



# **Robert E. Lee Activity Bundle**

## **Integrated Reading and**

## **CRITICAL THOUGHT**

## **Activities**

For Grades 5-8

**10 INTEGRATED ACTIVITIES**  
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Perfect for Morning Work or Assessments

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## Civil War Figure Nicknames

Many of the central figures in the American Civil War had intriguing nicknames which have stuck with them long after their deaths. For example, Ulysses S. Grant was sometimes referred to as "Unconditional Surrender" Grant after the Union victory at Fort Donelson, Tennessee. Read the nicknames listed below and draw your interpretation of what an individual with that name would look like.

Person and Nickname	Drawing
Abraham Lincoln <b>"The Great Emancipator"</b>	
Thomas J. Jackson <b>"Stonewall Jackson"</b>	
Ulysses S. Grant <b>"Unconditional Surrender Grant"</b>	
Jeb Stuart <b>"The Eyes of the Confederacy"</b>	
Robert E. Lee <b>"The King of Spades"</b>	



## Difficult Choices

At the onset of the American Civil War, Robert E. Lee faced one of the hardest decisions of his life: Accept the commission of Commander of the U.S. Army and fight against his home state of Virginia, which had seceded, or, accept the commission of Commander of the Confederate Army and fight against his home country. Although Lee did not support secession, he chose to command the Confederate Army rather than wage war against his home state.

Have you ever found yourself in a situation where you had to make a choice to join one group or another? How did you decide? Were there any consequences of not choosing the other side? Detail your decision below:

## **Terms of Surrender at Appomattox Courthouse – Primary Source Text**

### **Ulysses S. Grant to Robert E. Lee**

Appomattox Court-House, Virginia April 9, 1865.

General: In accordance with the substance of my letter to you of the 8th instant, I propose to receive the surrender of the army of Northern Virginia on the following terms, to wit: Rolls of all the officers and men to be made in duplicate, one copy to be given to an officer to be designated by me, the other to be retained by such officer or officers as you may designate. The officers to give their individual paroles not to take up arms against the government of the United States until properly exchanged; and each company or regimental commander to sign a like parole for the men of their commands. The arms, artillery, and public property to be parked and stacked, and turned over to the officers appointed by me to receive them. This will not embrace the side-arms of the officers nor their private horses or baggage. This done, each officer and man will be allowed to return to his home, not to be disturbed by United States authority so long as they observe their paroles and the laws in force where they may reside.

U.S. Grant, Lieutenant-General. General R. E. Lee.

### **Robert E. Lee to Ulysses S. Grant**

Head-Quarters, Army of Northern Virginia April 9, 1865.

General: I received your letter of this date containing the terms of the surrender of the army of Northern Virginia, as proposed by you. As they are substantially the same as those expressed in your letter of the 8th instant, they are accepted. I will proceed to designate the proper officers to carry the stipulations into effect.

R. E. Lee, General. Lieutenant-General U.S. Grant.

The text above describes the surrender negotiations at Appomattox Courthouse on April 9, 1865. Confederate General Robert E. Lee and Union General Ulysses S. Grant are trying to agree on the terms of the Confederate surrender.

Questions:

1. Describe how Robert E. Lee responds to Grant's terms. Does he accept or not accept? What is his next step?
2. Would you describe Grant's terms as outlined in his letter generous or demanding? Explain your answer.
3. What does Lee's response to Grant tell you about the condition of the Army of Northern Virginia?
4. What does Grant mean when he writes "...this will not embrace the side-arms of the officers nor their private horses or baggage."?

## Answers

1. He agrees to Grant's surrender terms. His next step was to manage the surrender by making sure officers carried out Grant's demands.
2. Grant's terms, as far as surrenders go, were very generous. In his letter, he indicates there will be no prisoners. As long as the soldiers agree to stop fighting, they would be free to go home, rather than become prisoners of war.
3. The Army of Northern Virginia was likely in such a weakened state that Lee deemed them unable to continue the fight.
4. Confederate Officers will be able to keep their personal weapons (those not used in battle) and will be able to keep their horses and private property.

## **The Battle of Chancellorsville**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

### **Yet, Another Union Commander**

The Battle of Chancellorsville was fought between April 30th and May 6th, 1863, near the city of Fredericksburg, Virginia, where the Confederates had scored a major victory in December. Union General Joseph Hooker, recently named Commander of the Army of Potomac, planned to launch a massive assault against Lee's Army of Northern Virginia by attacking them at the front and the rear. Hooker's Army was roughly twice the size of Lee's and was well rested and provisioned.

### **Lee Outsmarts Hooker**

On May 1, 1863, Hooker launched his attack on Lee's Army at Chancellorsville. Lee, in an unconventional military move, decided to split his smaller army into two parts, leaving a small force at nearby Fredericksburg, Virginia, and confronting Hooker's assault with roughly 80% of his army. Union General Hooker, inexperienced and perhaps unconfident in handling such a massive force, ordered his forces to withdraw to defensive positions in the nearby forests around Chancellorsville in the wake of Lee's assaults.

### **Jackson Crushes the Union Right; but is Shot by Friendly Fire**

On May 2, 1863, Confederate General Stonewall Jackson attacked the right flank of the Union Army entrenched around Chancellorsville. Jackson marched his forces of 28,000 men 12 miles undetected to reach the Union right flank. At dinnertime, Confederate forces screaming their "rebel yell" stormed out of the forest and attacked the Union right flank. Union forces were totally unprepared and many were eating dinner. Within an hour, the right flank was totally disintegrated and was in full retreat. They suffered at least 2,500 casualties. Later that evening, however, General Stonewall Jackson was mistaken for Union cavalry and was shot in the arm as he rode out to investigate the feasibility of launching a nighttime attack on the Federals. Jackson contracted pneumonia and died on May 10th. Jackson's death was devastating to the Confederate cause and to Lee's battle strategies through the remainder of the war.

### **Hooker's Incompetence**

Despite the initial setback, Union forces were still in control. Nearly 76,000 Union soldiers were still in positions defending Chancellorsville compared to 43,000 soldiers available to the Confederacy. The two largest parts of Lee's Army of Northern Virginia were positioned on either side of Union forces that occupied an area of high ground known as Hazel's Grove. Luckily for the Confederacy, General Hooker ordered those soldiers, under the command of General Sickles, to a different position on a local road called the Plank Road. Confederate forces proceed to occupy the high ground, where they placed thirty heavy guns. At 5:30 in the morning on May 3, Confederate forces now under the leadership of J.E.B. Stuart (after Jackson was wounded and after the next in command, A.P. Hill, was also wounded) launched a massive attack on the Federal positions around Chancellorsville, aided by the newly installed guns. Fires were sparked in the woods around Chancellorsville, confusing soldiers and killing wounded soldiers rendered immobile. Confederate forces overwhelmed their Union counterparts and Hooker ordered a retreat. Hooker was wounded in the fighting, but refused to turn over command, despite being rendered unconscious for over an hour. Meanwhile, Union forces under

John Sedgwick were defeated in their attempts to salvage the battle and the Union Army ultimately withdrew across the Rappahannock River on May 6.

### **Lee's Greatest Victory; Time to Invade the North**

In what is considered one of the most decisive Confederate victories of the Civil War, Confederate forces suffered over 13,000 casualties, while Union forces suffered over 17,000. Confederate forces, however, suffered a much greater percentage of casualties. Hooker's reputation was forever tarnished in his handling of the battle. After the battle, he blamed the "incompetence" of his subordinate generals despite the fact that over half of his available soldiers were never deployed into combat. On the Confederate side, the battle is often called "Lee's greatest victory," and gave him the feeling his army was destined to win the war. The victory at Chancellorsville gave Lee the confidence that his army could win in the North and resulted in his invasion of Pennsylvania and ultimately the Battle of Gettysburg.

#### **1. Which statement about the Battle of Chancellorsville is false?**

- a) Stonewall Jackson was shot by Union forces during the battle.
- b) The battle was a Confederate victory.
- c) The Union suffered a greater number of casualties than the Confederacy.
- d) The battle was fought in less than two weeks.

#### **2. What can be inferred about General Joseph Hooker from the passage?**

- a) Hooker was renowned as a great general after the battle.
- b) Hooker was weak-willed and dropped out of leadership as soon as he was injured.
- c) His lack of experience caused him to lead his side to defeat.
- d) He was highly assertive and confident about leading his army.

#### **3. Which event happened first?**

- a) Stonewall Jackson leads an attack on the right side of the Union army in Chancellorsville.
- b) Union forces retreat along the Rappahannock River.
- c) Hooker attacks Confederate forces at Chancellorsville, and Lee splits his forces into two parts.
- d) The Confederates experience one of their greatest victories of the war.

#### **4. Who did not lead the Confederate army at some point during the Battle of Chancellorsville?**

- a) Stonewall Jackson
- b) J.E.B. Stuart
- c) John Sedgwick
- d) A.P. Hill

#### **5. Which of the following was a consequence of the Battle of Chancellorsville?**

- a) The Confederate army was forced to retreat and regroup.
- b) Hooker solidified his position as leader of the Union forces.
- c) The Union forces are decimated to a point where they can no longer fight.
- d) Lee begins his invasion of the North.

#### **6. Fill in the blank.**

CAUSE: \_\_\_\_\_

EFFECT: The Confederate forces catch the Union by surprise and cause them to suffer at least 2,500 casualties.

- a) Lee leads his full army to an assault on Chancellorsville.
- b) Jackson surprises the Union forces with an attack while they are still eating dinner.

- c) Union forces scream their rebel yell, revealing their presence to the Confederates.
- d) Hooker betrays the Union's location to the Confederate army.

**7. Which was not a strategy used by the Confederate army during the battle?**

- a) Surprise ambush
- b) Army splitting
- c) Heavy weaponry
- d) Bayonet attack

-----Key-----

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

## **Robert E. Lee Reading Comprehension**

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

### **Pre-Civil War**

Robert E. Lee was born January 19, 1807, in Stratford, Virginia. He graduated from the U.S. Military Academy in 1829 finishing second in his class. While working as an engineer, Lee married Martha Anna Randolph Custis, the great-granddaughter of Martha Washington by her first husband (not by George Washington). After serving in the Mexican War, Lee served in Baltimore Harbor before becoming superintendent of the military academy. He next served in western Texas before returning to Virginia to settle the estate of his father-in-law. In 1859, Lee was called upon to command a group of marines in the successful capture of radical abolitionist John Brown, who had stormed the federal armory at Harper's Ferry. After the John Brown raid, Lee returned to west Texas.

### **Virginian First**

With growing hostilities between the north and south regarding slavery and states rights, Winfield Scott summoned Lee to Washington in an attempt to secure his services for the Union. But like most southerners in the 1860's, Lee considered himself more a Virginian than an American, and promptly resigned from the army to give his services to the Confederate States of America. Though Lee was given many assignments in the Confederate army including Major General, Brigadier General and General, Lee is best remembered for commanding his famous Army of Northern Virginia.

### **Commander of the Army of Northern Virginia**

Robert E. Lee quickly became a revered figure in the south after defeating Union forces at the Second Battle of Bull Run in 1862. After his victory, Lee moved his army into Maryland, in the hopes of gaining support in the border state, which he believed was being held in the Union against its will. Unfortunately for Lee, the citizens of Maryland gave him a cold reception, as his army met Union forces under George B. McClellan at Antietam Creek in the town of Sharpsburg. In the bloodiest one day battle of the war, Lee's and McClellan's armies fought to a standstill, despite the fact that McClellan had received intelligence concerning the positions and locations of Lee's army. Nevertheless, Lee's army was driven back across the Potomac River to Virginia, rendering the first foray onto northern soil a failure.

### **Chancellorsville and Gettysburg**

Later in 1862, however, Lee's Army of Northern Virginia won a decisive battle at Fredericksburg, then routed Union forces under Joseph Hooker at Chancellorsville in 1863 in what many consider Lee's finest victory. Later that year, Lee made his second invasion of the north, and met Union commander George Meade at Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. With over 160,000 total troops engaged at the fields and bluffs of Gettysburg, it still remains the largest battle ever waged on American soil. Through three days of fighting, Confederates and Union forces decimated each other. Although General James Longstreet urged Lee to be less aggressive, and to wait for a Union attack, Lee refused and took the aggressive. In a bloody series of bombardments and charges, including Confederate General George Pickett's deadly charge across Cemetery Ridge, the Confederates were driven back across the

Potomac once again. Not only do historians consider Gettysburg the turning point in the war, but many believe if Lee would have listened to Longstreet, he would have led his army to victory.

### **Battered, Trapped, and Defeated**

Despite the loss at Gettysburg, the war was not over. Lee's army had retreated back to Virginia, where general Union General Ulysses S. Grant made a series of bold, bloody attacks against the Confederates known as "The Overland Campaign". Despite losing tens of thousands of soldiers at Wilderness, Cold Harbor, Petersburg, and at other locales, Grant's forces systematically weakened Lee's Army of Northern Virginia. With the morale and health of his army suffering, Lee and his forces held on to the Confederate strongholds of Petersburg and Richmond for ten months, before finally being overwhelmed by Union forces in 1865. Lee, in a last-ditch attempt to link with Joseph Johnston's army, retreated to the town of Appomattox, where he was forced to surrender his army on April 9, 1865.

### **President of a New College**

After the war, a dejected Lee became president of Washington and Lee University. As a beloved general in the south, he died of heart disease on October 12, 1870, at the age of 63 in Lexington, Virginia.

#### **1. Which statement about Lee is not supported by the passage?**

- a) He was a descendant of George Washington.
- b) He finished second at the U.S. Military Academy.
- c) He helped with the capture of John Brown.
- d) He was born in Virginia.

#### **2. Which statement best explains why Lee did not serve as a Union general?**

- a) He was a staunch supporter of slavery.
- b) He wanted to fight for his home state.
- c) He wanted to become president of the Confederate States of America.
- d) He did not agree with Virginian ideologies.

#### **3. At which battle site(s) was Lee victorious?**

- a) Second Battle of Bull Run
- b) Battle of Gettysburg
- c) Battle of Chancellorsville
- d) Two of the above

#### **4. Which inference about Lee is supported by the passage?**

- a) His military education did not sufficiently prepare him for battle.
- b) He was more loyal to Texas than to Virginia.
- c) His aggressive battle tactics led to his downfall.
- d) The Civil War was the first war he fought in.

#### **5. Which event happened first?**

- a) Lee surrenders at Appomattox.
- b) Lee is defeated at Gettysburg.
- c) Lee becomes president of a university.
- d) Lee dies of heart disease.

**6. Which pairing of battle with outcome is incorrect?**

- a) Antietam – bloodiest single day fight of the Civil War
- b) Chancellorsville – Lee's worst defeat
- c) Overland Campaign – damaged morale of Lee's army
- d) Fredericksburg – Confederate victory

**7. Which statement about Lee is false?**

- a) He was born and died in Virginia.
- b) He was received well by the people of Maryland.
- c) He was not able to successfully invade the North.
- d) He did not listen to General Longstreet's advice.

-----Key-----

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

## **Battle of Gettysburg Day 1 Reading Comprehension**

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

Read the passage and answer the questions.

### **The Ridges of Gettysburg**

Anticipating a Confederate assault, Union Brigadier General John Buford and his soldiers would produce the first line of defense. Buford positioned his defenses along three ridges west of the town. Buford's goal was simply to delay the Confederate advance with his small cavalry unit until greater Union forces could assemble their defenses on the three storied ridges south of town known as Cemetery Ridge, Cemetery Hill, and Culp's Hill's. These ridges were crucial to control of Gettysburg. Whichever army could successfully occupy these heights would have superior position and would be difficult to dislodge.

### **The Death of Major General Reynolds**

The first of the Confederate forces to engage at Gettysburg, under the Command of Major General Henry Heth, succeeded in advancing forward despite Buford's defenses. Soon, battles erupted in several locations, and Union forces would suffer severe casualties. Union Major General John Reynolds would be killed in battle while positioning his troops. Major General Abner Doubleday, the man eventually credited with inventing the formal game of baseball, would assume command. Fighting would intensify on a road known as the Chambersburg Pike, as Confederate forces continued to advance.

### **Jubal Early's Successful Assault**

Meanwhile, Union defenses positioned north and northwest of town would soon be outflanked by Confederates under the command of Jubal Early and Robert Rodes. Despite suffering severe casualties, Early's soldiers would break through the line under the command of Union General Francis Barlow, attacking them from multiple sides and completely overwhelming them. Barlow would be wounded and captured. Union forces were forced to retreat to Cemetery Hill, west of town, to regroup. Here, command of the battlefield was turned over to Major General Winfield Hancock. Hancock made the decision that the bulk of his forces would be deployed at Gettysburg, ensuring it would be the scene of the largest battle of the War.

## Confusing Orders

On the Confederate side, Lee instructed Major General Richard Ewell to take Cemetery Ridge "if practical." Ewell determined such an assault to be impractical leaving Union forces to form defenses on the ridge. Ewell's decision not to assault Cemetery Ridge and the reeling Union forces has been viewed as a major mistake and missed opportunity for the Confederacy. At the end of the first day of Gettysburg, only a little more than 1/4 of the total number of troops for the two sides combined had been engaged in battle.

**1. Infer the meaning of the prefix dis- given the way the word “dislodge” is used in context in the passage.**

- a) (move) away
- b) (move) towards
- c) With
- d) Across

**2. By the end of the first day of the Battle of Gettysburg, what approximate ratio of the total number of Union and Confederate armies combined had fought?**

- a) 3/5
- b) 33%
- c) 0.25
- d) 20%

**3. Put the following events in order.**

- I. Major General John Reynolds is killed.
- II. General Francis Barlow is captured.
- III. General Lee tells Ewell to take Cemetery Ridge if possible.
- IV. General Abner Doubleday assumes command.

- a) I, II, III, IV
- b) II, I, IV, III
- c) II, I, IV, III
- d) I, IV, II, III

**4. Which statement about the Union forces on the first day of battle is false?**

- a) Their defenses, set up by Buford, were broken down.
- b) One of their generals was killed, and one captured.
- c) They crumbled when attacked from multiple sides by Early.
- d) They retreated to Chambersburg Pike.

**5. Which statement can be inferred only from the information given in the passage?**

- a) An attack on Union forces on Cemetery Ridge could have been a major Confederate victory.
- b) More than half of the troops on both sides fought on the first day at Gettysburg.
- c) The low ground was most advantageous to seize control of during the battle.
- d) The low ground was somewhat advantageous to seize control of during the battle.

**6. Who was not a significant Union general during the first day of battle at Gettysburg?**

- a) Winfield Hancock
- b) Richard Ewell
- c) Henry Heth
- d) Two of the above

**7. Which statement is an effect of Hancock sending most of his army to fight at Gettysburg, according to the passage?**

- a) The battle became one of the most significant of the war.
- b) The Union was ambushed at Cemetery Ridge.
- c) Lee cut back on his troops at Gettysburg.
- d) The Confederate soldiers returned Barlow to the Union.

-----Key-----

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

## Battle of Gettysburg Day 2 Reading Comprehension

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

Read the passage and answer the questions.

### **The Fishhook**

During the night of July 1st, most of the remaining Union and Confederate forces arrived in Gettysburg. The Union army was able to establish a strong line in the shape of a fishhook running over two miles from Cemetery Hill, along Cemetery Ridge and terminating at Culp's Hill. Confederate lines ran the length of Seminary Ridge, through the town of Gettysburg and terminated at a location opposite of Culp's Hill. In all, Confederate lines stretched for more than five miles. The stage was set for a massive battle.

### **Missing Intelligence**

Without intelligence from J.E.B. Stuart's cavalry, however, Lee could not be certain of the exact positioning of Union forces, thus, his battle strategy for the second day of Gettysburg was somewhat flawed. Lee planned to launch a series of successive attacks with Longstreet's Corps on the Union left flank. The series of attacks and the diagonal formation of the attackers, would, theoretically, prevent the shifting of Union troops to reinforce the left flank. Meanwhile, other divisions would attack Union positions at Culp's Hill and Cemetery Hill. Lee did not know, however, that Union Major General Daniel Sickles and his troops were positioned in between Confederate forces and the Union left flank.

### **Attacks on Devil's Den and Little Round Top**

On the sweltering afternoon of July 2nd, General Longstreet's soldiers engaged Sickles' III Union Corps, driving them back and forcing Union Commander Meade to send 20,000 reinforcements. Confederate Major General John Bell Hood launched attacks on Union divisions positioned at a location known as Devil's Den and a hill called Little Round Top. Sickles' III Corps was driven into a nearby wheatfield by Confederate forces under Lafayette McClaws before being thoroughly routed in a peach orchard. Pennsylvania Reserve soldiers eventually repulsed McClaws' assaults on Little Round Top, an important hill on the extreme Union left flank. Meanwhile, a division of McClaws' Army under the command of Richard Anderson led an assault on Cemetery Ridge that would have been successful if not for a desperate bayonet charge by the 1st Minnesota Regiment. The assaults on Little Round Top, however, were far from over. Positioned at the extreme left flank of the Union line, it represented

a major prize for the Confederacy if it could gain control of the hill. If Little Round Top could be occupied, Rebel forces could outflank the Union and attack the line from two directions.

### **Chamberlain's Stand**

The Union position at Little Round Top was precarious, but their small forces fought valiantly and repulsed numerous assaults by Confederate divisions. Just before Rebel soldiers under the command of John Bell Hood arrived at Little Round Top, Union reinforcements reached the scene and repulsed additional assaults. In the battle, the 20th Maine Regiment under the Command of Colonel Joshua Chamberlain, ran out of ammunition after fighting for four hours. Facing yet another Rebel charge from up the hill, the soldiers responded with a vicious bayonet charge, scattering the exhausted Confederates, and ending the assault on Little Round Top, preventing the Confederates from flanking the Union Army.

### **Attacks on Culp's Hill**

Attacks on the Union right flank began around 7:00 P.M. Because the majority of Union defenders on Culp's Hill had been moved to reinforce the left flank, Confederate forces under Edward Johnson attempted to exploit the vulnerability there. Union forces remaining on the hill, however, had constructed strong defensive works and were able to repulse most of the attacks. The Rebels did succeed in gaining control of a portion of the lower slope of Culp's Hill. By the end of the second day of fighting, it was still unclear who would ultimately prevail.

**1. Which statement about the second day of fighting at Gettysburg is supported by the passage?**

- a) The Union and Confederate forces were positioned in differently-shaped arrangements prior to the second day of fighting.
- b) Prior to the battle, Robert E. Lee had gained intelligence regarding the size and distribution of the Union forces.
- c) There were far more Union troops in Gettysburg than Confederate troops.
- d) Confederate battle lines stretched for eight miles prior to the second day of fighting.

**2. Which of the following was not part of Lee's strategy going into the second day of fighting?**

- a) Multiple attacks one after the other
- b) A slanted attack formation
- c) Use of different types of weaponry
- d) Besieging the enemy

**3. Which inference can be made from the passage?**

- a) The 1st Minnesota Regiment did nothing to stop the assault on Cemetery Ridge.
- b) The Union forces retained control of Little Round Top without needing to call for any reinforcements.
- c) If the Confederate forces took control of Little Round Top, they could have outnumbered and conquered the Union soldiers.
- d) Ulysses S. Grant led the Union troops fighting to secure control of Little Round Top.

**4. Which event happened first?**

- a) John Bell Hood attacks Little Round Top and Devil's Den.
- b) Richard Anderson leads an assault on Cemetery Ridge.
- c) Sickles' III Corps is driven into a wheatfield during battle.
- d) Commander Meade sends reinforcements to the III Union Corps.

**5. Which was not an advantage experienced by the Union during the battle?**

- a) Reinforcements arriving at Little Round Top
- b) A bayonet charge from the 1st Minnesota Regiment
- c) The sudden death of a prominent Confederate general
- d) Lee's lack of knowledge of the Union force positioning

**6. Where were Confederate forces stationed prior to the second day of fighting?**

- a) Seminary Ridge
- b) Cemetery Hill
- c) Both of the above
- d) None of the above

**7. Which statement about the end of the second day is true?**

- a) It was clear the Union would win the overall battle.
- b) The Union retained control of most of its ground.
- c) The Confederacy was unable to gain control of any of major Union positions.
- d) The Confederacy easily broke through the Union's feeble defenses.

-----Key-----

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

## **Battle of Gettysburg Day 3 Reading Comprehension**

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

Read the passage and answer the questions.

On the third and final day of fighting, Confederate General Robert E. Lee wished to maintain the offensive and crush the Union Army. His plan was nearly identical to the day before - Longstreet would attack the Union left flank and Ewell would assault and occupy Culp's Hill on the Union right flank.

### **Failure at Culp's Hill**

At around 4:00 A.M. on the 3rd, however, Lee's plans were foiled when Union forces launched an artillery bombardment on the lower portion of Culp's Hill that the Confederates had occupied the day before, forcing the Confederates there into battle. By 11:00 A.M., Confederate forces had gained little, if any, ground and suffered significant casualties. The failure at Culp's Hill required Lee to change his plans. He decided on an artillery bombardment on the Union line at Cemetery Ridge, before sending a massive infantry charge, which came to be known as Pickett's Charge.

### **Preparing for a Massive Assault**

The artillery bombardment, however, proved relatively ineffective, even though the 150 guns used represented the largest such bombardment in the entire war. The massive amounts of smoke produced from the thundering cannons obscured targets, causing gunners to overshoot. Union forces eventually countered with 80 cannon of their own, adding to the chaos and confusion. To save ammunition, Union Brigadier General Henry Hunt ordered cannon fire to be gradually phased out, confusing Confederate gunners into believing they had been destroyed. The Confederate artillery bombardment was totally unsuccessful, and failed in its objective to soften Union defenses before the ill-fated infantry assault.

### **Pickett's Charge up Cemetery Ridge**

At 3:00 in the afternoon, some 12,500 Confederate soldiers under the command of James Longstreet started their nearly mile-long uphill march to Union positions on Cemetery Ridge behind a stone wall. Interestingly, Longstreet had desperately tried to convince Lee to abandon the assault, believing it to be the equivalent of suicide, but Lee refused, intent on piercing the center of the Union line. Major General George Pickett's brigade was chosen to lead the charge, giving rise to the event's popular name: Pickett's Charge.

## **Unimaginable Carnage**

The Confederates marching through the open fields were easy targets for Union guns and cannons, which fired from all directions on the nine brigades of Rebel soldiers. Huge gaps quickly formed in the Confederate lines from devastating artillery fire that killed or wounded groups of soldiers in a single blast. The carnage quickly demoralized the Confederate soldiers, many of whom turned around and ran. Others were gunned down by musket fire as they neared the stone wall. "Pickett's Charge" was a massacre. Of the 12,500 soldiers who advanced upon Cemetery Ridge, over half were killed or wounded. Union forces suffered about 1,500 casualties. Between 3,000 and 4,000 Confederate soldiers were reportedly captured. Lee, fully aware of the massacre, and worried about a Union counterattack, attempted to rally his soldiers crying out "it's all my fault," but there would be no rally, nor would there be a serious counterattack against the retreating Rebels.

## **A Decisive Union Victory in the Largest Battle in American History**

On July 4, a truce was called so each side could collect their dead and wounded. In the July heat, the stench of the decomposing bodies which littered the fields caused many in Gettysburg to become violently ill.

As many as 51,000 casualties were documented at the end of the Battle of Gettysburg, with the Confederacy suffering as many as 28,000, and the Union about 23,000. Lee's Army of Northern Virginia retreated back to Virginia and would never fight again on Union soil. President Abraham Lincoln urged General Meade to pursue and attack the reeling Confederates, but the half-hearted pursuit proved ineffective and the Confederates escaped to Virginia. Meade would be soundly criticized for failing to deliver a decisive blow to the Confederates in their retreat.

### **1. Which of the following was NOT a disadvantage the Confederate forces during the third day of fighting?**

- a) The Union's surprise attack on Culp's Hill
- b) The Confederates' failed artillery bombardment
- c) The capture of Lee at Cemetery Ridge
- d) The massacre of Pickett's Charge

### **2. Which strategy was used by the Union during the third day of fighting?**

- a) Creating the illusion of destroyed cannons
- b) A combined bayonet and musket attack
- c) Seizing the low ground for an advantage
- d) A raid on the Confederate artillery base

**3. Why did Lee cry out “it’s all my fault” to his soldiers?**

- a) To reveal his part in causing the Civil War
- b) To take responsibility for sending soldiers on a suicide mission
- c) To encourage them to retreat from the battle and fight another day
- d) To punish the soldiers deserting the army

**4. Which statement is true?**

- a) Pickett’s Charge began at sunrise.
- b) More Union soldiers died in the Battle of Gettysburg than Confederate soldiers.
- c) The Union had fewer cannons than the Confederates at Cemetery Ridge.
- d) Less than 30,000 people total died at Gettysburg.

**5. Which statement about Pickett’s Charge is true?**

- a) It was ultimately unsuccessful
- b) The massacre scared many Confederates into running from the scene.
- c) Over half of the Confederate soldiers died or were injured.
- d) All of the above

**6. Which of the following is the best synonym for “reeling” as used in the passage?**

- a) Revolving
- b) Vulnerable
- c) Steady
- d) Approaching

**7. Why was Meade criticized at the end of the Battle of Gettysburg?**

- a) For failing to defeat Pickett’s Charge
- b) For failing to prevent the Confederates from regrouping in Virginia
- c) For disobeying Lincoln’s direct orders to attack the retreating Confederates
- d) For acting cowardly during the Battle of Gettysburg

-----Key-----

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



## The Battle of Chancellorsville

Name \_\_\_\_\_

The Battle of Chancellorsville is often called “Lee’s Greatest Victory.” Lee’s demolition of Union forces at Chancellorsville was so complete, that he could only explain it as “God’s will.” Following the epic victory, Lee believed his army to be invincible, and endeavored to take the fight to Northern soil for a second time, precipitating the Battle of Gettysburg.

What was your greatest victory? Your greatest victory can be a victory in sports, or, an incredible musical or dance performance. You can even choose your greatest moment in video games. Whatever you choose, make sure you explain why you chose it, and explain in detail.

# Forgiveness

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

On July 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1863, the final day of the Battle of Gettysburg, Lee ordered a massive infantry charge up Cemetery Ridge to dislodge Union positions at the top of the hill. Confederate Major General George Pickett and his division were chosen to lead the charge – which became known as Pickett's Charge. The ill-fated charge was a bloodbath. Pickett's men were easy targets for Union gunners and artillery and suffered a casualty rate of at least fifty percent. Pickett blamed Lee for the massacre and apparently never forgave him – even when Lee was near death.

**Most likely in your lives, you've had to make countless decisions on whether or not to forgive someone. In thinking about whether to forgive or not, what criteria do you use? What determines whether or not you decide to forgive? Explain your process in detail below and feel free to give an example.**