



# **Ulysses S. Grant Activity Bundle**

## **Integrated Reading and**

## **CRITICAL THOUGHT**

## **Activities**

For Grades 5-8

**8 INTEGRATED ACTIVITIES**  
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## ANSWERS

Name	Answers
Battle of Shiloh	D, B, C, B, C, B, A, A, A, C

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**Fact or Fiction?**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

Below is a biography on Ulysses S. Grant. On the following page is a chart with ten statements. Indicate whether each statement is fact or fiction.

Ulysses Simpson Grant was born April 26, 1822, in Point Pleasant, Ohio. Against his father's wishes, Grant entered the US Military Academy and finished in the middle of the class. Like most military school graduates at the time, Grant was sent to Mexico and served under General Zachary Taylor during the Mexican War. In other endeavors before the Civil War, Grant was unsuccessful.

**"Unconditional Surrender" Grant**

At the outbreak of the Civil War, Ulysses S. Grant was working at his father's leather shop in Illinois. He was appointed by the Illinois governor as the commander of a local militia but soon rose to the rank of brigadier general in the Civil War. Grant's aggressive and bold tactics were a major reason why the Union Army was able to defeat the Confederates. His campaigns in the Mississippi River Valley were legendary and crucial to Union victory. In 1862, Grant led his forces to victories at Fort Henry and Fort Donelson in Tennessee. At Fort Donelson, Grant earned the nickname "Unconditional Surrender Grant." Though less successful at Shiloh, Grant's leadership opened the way for Union occupation of the Mississippi River. Grant went on to take the key port city of Vicksburg and then broke Confederate ranks at Chattanooga.

**Grant's Overland Campaign and Lee's Surrender**

In 1864, President Lincoln named him Commander of the Union army. Grant's "Overland Campaign" at such battles as Wilderness, Cold Harbor, and Petersburg took a heavy toll on Lee's Army of Northern Virginia, despite the heavy casualties inflicted upon his forces. Lee's weakened forces held the Confederate strongholds of Petersburg and Richmond for ten months before being overwhelmed by Grant's forces. On April 9, 1865, Ulysses S. Grant received Lee's surrender and the Civil War was over.

**Presidency**

In 1869, Grant was elected president of the United States. Unlike his military campaigns, his presidency was less than successful and plagued by corruption. Although he presided over Reconstruction in the South, and was a great advocate of African-Americans, Grant was seen associating with prospectors who tried to corner the market in gold. When he realized their plan, he authorized the Treasury to sell enough gold to ruin the plan, but the damage had already been done to business. After the presidency, Grant joined a financial firm that ultimately went bankrupt and was left virtually destitute. In 1885, he died of throat cancer shortly after writing his personal memoirs. His works ultimately made \$450,000 for his family. Grant is currently honored on the fifty-dollar bill of the United States.

	FACT	FICTION
Ulysses S. Grant was very successful before the Civil War began.		
Grant scored victories at both Fort Donelson and Fort Henry in 1862.		
Grant is honored on the United States \$50 bill.		
Grant became president of the United States in 1863.		
As president, Grant supported African-Americans and was an advocate of Civil Rights.		
Grant is credited with systematically weakening the Union Army in 1864.		
On April 9, 1865, Robert E. Lee accepted Grant's surrender at Appomattox Courthouse.		
Grant earned his nickname after his victory at Fort Donelson.		
Grant's father always supported his son's military aspirations.		
Grant's presidency was considered very successful.		
Grant scored victories for the Union Army at Vicksburg and Chattanooga.		

**Answers:**

	FACT	FICTION
Ulysses S. Grant was very successful before the Civil War began.		X
Grant scored victories at both Fort Donelson and Fort Henry in 1862.	X	
Grant is honored on the United States \$50 bill.	X	
Grant became president of the United States in 1863.		X
As president, Grant supported African-Americans and was an advocate of Civil Rights.	X	
Grant is credited with systematically weakening the Union Army in 1864.		X
On April 9, 1865, Robert E. Lee accepted Grant's surrender at Appomattox Courthouse.		X
Grant earned his nickname after his victory at Fort Donelson.	X	
Grant's father always supported his son's military aspirations.		X
Grant's presidency was considered very successful.		X
Grant scored victories for the Union Army at Vicksburg and Chattanooga.	X	

## Sequencing the Life of Ulysses S. Grant

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Below is a biography on Ulysses S. Grant. On the following page is a chart to sequence the events of his life.

Ulysses Simpson Grant was born April 26, 1822, in Point Pleasant, Ohio. Against his father's wishes, Grant entered the US Military Academy and finished in the middle of the class. Like most military school graduates at the time, Grant was sent to Mexico and served under General Zachary Taylor during the Mexican War. In other endeavors before the Civil War, Grant was unsuccessful.

### "Unconditional Surrender" Grant

At the outbreak of the Civil War, Ulysses S. Grant was working at his father's leather shop in Illinois. He was appointed by the Illinois governor as the commander of a local militia but soon rose to the rank of brigadier general in the Civil War. Grant's aggressive and bold tactics were a major reason why the Union Army was able to defeat the Confederates. His campaigns in the Mississippi River Valley were legendary and crucial to Union victory. In 1862, Grant led his forces to victories at Fort Henry and Fort Donelson in Tennessee. At Fort Donelson, Grant earned the nickname "Unconditional Surrender Grant." Though less successful at Shiloh, Grant's leadership opened the way for Union occupation of the Mississippi River. Grant went on to take the key port city of Vicksburg and then broke Confederate ranks at Chattanooga.

### Grant's Overland Campaign and Lee's Surrender

In 1864, President Lincoln named him Commander of the Union army. Grant's "Overland Campaign" at such battles as Wilderness, Cold Harbor, and Petersburg took a heavy toll on Lee's Army of Northern Virginia, despite the heavy casualties inflicted upon his forces. Lee's weakened forces held the Confederate strongholds of Petersburg and Richmond for ten months before being overwhelmed by Grant's forces. On April 9, 1865, Ulysses S. Grant received Lee's surrender and the Civil War was over.

### Presidency

In 1869, Grant was elected president of the United States. Unlike his military campaigns, his presidency was less than successful and plagued by corruption. Although he presided over Reconstruction in the South, Grant was seen associating with speculators who tried to corner the market in gold. When he realized their plan, he authorized the Treasury to sell enough gold to ruin the plan, but the damage had already been done to business. After the presidency, Grant joined a financial firm that ultimately went bankrupt. Despite the controversies, Grant served as a great advocate for African-Americans and Civil Rights. In 1885, he died of throat cancer shortly after

writing his personal memoirs. His works ultimately made \$450,000 for his family. Grant is currently honored on the fifty-dollar bill of the United States.

Event	From Earliest to Latest
Grant was elected president of the United States.	
1885	
Robert E. Lee surrendered, ending the Civil War.	
Grant fought in the Mexican-American War.	1
Grant worked at his father's leather shop.	
The Civil War started	
Grant earns the nickname "Unconditional Surrender Grant."	
Grant is named Commander of the Union Army.	

**Answers:**

Event	From Earliest to Latest
Grant was elected president of the United States.	7
1885	8
Robert E. Lee surrendered, ending the Civil War.	6
Grant fought in the Mexican-American War.	1
Grant worked at his father's leather shop.	2
Grant is named Commander of the Union Army.	5
Grant earns the nickname "Unconditional Surrender Grant."	4
The Civil War started	3



# Grudge

The bitter Siege of Vicksburg lasted for nearly three months in the sweltering late spring and early summer of 1863. Union forces under General Ulysses S. Grant besieged the city (fortified high over the bluffs of the Mississippi River) because he found all-out assaults were repeatedly unsuccessful. Vicksburg was the last bastion of Confederate power along the Mississippi River. If the Union could win Vicksburg, it would control the entire river and split the Confederacy in two parts. Grant's siege quickly took its toll on the city's population and the starving Confederate forces inside. The constant bombardment destroyed much of the city. Some soldiers even began to feel the effects of Scurvy and would eventually resort to eating horses and dogs. When Vicksburg finally fell on July 4<sup>th</sup>, the city was in ruins. The population was so bitter that it refused to celebrate Independence Day until after World War II (more than 80 years). Have you ever held a grudge against someone? Why? Explain your reasoning below and whether or not the "score" was ever settled. You can also explain if someone has had a grudge against you. If you can't think of any, write about one you have read about or know about in sports.

## Battle of Shiloh Reading Comprehension

The Battle of Shiloh, sometimes referred to as the Battle of Pittsburg Landing (in the South), was a major engagement of the Western Theater of the American Civil War that occurred on April 6–7, 1862, in western Tennessee. The Union Army of the Tennessee, led by future president and hero of the Civil War, Ulysses S. Grant, had occupied much of Tennessee after winning the Battles at Forts Henry and Donelson. Confederate forces under Generals P.G.T. Beauregard and Albert Sidney Johnston launched a surprise attack on Grant's army of nearly 50,000, which was encamped on the west bank of the Tennessee River. The Confederates hoped to drive Grant's army into nearby swamps before reinforcements could arrive and prevent two major divisions of the Union army from uniting in Tennessee.

On the morning of April 6, Johnston's army launched a surprise attack on Grant. Confederate forces, however, proved inexperienced with inadequate weaponry. Furthermore, Johnston and Beauregard differed concerning attack strategy, which led to mass confusion amongst Confederate ranks. Nevertheless, the attack proved effective, as many shocked Union soldiers threw down their weapons and ran. Union Brigadier General William T. Sherman, however, rallied his troops, despite being wounded and having three horses shot out from under him. Confederate forces, however, continued to gain ground, and many acquired more effective weapons from those left behind by dead or fleeing Union soldiers. Meanwhile, Union forces had also been overrun at a portion of the battlefield known as the "Hornet's Nest." Confederate forces would ultimately capture as many as 2,400 Union soldiers after surrounding this position, but the brave Union stand allowed General Grant to establish a strong three-mile-long defense line with 50 cannons and several gunboats positioned in the Tennessee River at Pittsburg Landing. During this part of the battle, General Johnston was killed, adding even more confusion in the Confederate ranks. By the end of the day, Confederate forces had pushed the Union back along the river but not into the swamps. The Union Army of the Tennessee would fight another day. General Beauregard, however, believed he had Grant exactly where he wanted him, and celebrated a "complete" Confederate victory prematurely. By 4:00 in the morning of April 7, Grant's army received significant reinforcements, giving them a huge advantage in manpower. Beauregard ignored intelligence that suggested Union reinforcement.

On April 7, Beauregard ordered his army to attack Union ranks and drive them entirely into the river. Grant, now reinforced by Don Carlos Buell's Division of the Ohio and Lew Wallace's division, launched a devastating surprise counterattack from defensive positions along the river. Beauregard's Confederates fought bravely but were low on morale and supplies. They were forced to move to positions behind the Shiloh Church and eventually retreated to Corinth, Mississippi. Grant, knowing his soldiers were exhausted, failed to order pursuit of the fleeing Confederates. On April 8, Grant sent General Sherman on a mission to find out whether or not the Confederates had made a full retreat. In what came to be known as the Battle of Fallen Timbers, Union forces came upon a Confederate hospital camp. Confederate forces launched a wild attack under Colonel Nathan Bedford Forrest that resulted in the capture of 100 or so Union soldiers before retreating at the sight of the larger Union force.

Despite the Union victory, General Grant was vilified in the Northern press for failing to pursue the Confederates. Many called for Grant, who had a reputation for being a drunk, to be removed from command. President Lincoln refused. The Battle of Shiloh left the Confederate strongholds of Memphis and Corinth, Mississippi, vulnerable to Union occupation. Both would fall into Union hands in 1862. The battle resulted in a staggering 24,000 combined casualties, by far the deadliest engagement in American history to that point.

**1.) The Battle of Shiloh is considered...**

- a.) a minor battle in the Western Theater of the Civil War.
- b.) a major Confederate victory in the Civil War.
- c.) an indecisive victory in the Civil War.
- d.) a major battle in the Western Theater of the Civil War.

**2.) At Pittsburg Landing, Confederate forces hoped to...**

- a.) drive the Union Army out of Tennessee.
- b.) drive the Union Army into nearby swamps.
- c.) win the American Civil War.
- d.) capture Union artillery firing at them from the Tennessee River.

**3.) After the first day of the battle...**

- a.) the Union Army seemed to have the advantage.
- b.) Confederate forces were pinned up against the river.
- c.) the Confederacy seemed to have the advantage.
- d.) General Grant was ready to surrender.

**4.) General P.G.T. Beauregard's biggest mistake after the first day of the Battle of Shiloh was...**

- a.) failing to counterattack
- b.) ignoring valuable intelligence
- c.) rejecting reinforcements
- d.) attacking the Union left flank

**5.) Why did Beauregard celebrate prematurely?**

- a.) General Johnston had been killed in battle.
- b.) General Sherman had been killed in battle.
- c.) He believed he had the Union Army in a position in which he could destroy them.
- d.) Confederate reinforcements arrived at 4:00 A.M.

**6.) On April 7, the Union Army...**

- a.) had been seriously weakened
- b.) had gained a tremendous advantage in manpower
- c.) had retreated into nearby swamps
- d.) had made plans to evacuate the area

**7.) Which of the following WAS NOT true about the Confederate Army on April 7?**

- a.) They were ready to fight another day.
- b.) They were exhausted.
- c.) They fought bravely.
- d.) They were outnumbered.

**8.) After the Battle of Shiloh, General Grant was...**

- a.) criticized deeply
- b.) considered a hero in the North
- c.) badly injured
- d.) promoted

**9.) The Battle of Shiloh eventually resulted in...**

- a.) The Union occupation of major Confederate strongholds.
- b.) The Union victory in the Civil War.
- c.) The reelection of Abraham Lincoln.
- d.) The freeing of slaves.

**10.) What can you infer about how President Lincoln felt about General Grant?**

- a.) He believed Grant should have been removed from command.
- b.) He believed Grant was a drunk.
- c.) He believed in Grant's military capabilities.
- d.) It is impossible to tell from the passage.

## Decoding Presidential Quotes

Decode the presidential quote. The letters to use correspond with their numerical order. For example, 6 would stand for “F.”

20	8	5		6	18	9	5	14	4	
9	14		13	25						
1	4	22	5	18	19	9	20	25		9
19	8	1	12	12						
1	12	23	1	25	19					
3	8	5	18	9	19	8				
13	15	19	20							

Who uttered this quote? \_\_\_\_\_

What do you think it means?

Answers:

The Friend in My Adversity I Shall Always Cherish Most was uttered by Ulysses S. Grant

It meant that friends who supported him in his darkest moments, were those that he held in the highest esteem.

## **Ulysses S. Grant Reading Comprehension**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

### **Ulysses S. Grant Biography**

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**1. Which statement about Grant is supported by the passage?**

- a) He finished at the top of his class in military school.
- b) His military pursuits prior to the Civil War were largely successful.
- c) He was born in Connecticut.
- d) He fought in the Mexican War.

**2. Which best describes Grant's battle strategies when leading?**

- a) Meek
- b) Daring
- c) Spontaneous
- d) Ruthless

**3. Which statement is false?**

- a) Grant became President of the United States three years after the end of the Civil War.
- b) His personal memoirs raised over 500,000 dollars for his family.
- c) He led his forces to victory at Fort Donelson at age 40.
- d) He was less than 60 years old when he died.

**4. Infer why Grant was nicknamed “Unconditional Surrender Grant.”**

- a) His battle strategies produced decisive victories
- b) His tactics often caused the Union army to retreat
- c) He was extremely valuable to Taylor during the Mexican War
- d) He was equally successful and victorious in every battle he led

**5. Prospectors during Grant's presidency tried to “corner the market” in gold. Infer what this means.**

- a) Establish a monopoly
- b) Buy up all the silver
- c) Overthrow Grant's presidency
- d) Steal from jewelry shops

**6. Which statement best describes Grant's presidency?**

- a) Less renowned than his military campaigns
- b) Riddled with corruption
- c) Both of the above
- d) None of the above

**7. Which event happened last?**

- a) Grant receives Lee's surrender.
- b) Grant fights in the Mexican War.
- c) Grant's financial firm goes bankrupt.
- d) Grant leads the Union to victory at Fort Henry.

-----Key-----

1. (d)
2. (b)
3. (c)
4. (a)
5. (a)
6. (c)
7. (c)