on the hills west
of Burnside’s Bridge (hexes 0916, 0918). In an hour, Union soldiers were in the town of Sharpsburg.

The End of the Battle
At 4:00 p.m., the last attack of the day was launched. This was the only major Confederate attack of the battle. A. P. Hill’s powerful division marched up from Harper’s Ferry and crashed into Burnside’s flank (side) near Sharpsburg. Burnside’s corps retreated to the rough terrain around Antietam Creek, and the Battle of Antietam was over. Large Union reinforcements arrived on 18 September, but Lee’s army was allowed to retreat peacefully.

The entire Army of Southern Virginia could have been destroyed as it retreated to Boelte’s Ford. If McClellan had ordered his larger army toward the ford, the Confederates would have been trapped, unable to cross. The failure of the Union army at Antietam was not due to a lack of fighting ability. The men fought bravely, but their heroism and courage were thrown away by their slowly moving and overly cautious commander. The losses to both sides made 17 September the dead last day of the American Civil War. Out of 40,000 Confederate soldiers, 10,000 — 25 percent — were killed or wounded. Union losses were even heavier, with 12,000 out of 46,000 killed or wounded — over 26 percent. McClellan’s army at the battle numbered over 70,000 men, but he failed to use 24,000 troops.

Important Results of the Antietam Battle
The Battle of Antietam had consequences far beyond the incomplete Union victory. Militarily, the battle settled nothing, for the South remained unconquered and Lee’s army was still strong. General George McClellan was removed from command of the Army of the Potomac by President Lincoln. Lincoln accused McClellan of having a "case of the slows" in letting Lee get away at Antietam. Lincoln, on the other hand, had been waiting for a Union victory to issue a document he had prepared. This document was the Emancipation Proclamation, which freed the slaves in the Confederate states. Human slavery in the Union border states was not ended and Lincoln was criticized for this. But the Emancipation Proclamation made it clear that one of his goals for the Union in the Civil War was to end slavery in the United States.

The Emancipation Proclamation and the failure of the Confederate armies in their northern invasion had an important result across the Atlantic Ocean. Before the battle of Antietam, the Emperor of France, Napoleon III, had suggested that the European nations of France, England, and Russia intervene and help the South. There were many reasons why the European upper classes favored the Confederacy. The textile factories of Europe depended on Southern cotton, and supplies of this valuable commodity were interrupted by the Union naval blockade. Another reason was the fear and jealousy the European leaders had of the United States as a growing industrial giant. The United States was fast developing into a powerful nation with resources and new factories that threatened the economic position of the older nations of Europe. They hoped the United States could be split into two separate nations and become less powerful.

The Battle of Antietam changed the minds of European leaders. Until the Union victory at Antietam, the South had won an impressive string of victories. There was a chance that the agricultural South might gain its independence from the stronger industrial North. But General Lee’s defeat at Antietam made the chances for such a Southern victory less promising.

The Battle of Antietam determined that the victor of the American Civil War would be decided by Americans, not foreigners.

The Battle of Gettysburg
1-3 July 1863

Of all the battles fought during the Civil War, the Battle of Gettysburg is the best known. The number of men killed and wounded at Gettysburg in July of 1863 made it the bloodiest battle of the war. It was not until World War I (1914-1918) that more men lost their lives in a single battle. The Union victories at Gettysburg and at Vicksburg in the west ended all hopes for a Confederate victory. The war was to last for two more years even though the Confederacy was militarily defeated in July of 1863.

The Confederacy in 1863
The military position of the South in the middle of 1863 was comparable to its situation in 1862. In both years the South had won two victories over the Union of the Potomac. The Army of the Potomac was the main force Robert E. Lee was to face throughout the war. In 1862, the victories had been the Battle of the Seven Days and Second Bull Run. From these two victories came the Confederate defeat at Antietam. In 1863, the South had defeated the North at the Battles of Chancellorsville and Fredericksburg in early May. From these two victories would come the Union triumph at Gettysburg.

General Lee suffered a great loss in his victory at Chancellorsville. His most trusted general and friend, Stonewall Jackson, was wounded and later died. General Jackson was shot by one of his own men in a horrible mistake. General Longstreet, another of Lee’s generals, said of the loss of Stonewall Jackson, “The dark clouds of the future began to lower above the Confederacy.”

The South’s Military Problems
In May of 1863, Robert E. Lee had to decide what his Army of Northern Virginia would do next. Confederate armies in two other areas could use help. The Union general in the west, Ulysses S. Grant, with his Army of Tennessee, was close to capturing Vicksburg, the last Confederate stronghold on the Mississippi River. If Vicksburg, Mississippi fell, the Union would have control of the Mississippi River, and the Confederacy would be cut in half. In Tennessee, General Bragg was facing the Union Army led by Rosecrans. General Longstreet suggested that Lee that part of the Army of Northern Virginia should be sent to Bragg. This large force could defeat General Rosecrans and then move to threaten Grant’s supply lines. Longstreet believed that the only hope the Confederacy had was to outgun the Union. He believed it was a mistake to fight directly against the stronger Northern armies. The North could easily replace its losses, in men and equipment. The South could not replace all their losses.

Lee Plans an Invasion
General Lee decided to try a northern invasion again. The Army of Northern Virginia would invade the Northern state of Pennsylvania to pull Union troops away from Vicksburg. General Longstreet went along with the plan. He hoped Lee would force the Union armies to attack them when the Southerners were ready and in strong defensive positions. In Civil War battles, the attacker usually suffered much higher casualties than the defenders.

Lee’s Army of Northern Virginia was at its best. General Lee had 70,000 experienced, battle hardened soldiers ready to follow him anywhere. They would invade the North a second time. All the South hoped and prayed that this time the outcome of the Northern campaign would be different.

There were three main reasons for Lee to invade the North. First, the Confederate government still believed that European intervention was possible. But aid from Europe would come only if Lee’s Army won an important victory in a Northern state. Second, a Confederate victory would encourage the Peace Party in the North. This party, made up of Northerners who were tired of the fighting, wanted to end the war and let the South go. Third, the Army of Northern Virginia was always low on supplies. The rich countryside of the North had goods, food, and horses that were hungry, poorly dressed Rebel soldiers needed. Each Confederate Army would pass near would be forced to give the Rebel soldiers what they asked for.
The Union in 1863

The 100,000 men of the Union Army of the Potomac were commanded by General "Fighting Joe" Hooker. Hooker was the general that Lee had defeated at the Battle of Chancellorsville in May of 1863. Many of the units of the Union army were understrength. The replacements were often draftees with little or no combat experience. Before the Battle of Gettysburg began, President Lincoln replaced Hooker with General George Gordon Meade. General Meade was to command the Army of the Potomac for the rest of the war.

Lee's Invasion Begins

In early June, Lee set his army in motion and the second invasion of the North was on. Lee moved the army north, through the Shenandoah Valley. In later June, he crossed to the northern side of the Potomac River into the Cumberland Valley of Pennsylvania. The exact location of the Union Army was a mystery to Lee. The cavalry of both sides did the job of scouting and watching the enemy's movements. Lee's cavalry commander was J. E. B. Stuart. Stuart's cavalry was not present to help Lee find the Union army. They were busy riding around the Union army and were far from Lee when he needed them. Lee hoped the Army of the Potomac was still south of the Potomac River, but a spy reported them north of the river. On 29 June, General Meade ordered his army to march toward the Rebels.

The Battle Begins

On the morning of 1 July, one of Lee's infantry brigades was on its way to collect supplies from the Pennsylvania town of Gettysburg. One of the demands was to be for 1,000 pairs of shoes. The town of Gettysburg itself was of little military importance, but a network of roads ran through the town to the east, west, north, and south. The Confederate infantry ran into Union cavalry, and a fight broke out. Both sides began moving troops to what would become the largest battle ever fought in North America.

The First Day, 1 July 1863

The first fighting broke out at 8:00 a.m. on 1 July on McPherson's Ridge (hexes 0410 to 0907). On top of the ridge were Union dismounted cavalry. Although the Union cavalry was outnumbered, they had the advantage of being equipped with new breach loading rifles. These rifles were loaded near the trigger mechanism. The vast majority of soldiers on both sides fought with a weapon known as the rifle-musket. The rifle-musket was a rifle that had to be loaded from the muzzle (the opening at the end of the barrel). By 10:30 a.m., the Union troops had been pushed back to Seminary Ridge (hexes 0812 to 0912). They had delayed the Confederate advance long enough for the Union reinforcements to arrive. Even with these new troops, the Union soldiers were still outnumbered and were forced to retreat a second time. The Rebels occupied Seminary Ridge and pushed on to the town of Gettysburg. Union troops were now in place on both Cemetery Hill and Culp's Hill (hexes 1412 and 1513). These positions were strong, giving the defender an advantage. Fighting ended for the day, but during the night reinforcements arrived on both sides.

That night, General Lee called a strategy conference with his top generals. A disagreement broke out between Lee and General Longstreet, who was known in the Confederate army as "Lee's Old War Horse." Lee wanted to outflank the Union army on the left around the Emmitsburg Road. Longstreet thought it best to go on the defensive and let Meade do the attacking. This would mean the Union army would suffer more dead and wounded. The Confederate army was also at its best when fighting on the defensive. General Lee's decision, as commander of the Army, was made to attack.

The Second Day, 2 July 1863

The Confederates attacked the next day. They hit the stretched out troops of the Union V Corps who were occupying a line in front of Cemetery Ridge (hexes 1118 and 1119). The Confederate assault troops swept through the Devil's Den (hex 0921) and began climbing through the forest covered slopes of Little Round Top (hex 1020). General Meade had forgotten to send Union troops there. In the nick of time, a Union officer managed to get some troops to the summit of Little Round Top and stop the Confederate advance. A second Rebel attack struck Cemetery and Culp's Hills. Here, too, the Union troops held off hard fighting. Night fell for the second time in the battle. General Meade and his corps commanders tried to decide whether to stay and fight or retreat. They finally put it to a vote and decided to stay. General Lee, on the other side of the battlefield, was determined to attack the Union center the next day. This attack was to consist of General Pickett's newly arrived division. Pickett's division was Lee's last reserve force. At 1:00 p.m. on 3 July, Lee ordered Pickett's 15,000 troops and 159 cannon to attack the center of the Union line. An observer of Pickett's charge was Edmund Rice, Breuer Lieutenant Colonel, United States Army. He wrote...

This was Pickett's advance... I had an excellent view of the advancing line

and could see the entire formation of the attacking column. An instant after they seemed to rise out of the earth, and so near that expression on their faces was seen. Now our men knew no longer. Aiming low they opened a deadly concentrated fire, upon the moving mass in their front. Nothing human could stand it. Staggering by the storm of lead, the charging line hesitated... and then a portion of Pickett's division appeared to melt and drift away in the powder smoke.

Pickett's brave men were massacred as they tried to reach the Union line on top of Cemetery Ridge (hexes 1119 and 1019). Their attack sputtered out after some early success, and then many of the Rebel soldiers retreated in disorder. They could not take the heavy Union rifle and cannon fire. Pickett's charge has come down through history as a symbol for wasted strength.

Now was the time for a Union counterattack, but there was to be none. General Meade had no concentrated reserves to send after the defeated Confederates. Meade had broken up his reserves into small units and spread them over the long Union battleline. The battle was over, and once again Lee retreated without hindrance. Another chance to smash the Southern army had been lost. But any hope the Confederacy may have had for European aid vanished in the smoke and fire of Cemetery Ridge.

The Beginning of the End

At the same time as the Battle of Gettysburg was being fought, a second important battle was taking place in the West. The last Confederate fortress on the Mississippi River, the town of Vicksburg, fell to General Grant's army. The Mississippi River was now free of Confederate shipping, and the South had been cut in two. The Confederate states of Texas, Arkansas, and Louisiana, all west of the river, could no longer contribute directly to the South's war effort. The South was doomed to defeat, but the war would last many more months, and thousands of young men would still die. The Civil War finally ended when Robert E. Lee surrendered his army to General Ulysses S. Grant at Appomattox Courthouse, Virginia, on Sunday 9 April 1865.
B. ANTIETAM TEST GROUP

Reading-Related Multiple Choice Questions
Questions Relating to Antietam Reading:

1. The Battle of Antietam was fought because...
   A. □ The North invaded the South in September of 1862.
   B. □ The South invaded the North in September of 1862.
   C. □ McClellan had been removed from command.
   D. □ Napoleon III recognized the Confederacy.
   E. □ Lee was given command in August of 1862.

2. During the year of 1862 the ________ had won two victories at the Seven Days Battle and Second Bull Run.
   A. □ South.
   B. □ North.
   C. □ Union.
   D. □ Federals.
   E. □ None of the above.

3. Union battle losses had been ________ during the fighting in 1862.
   A. □ Light.
   B. □ Small.
   C. □ Heavy.
   D. □ Moderate.
   E. □ None of the above.

4. Why were the Confederate states unable to obtain badly needed supplies from Europe?
   A. □ Confederate armies had won only two victories.
   B. □ Northern soldiers occupied almost all the Southern ports.
   C. □ Confederates had no merchant ships to bring the supplies.
   D. □ The Northern fleet blockaded Southern ports and inlets.
   E. □ Both A and C.

5. The Battle of Antietam was fought in the state of...
   A. □ Virginia.
   B. □ Maryland.
   C. □ Pennsylvania.
   D. □ Rhode Island.
   E. □ Tennessee.

6. Which of the following best describes Lee’s plans for a Northern invasion in 1862?
   A. □ Well thought out.
   B. □ Too rigid.
   C. □ He had no firm plan of action.
   D. □ His plan was similar to a plan he had used before.
   E. □ None of the above.

7. A copy of Lee’s battle plan was found wrapped around ________ by some Union soldiers.
   A. □ Havana cigars.
   B. □ Musket.
   C. □ Spy’s leg.
   D. □ Horse’s saddle.
   E. □ Inside a telescope.

8. McClellan’s battle plan was to...
   A. □ Split up his army into small details.
   B. □ Wait for Lee to concentrate, then attack.
   C. □ Make an attack into Virginia.
   D. □ Use the whole army to attack each separate part of Lee’s army.
   E. □ Retreat his whole army to Washington, D.C., then counterattack.

9. There were at least three reasons why the area around Antietam Creek was a poor place to defend. Which of the following was not one of these?
   A. □ Union artillery would have an advantage.
   B. □ Antietam Creek could be crossed in many places.
   C. □ There were no towns or villages to retreat to.
   D. □ There was only one ford on the Potomac River that the South could retreat over.
   E. □ Both A and B.

10. One of McClellan’s most serious mistakes in the Battle of Antietam was that he...
    A. □ Failed to give clear, written orders to his generals.
    B. □ Failed to bring his artillery into position.
    C. □ Let himself be trapped by Lee.
    D. □ Lost his battle orders.
    E. □ Lost his way in the woods.
11. The date of the Battle of Antietam was...
   A. □ 17 December 1862.
   B. □ 17 September 1861.
   C. □ 17 September 1864.
   D. □ 17 December 1863.
   E. □ 17 September 1862.

12. The most vicious fighting of the Battle of Antietam took place at...
   A. □ Burnside’s Bridge.
   B. □ Bloody Lane.
   C. □ Sharpsburg Road.
   D. □ Middle Bridge.
   E. □ Snively’s Ford.

13. Although heavy fighting took place around the bridge that later became known as Burnside’s Bridge, the bridge itself was not that important to the outcome of the battle. Which of the following is a reason the bridge was of little actual value?
   A. □ The bridge was far from the main battle.
   B. □ Lee had partially burned the bridge the day before.
   C. □ Antietam Creek could not be crossed.
   D. □ Antietam Creek could be crossed in many places.
   E. □ Both A and C.

14. The last attack of the day was made by A. P. Hill’s division, which attacked the flanks of ____ Corps near Sharpsburg.
   A. □ Lee’s.
   B. □ Hooker’s.
   C. □ Mansfield’s.
   D. □ Burnside’s.
   E. □ Sykes’.

15. The entire Confederate army could have been destroyed if the Union army could have advanced to ____ first.
   A. □ Boletter’s Ford.
   B. □ Burnside’s Bridge.
   C. □ Rodman’s Ford.
   D. □ Middle Bridge.
   E. □ Snively’s Ford.

16. The Union military victory at Antietam could best be described as...
   A. □ Decisive.
   B. □ Crucial.
   C. □ Incomplete.
   D. □ Gigantic.
   E. □ The South actually won the battle.

17. Lincoln used the victory at Antietam to issue the ________.
   A. □ Toleration Proclamation.
   B. □ Prohibition Amendment.
   C. □ Declaration of Independence.
   D. □ Emancipation Proclamation.
   E. □ None of the above.

18. In Europe, before the Battle of Antietam, the Emperor of France, ________, suggested intervention in the American Civil War on the side of the Confederacy.
   A. □ Napoleon.
   B. □ Napoleon III.
   C. □ Disraeli.
   D. □ Czar Nicholas.
   E. □ Petain III.

19. Which of the following is a reason certain groups in Europe hoped for a Confederate victory?
   A. □ Many European textile mills were dependent on Southern cotton.
   B. □ A Confederate victory would weaken the Industrial expansion of the northern states.
   C. □ Slavery in the South would continue.
   D. □ The Confederate naval blockade of northern ports would be ended.

20. The Battle of Antietam had several effects on the course of the American Civil War. Which of the following statements describes the most important effect?
   A. □ The Confederate invasion of the North was stopped before property damage became serious.
   B. □ General McClellan was replaced as commander of the Army of the Potomac.
   C. □ It showed that an agricultural nation can militarily defeat an industrial nation.
   D. □ It decided that the winner of the American Civil War would be decided by Americans.
B. ANTIETAM TEST GROUP

Game-Related Multiple Choice Questions
Questions Relating to Antietam Game:

1. The best description of the Union and Confederate artillery situation is...
   A. □ The South’s artillery could fire farther but could not move.
   B. □ The North’s artillery could fire farther and move.
   C. □ Both the North and South had equal artillery.
   D. □ The North’s artillery could fire farther but could not move.
   E. □ There were no artillery pieces at Antietam.

2. The town both sides were fighting for control of is...
   A. □ Harper’s Ferry.
   B. □ Sharpsburg.
   C. □ Shepherdstown.
   D. □ Boelter’s Ford.
   E. □ Gettysburg.

3. The “Sunken Road” is located...
   A. □ On the Potomac River.
   B. □ In a forest (green) hex.
   C. □ East of Antietam Creek.
   D. □ In a rough (yellow) hex.
   E. □ In both A and B.

4. On Turn one, the Union army is...
   A. □ Both east and west of Antietam Creek.
   B. □ Only on the east bank.
   C. □ In Sharpsburg.
   D. □ In Harper’s Ferry.
   E. □ On the “Sunken Road.”

5. The best strategy for the Union Player is to...
   A. □ Not move and let the Confederates come to them.
   B. □ Withdraw to the east bank of Antietam Creek.
   C. □ Push to Snively’s Ford.
   D. □ Build more bridges across Antietam Creek.
   E. □ Advance to Sharpsburg, then to the Potomac River ferry hex.

6. The best strategy for the Confederates is to...
   A. □ Attack the Union at less than 2 to 1.
   B. □ Withdraw immediately across Antietam Creek.
   C. □ Defend Sharpsburg and ferry hex 0125.
   D. □ Wait until the night turn, then withdraw.
   E. □ Attack the Union artillery across Antietam Creek.

7. The Union Player is handicapped by...
   A. □ Being able to move only 10 units per turn, after turn 1.
   B. □ Being able to move only 15 units after turn 1.
   C. □ Having artillery with a three hex range.
   D. □ Having units only on the east side of Antietam Creek.
   E. □ Having so few crossing places across Antietam Creek.

8. A unit’s defensive strength is doubled on all types of terrain except...
   A. □ Rough hexes.
   B. □ Town hexes.
   C. □ Forest hexes.
   D. □ Clear hexes.
   E. □ Both C and D.

9. How would you describe the road network running through Sharpsburg?
   A. □ There are only three roads.
   B. □ There are only two roads.
   C. □ There are more than three roads.
   D. □ The roads run in only two directions.
   E. □ Both A and D.

10. Which of the following best describes the difference between the Union and Confederate infantry units?
    A. □ The Confederate units are generally larger.
    B. □ The Union units are generally larger.
    C. □ The Confederate army can move more units than the Union.
    D. □ The Union army can move more units than the Confederates.
    E. □ Both B and C.
B. ANTIETAM TEST GROUP

Essay Questions for *Antietam* Reading

1. What important effects has the Battle of Antietam had on U.S. history?

2. Compare the situations of the Northern and Southern armies in the summer of 1862.

3. Do you think Lee's plan for his invasion of the North was well thought out? Explain your answer.

4. What role does supply play in warfare?

5. What mistakes did Lee make when he invaded the North?

6. Describe the "piece of luck" McClellan had.

7. What was McClellan's plan? Do you think it was a good plan? Explain your answer.

8. Why was Sharpsburg a poor place for Lee to defend?

9. What role did each of the following Union corps play in the Battle of Antietam: (A) Sumner's; (B) Mansfield's; (C) Hooker's; (D) Burnside's.

10. How can you explain McClellan's decision not to continue the attack?

11. How could McClellan have trapped Lee's army?

12. What did Lincoln issue after the Battle of Antietam, and why was it important?

13. Which result of the Union "victory" at Antietam do you consider the most important? Explain your answer.

14. What would you have done differently if you had been General Lee?

15. What would you have done differently if you had been General George McClellan?

16. Why was the Confederacy eager for European intervention?

Locating the Antietam Battlefield

Name the states and indicate whether they were part of the Confederacy or Union. Show the approximate location of the Antietam battlefield.
C. CEMETERY HILL GROUP

Reading-Related Multiple Choice Questions
Questions Relating to Cemetery Hill Reading:

1. Gettysburg was the bloodiest battle of the American Civil War. It was not until _______ that more men were killed in a single battle.
   A. ☐ Spanish-American War.
   B. ☐ Crimean War.
   C. ☐ World War I.
   D. ☐ World War II.
   E. ☐ Korean War.

2. The military situation in the middle of 1862 was similar to that in 1863. The main similarity was...
   A. ☐ The South had lost two battles.
   B. ☐ The South had defeated the Army of the Potomac twice.
   C. ☐ Lee was commanding general in the west in 1862 and 1863.
   D. ☐ The South had lost two battles in the east.
   E. ☐ None of the above.

3. General Lee suffered a great loss at the Battle of Chancellorsville in May of 1863. This loss was the...
   A. ☐ Death of Ulysses S. Grant.
   B. ☐ Death of Stonewall Jackson.
   C. ☐ Death of Longstreet.
   D. ☐ Fall of Vicksburg.
   E. ☐ Fall of Richmond.

4. General Longstreet believed the best tactic for the Confederate Army was...
   A. ☐ Outgeneral the Union.
   B. ☐ Withdraw deeper into the South.
   C. ☐ Surrender at once before more blood was shed.
   D. ☐ Invade Pennsylvania.
   E. ☐ Invade Maryland.

5. Which of the following best describes the Army of Northern Virginia in June of 1863?
   A. ☐ Low morale.
   B. ☐ Well equipped.
   C. ☐ Almost defeated.
   D. ☐ At its best.
   E. ☐ Both A and C.

6. Which of the following was not a reason for Lee to invade the North in June of 1863?
   A. ☐ Invasion would encourage the Northern Peace Party.
   B. ☐ The Confederate army needed supplies.
   C. ☐ Victory might bring foreign intervention.
   D. ☐ The Union army was weak in the east.
   E. ☐ Both A and D.

7. Before the Battle of Gettysburg, President Lincoln replaced General _______ with General _______ as the new commander of the Army of the Potomac.
   A. ☐ Hooker/Meade.
   B. ☐ Meade/Hooker.
   C. ☐ Meade/Grant.
   D. ☐ Longstreet/Hooker.
   E. ☐ Jackson/Meade.

8. Lee was unsure of the position of the Union army because...
   A. ☐ Meade was marching South.
   B. ☐ J. E. B. Stuart's cavalry was far away.
   C. ☐ J. E. B. Stuart's cavalry was defeated and could not scout.
   D. ☐ His spies gave him differing information.
   E. ☐ Grant was besieging Vicksburg.

9. One of the demands the Confederate army was planning to make on the town of Gettysburg was...
   A. ☐ 1,000 pairs of shoes.
   B. ☐ 500 horses.
   C. ☐ 1,000 muskets.
   D. ☐ 500 barrels of flour.
   E. ☐ 1,000 shirts.

10. Gettysburg is in the state of...
    A. ☐ Maryland.
    B. ☐ Virginia.
    C. ☐ Pennsylvania.
    D. ☐ New York.
    E. ☐ Mississippi.
C. CEMETERY HILL GROUP

11. The outnumbered Union cavalry on McPherson's Ridge on 1 July held off the Confederates because...
   A. ☐ They were better soldiers.
   B. ☐ They had muzzle loading rifles.
   C. ☐ They were mounted on horses.
   D. ☐ The Confederate commander was drunk.
   E. ☐ They had new breach loading rifles.

12. The town of Gettysburg was important because...
   A. ☐ It had a shoe factory.
   B. ☐ Many roads ran through it.
   C. ☐ General Lee had been born there.
   D. ☐ J. E. B. Stuart decided to fight there.
   E. ☐ It is located on the Mississippi River.

13. One serious mistake Lee made was...
   A. ☐ To defend instead of attack.
   B. ☐ To attack instead of defend.
   C. ☐ To retreat too early.
   D. ☐ To leave J. E. B. Stuart's troops in Vicksburg.
   E. ☐ Not to bring reinforcements with him.

14. On the second night of the battle, General Meade and his corps commanders decided...
   A. ☐ To retreat.
   B. ☐ To attack Lee in the center.
   C. ☐ To attack Stuart.
   D. ☐ To stay and not retreat.
   E. ☐ To withdraw to better positions.

15. ☐ 's charge was an attempt by General Lee to break the Union center on the last day of the battle.
   A. ☐ Jackson's.
   B. ☐ Pierson's.
   C. ☐ Pickett's.
   D. ☐ Meade's.
   E. ☐ Longstreet's.

16. The reason General Meade did not counterattack the defeated Confederate army was...
   A. ☐ His men were tired.
   B. ☐ J. E. B. Stuart's cavalry stopped them.
   C. ☐ Lee's army was still too strong.
   D. ☐ He had no concentrated reserves.

17. A second important Union victory in early July was at...
   A. ☐ Second Bull Run.
   B. ☐ The Siege of Richmond.
   C. ☐ Vicksburg.
   D. ☐ Chancellorsville.
   E. ☐ Spokane.

18. With the Mississippi River in Union hands, the Confederacy was...
   A. ☐ Cut in half.
   B. ☐ Was encouraged.
   C. ☐ Hoped for aid from Europe.
   D. ☐ Could no longer receive direct aid from the Confederate states west of the River.
   E. ☐ Both A and D.

19. Robert E. Lee surrendered to Ulysses S. Grant on 9 August 1865 at...
   A. ☐ Rosecrans Courthouse.
   B. ☐ Richmond Courthouse.
   C. ☐ Appomattox Courthouse.
   D. ☐ Fredericksburg Toll House.
   E. ☐ Appomattox Toll House.

20. The reasons for Lee's invasion of Pennsylvania in 1863 and the Battle of Gettysburg that resulted can best be compared with...
   A. ☐ His invasion of Maryland and the Battle of Vicksburg.
   B. ☐ His invasion of Tennessee and the Battle of Shiloh.
   C. ☐ His invasion of Pennsylvania and the Battle of Antietam.
   D. ☐ His invasion of Maryland and the Battle of Antietam.
   E. ☐ None of the above.
C. CEMETERY HILL GROUP

Game-Related Multiple Choice Questions
Questions Relating to Cemetery Hill Game:

1. Which side has the advantage (in total strength on the map) at the beginning of the game?
   A. ☐ The North.
   B. ☐ The South.
   C. ☐ Both are even.
   D. ☐ No units are on the map at the beginning of the game.
   E. ☐ The South would have the advantage, if they had artillery.

2. The town on the map is...
   A. ☐ Sharpsburg.
   B. ☐ Shepherdstown.
   C. ☐ Gettysburg.
   D. ☐ Emmitsburg.
   E. ☐ Harper's Ferry.

3. On the night turns...
   A. ☐ No units may move.
   B. ☐ Units may move out of enemy zones of control.
   C. ☐ Artillery has its range lowered to two hexes.
   D. ☐ Units may not move out of enemy zones of control.
   E. ☐ None of the above.

4. In which of the following hexes is the defender not tripled in strength when attacked?
   A. ☐ Cemetery Hill.
   B. ☐ Little Round Top.
   C. ☐ Round Top.
   D. ☐ Culp's Hill.
   E. ☐ Town hex.

5. Confederate reinforcements arrive on the...
   A. ☐ Chambersburg Pike.
   B. ☐ Emmitsburg Road.
   C. ☐ Boelter's Ford.
   D. ☐ York Pike.
   E. ☐ The Confederate Player receives no reinforcements.

6. The majority of units in Cemetery Hill are...
   A. ☐ Brigades (X).
   B. ☐ Divisions (XX).
   C. ☐ Corps (XXX).
   D. ☐ Platoons (●●●).
   E. ☐ None of the above.

7. To win in Cemetery Hill a player...
   A. ☐ Must control the town of Harper's Ferry.
   B. ☐ Must control the town of Gettysburg.
   C. ☐ Must control Cemetery Hill.
   D. ☐ Must eliminate more enemy units than he loses.
   E. ☐ Must exit all his units off the mapsheet.

8. The artillery units in Cemetery Hill can fire...
   A. ☐ Only on night turns.
   B. ☐ Up to seven hexes for the Union.
   C. ☐ Three hexes or less.
   D. ☐ Only if it is stacked with an infantry unit.
   E. ☐ Both C and D.

9. The town of Gettysburg is important for an army to control because...
   A. ☐ It is located on rough terrain.
   B. ☐ Many roads run through it.
   C. ☐ It was the first Northern town a Confederate army had taken.
   D. ☐ Artillery cannot fire in the town.
   E. ☐ Both A and C.

10. The Confederate division arriving on Game-Turn Nine (two 9's) is _________'s division, that made one of the most famous charges of the Civil War.
    A. ☐ Johnson's.
    B. ☐ Anderson's.
    C. ☐ Meade's.
    D. ☐ Pickett's.
    E. ☐ Hood's.
Essay Questions for Cemetery Hill Reading

1. Explain why the military position of the South in 1862 and 1863 was comparable.

2. Why do you think the loss of Stonewall Jackson was so important to Lee?

3. General Lee and General Longstreet had different ideas on what to do with the Army of Northern Virginia in May of 1863. Which General do you think had the best plan? Explain your answer.

4. Compare the Confederate and Union armies at the opening of the Gettysburg campaign.

5. What were three reasons Lee had for wanting to invade the North in June of 1863?

6. What effect did J. E. B. Stuart's ride around the Union army have on Lee?

7. On 1 July, at McPherson's Ridge, dismounted Union cavalry held up a greater number of Confederate infantry. Why was this possible?

8. What were the disagreements between Lee and his staff officers on 1 July? Which side do you think was right?

9. What positions did Meade neglect to send troops to? What saved this from becoming a disaster?

10. You are a reporter for a Northern newspaper who is assigned to write an article about the battle. Describe the situation to your readers about nightfall 2 July.

11. If you had been one of Meade's corps commanders, how would you have voted on the second night of the battle? Explain your answer.

12. What happened to Pickett's charge? Was the decision to attack the center of the Union line a wise one? Explain your answer.

13. Why did Meade not order a counterattack after Pickett's charge?

14. What were the results of the Union victory at Gettysburg? If you had been the leader of the Confederacy, what might you have done after the battles at Gettysburg and Vicksburg?

15. What would you have done differently had you been the commander of the Army of Northern Virginia in May of 1863?

Locating the Cemetery Hill (Gettysburg) Battlefield

Name the states and indicate whether they were part of the Confederacy or Union. Show the approximate location of the Gettysburg battlefield.