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| t. Sumter attacked | April 1861 | Charleston, South Carolina | Lincoln decides to supply Ft. Sumter, but wants the South to fire the first shot. |
| Bull Run (Manassas), 1st battle | July 21, 1861 | Northern Virginia | Gen. McDowell leads 30,000 men against Gen. Johnston's 22,000 Southern troops in an attempt to crush the rebels and go "On to Richmond." South scores victory as Union troops flee back to Washington in disarray. McDowell replaced by Gen. McClellan |
| Ft. Henry & Ft. Donelson | February 1862 | Tennessee rivers | Gen. Grant captures two forts on the Tennessee and Cumberland Rivers. Confederates forced out of Kentucky and yield much of Tennessee |
| Monitor vs. Merrimac | March 1862 | Off Hampton Roads, Virginia | First ironclad battle in history ends in a draw as the Merrimac withdraws after daylong exchange of fire. Union blockade of South is maintained |
| Shiloh (Pittsburgh Landing) | April 1862 | Tennessee | Grant overcomes Southern forces with heavy losses for each side: 13,000 Union casualties, 11,000 for South |
| New Orleans | April 1862 | Louisiana | Farragut seizes New Orleans for Union after boldly attacking Southern position. 11 Southern ships sunk |
| Peninsular Campaign (Yorktown, Seven Days' Battle, Fair Oaks) | March-July 1862 | Southern Virginia | After continual prodding by Lincoln, McClellan decides to attack Richmond via the South. He moves his large army down the Potomac, marches on Richmond, and then assumes a defensive position rather than pushing for victory. Gen. Lee takes command of Southern troops |
| Bull Run (Manassas) 2nd battle | August 1862 | Northern Virginia | McClellan replaced by Gen. Pope. Lee and Gen. Stonewall Jackson defeat Union troops again at Manassas and Pope is replaced by McClellan |
| Antietam | September 1862 | Maryland | Heavily outnumbered, Lee's troops face McClellan in bloody fighting. Over 23,000 casualties (more than all previous American wars combined). Lee retreats to Virginia |
| Emancipation Proclamation | September 23, 1862 | Washington, D.C. | With victory at Antietam, Lincoln announces that on 1/1/63, all slaves in the rebelling states would be free. Does not affect border states. Forces European nations to recognize that choosing sides in the Civil War is to take a stand on slavery  |
| Fredericksburg | December 1862 | Central Virginia | Gen. Burnside attacks Lee's fortified position and suffers 10,000 casualties (to Lee's 5000). |
| Chancellorsville | May 1863 | Northern Virginia | Gen. Hooker defeated by Lee, but Jackson is mistakenly shot by his own men and killed.  |
| Vicksburg | July 1863 | Mississippi | After a long siege, Vicksburg surrenders to Grant. All of Mississippi River is now in Union control |
| Gettysburg | July 1863 | Pennsylvania | Over 165,000 soldiers participate in the largest battle in the Western Hemisphere. After three days of fighting, Lee retreats, leaving 4,000 dead Confederates. Total casualties: 23,000 Union, 28,000 Confederates |
| Chattanooga | November 1863 | Tennessee | Reinforced with troops from the East, Grant is able to push Southern troops back and prepare for assault on Atlanta and the heart of the Confederacy |
| Grant promoted to Lt. General and given command of all Union troops | March 1864 | Washington, D.C. | Grant prepares for assault on Richmond. When Lincoln's Cabinet complains that Grant is a drunk and seeks to interfere with his command, Lincoln gives him unconditional support and asks not to be notified of his plans. |  |
| Wilderness & Spotsylvania | May 1864 | Central Virginia | Lee stops Union troops at the Wilderness, but Grant resumes march to RichmondThough suffering huge losses (55,000 men to South's 31,000), Grant states "I propose to fight on this line if it takes all summer" |  |
| Petersburg | June 1864--April 1865 | South of Richmond, Virginia | Grant focuses on important railroad junction and communication outside Richmond. Long siege of Petersburg begins with troops living in trenches which stretched for 50 miles |  |
| Atlanta to Savannah | September-December 1864 | Georgia | Gen. Sherman destroys Atlanta and then sends troops on 300 mile destructive march to the sea. Railroads torn up, buildings destroyed, crops burned in an attempt to break the will of the South |  |
| Lee surrenders | April 9, 1865 | Appomattox Court House, Virginia | Lee, refusing to see his troops suffer any further, surrenders to Grant. Southern troops given generous terms of surrender  |  |