

Essential question guide:

EQ1: Abraham Lincoln was from Hodgenville Kentucky but his family moved when he was two. Abraham hated when people called him Abe, and no one that knew him ever called him that to his face. Abe had a stepmom when his mother died of milk sickness. Abraham was the sixteenth president of the United States and his election led to the civil war. He was the president when that war was won, and he gave one of the shortest speeches in history. He was the first president to be assassinated.

EQ1a: Abraham's mother died of milk sickness. He and his father did not get along very well in Abraham's teenage years. He moved out when he was twenty two. He became a lawyer and got a seat on the state council.

EQ1b: He appointed Ulysses S Grant and William T Sherman. Grant and Sherman are great at winning wars together.

EQ1c: The election of 1860 was the last straw for the south when Abraham, the North candidate won the election. The South had been thinking about secession for a long while because of the North's mission to abolish slavery. When Abraham won the election instead of the South candidate, they were convinced to leave.

EQ1d: When Abraham Lincoln issued the emancipation proclamation, it showed his views on slavery and the Southern states decided that they were going to annihilate the Northern states. Unfortunately for them this didn't work out so well.

EQ1e: Abraham Lincoln was celebrating the victory of the war with parades and outings with his wife. He was at the Ford's theatre watching a play with his wife and his guard assuming he would be ok, left his post and watched too. John Wilkes Booth seized the moment and shot Abraham Lincoln, assassinating him.

EQ2: He is a Union Military leader during the beginning of the Civil war. McClellan was great as a planner and he had the ability to keep the men's morales high, but in actual battle he was a chicken.

EQ2a: McClellan was a distinguished Philadelphia child. He attended a military academy and worked on railroads. He married and his wife had a son and a daughter.

EQ2b: McClellan became a major general of Cincinnati, Ohio volunteer solidiers. They fought in lots of the earlier battles of the civil war. He was one of the first war heroes because he cleared the way for Union people in Virginia. He began the peninsula campaign.

EQ2c: When McClellan blamed president Lincoln for the loss of a battle that could have ended the war, the president got fed up with him and removed him from office.

McClellan ran for president but was beat by Lincoln. He went to Europe and back again, became an engineer, quit, wrote a book, and died of heart failure.

EQ3: Ulysses S. Grant was one of the most unlikely generals in history. Before joining the war he could barely support his family. He showed great potential as a general from the start. The first two years of the war he won back many western states.

EQ3a: Before the civil war he couldn't provide for his family very well. Grant went against the family business as tanners and changed his first name from Hiram to Ulysses. He applied for military school.

EQ3b: Grant was one of the greatest military generals in history. He won many battles for the Union. He then moved to the Eastern theatre and became the general over all the Union armies. He brought full power of the Union against the South. His merciless use of pressure against the South forced them to surrender. Four years later he became the president of the U.S. He was not very good at politics so his two terms were marked by scandal.

EQ3c: Grant nearly went bankrupt when the business he invested in was robbed. He then found out he had cancer in his throat. In 1885 he moved to a cottage in the mountains. He wrote a book there, which, after his death made the family rich by selling it.

EQ4: Jefferson Davis was the president of the Confederate States of America in the four years of its existence. He had an extremely difficult job but he did it well. He was a respected US Senator. He was stubborn and loved the blame game.

EQ4a: Davis was raised on a cotton plantation. His parents owned slaves but were very good to them. They taught them to read and write and let them handle discipline on their own. Since his only experience with slaves was his own, he didn't know how bad others were treated. He believed that slave life was the best life for slaves because in Africa they lived like savages. He graduated from military school the bottom of his class.

EQ4b: Davis increased the size of his army in a short period of time. He also introduced new state of the art weaponry into the army.

EQ4c: After the civil war he was put in prison for two years but was released when the fear that the jury might decide he was right overwhelmed the desire to keep him locked up. Davis died of old age and his funeral was the largest ever held in the south.

EQ5: Robert E. Lee is considered the most famous and beloved confederate soldier to fight in the American Civil War. He had a great mind for war and led a considerable army which helped the South against the more experienced Northern army. The South made him a poster boy of grace in defeat after he surrendered in a battle where all of his soldiers were about to be killed.

EQ5a: Lee was born into a wealthy Virginia family. He spent his first three years at the Stratford Halla Mansion along the Potomac River until his father lost the family fortune and was put in jail. The Lees had to sell the mansion.

EQ5b: Lee joined the confederacy because he was worried that the disagreement over slavery would explode into violence. When the Civil War broke out he made the difficult decision to leave the Union and join the Confederate Army. He took control as Major General.

EQ5c: After being saved from execution by Lincoln and Grant, Lee took a job as the president of a small college in Virginia. He stayed out of politics until his death five years later from a massive stroke.