


The Union

Blockade

Reading Comprehension

The Union Blockade

Blockade
 During the Civil War, the Union attempted to prevent any goods, troops, or weapons from entering southern states with the goal of causing the failure of the Confederate states' economy. The Union blockade started just a few weeks after the start of the war after being announced by President Abraham Lincoln on April 19, 1861. They continued the blockade throughout the war until it ended in 1865. It covered around 3,500 miles of coastline and 180 ports.



SCOTT'S GREAT BAY




by surrounding their borders control of the Mississippi River. Anaconda Plan


Cotton
 At the time of the Civil War, industries, meaning they could supply its armies. The South relied upon if the South could trade cotton for weapons. South fell by nearly 45 percent to the Union Blockade.

Methods

As many as 500 Union ships were used to patrol the East Coast from Virginia to Florida and along the Gulf Coast from Florida to Texas. Their main focus was on the major ports to keep large shipments of goods from making it through.




Blockade Runners
 Despite the large amount of Union ships, some ships were able to get to the ports. Small, fast ships called blockade runners could get through, but they only had small cargoes, so there were not many supplies. Confederate Blockade runners stood to make a large amount of money. They carried large amounts of goods and the cargo passed the blockade. The Union Navy destroyed around 1,500 blockade runner ships during the Civil War.



British Sympathizers
 Some other ships that reached the ports were operated by British sympathizers. They were commanded by British officers who took leave from the British Navy to join the Confederacy.

Results

Many people thought the Union blockade was a waste of time at the beginning of the Civil War. They thought the war would be over quickly so the blockade would not have much impact on the outcome. By the end of the war, the blockade proved to have a significant impact on the South because they were suffering from a lack of supplies. The overall economy had ground to a halt. Southern soldiers were hearing starvation at the conclusion of the war.



Name: _____

The Union Blockade

True or False? Place a check in the correct column.


STATEMENT	T	F
1. The Union blockade attempted to cripple the South's economy.		
2. Blockade runners carried large supply loads to the Confederacy.		
3. The Union blockade was part of the Anaconda Plan.		
4. The North did not start their blockade of the South until the end of the war.		
5. Some members of the British Navy helped the Confederacy.		
6. The South hoped to trade cotton for weapons.		
7. The Union blockade only lasted a few weeks.		
8. Ships were stationed along the coast.		

Multiple Choice: Choose the correct answer.


- What was the main goal of the Union blockade?
 - A. To trade cotton for weapons.
 - B. To protect Union ships in the Gulf of Mexico.
 - C. To destroy the South's economy.
 - D. To prevent Confederacy trade.
- Why were blockade runners able to get through?
 - A. They were fast and small.
 - B. They carried many supplies.
 - C. They were equipped with hidden compartments.
 - D. They were able to stand up to the Union Navy.

Point of View


Write each person's expected reaction to the Union Blockade.




Union Soldier



Confederate Soldier



Southern Belle

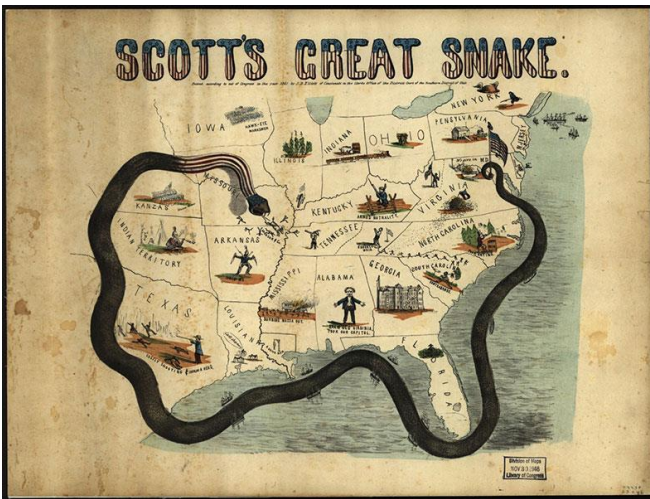
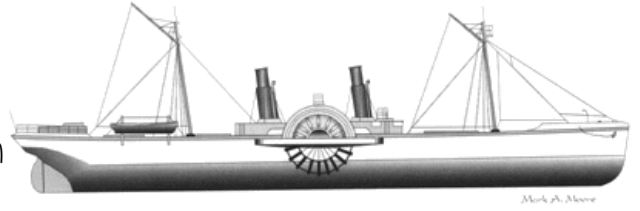


Abraham Lincoln

The Union Blockade

Blockade

During the Civil War, the Union attempted to prevent any goods, troops, or weapons from entering southern states with the goal of causing the failure of the Confederate states' economy. The Union blockade started just a few weeks after the start of the war after being announced by President Abraham Lincoln on April 19, 1861. They continued the blockade throughout the war until it ended in 1865. It covered around 3,500 miles of coastline and 180 ports.



Anaconda Plan

The Anaconda Plan was devised by Union General Winfield Scott, who felt the war could take a long time and the best supplied army would win. He planned to keep foreign countries from shipping supplies to the Confederation. The plan was named Anaconda, like a snake, because the Union hoped to constrict the South, keeping them from getting supplies

by surrounding their borders. The army would then split the South in two and take control of the Mississippi River. The Union blockade was a smaller part of the Anaconda Plan.

Cotton

At the time of the Civil War, the South did not have many industries, meaning they could not make enough weapons to supply its armies. The South did have an abundance of cotton though, which many countries, such as Great Britain relied upon. If the South could keep their ports open, they could trade cotton for weapons. Cotton exports from the South fell by nearly 95 percent by the end of the war due to the Union Blockade.



Methods

As many as 500 Union ships were used to patrol the East Coast from Virginia to Florida and along the Gulf Coast from Florida to Texas. Their main focus was on the major ports to keep large shipments of goods from making it through.



Blockade Runners

Despite the large amount of Union ships, some ships were able to make it through to the ports. Small, fast ships called blockade runners could usually make it through, but they only had small cargos, so there were not many supplies reaching the Confederacy. Blockade runners stood to make a large amount of money if their ships and the cargo passed the blockade. The Union Navy successfully captured or destroyed around 1,500 blockade runner ships during the Civil War.



British Sympathizers

Some other ships that reached the ports were operated by British sympathizers. They were commanded by British officers from the Royal Navy who took leave from the British Navy to assist the Confederacy.

Results

Many people thought the Union blockade was a waste of time at the beginning of the Civil War. They thought the war would be over quickly so the blockade would not have much impact on the outcome. By the end of the war, the blockade proved to have a significant impact on the South because they were suffering from a lack of supplies. The overall economy had ground to a halt. Southern soldiers were nearing starvation at the conclusion of the war.



Name _____

The Union Blockade

True or False? Place a check in the correct column.

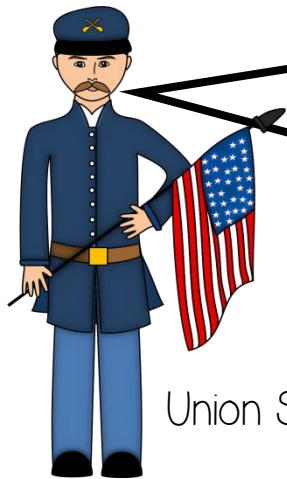
STATEMENT	T	F
1. The Union blockade attempted to cripple the South's economy.		
2. Blockade runners carried large supply loads to the Confederacy.		
3. The Union blockade was part of the Anaconda Plan.		
4. The North did not start their blockade of the South until the end of the war.		
5. Some members of the British Royal Navy helped the Confederacy.		
6. The South hoped to trade cotton for weapons.		
7. The Union blockade only lasted two years of the Civil War.		
8. Ships were stationed along the Atlantic and Gulf Coasts.		

Multiple Choice: Choose the best answer from the choices provided.

9. What was the main goal of the Union Blockade?
- A. To trade cotton for weapons.
 - B. To protect Union ships in the South.
 - C. To destroy the South's economy.
 - D. To prevent Confederacy troops from moving north.
10. Why were blockade runners usually able to get through the Union blockade?
- A. They were fast and small.
 - B. They carried many supplies.
 - C. They were equipped with weapons.
 - D. They were able to stand up to the Union ships.

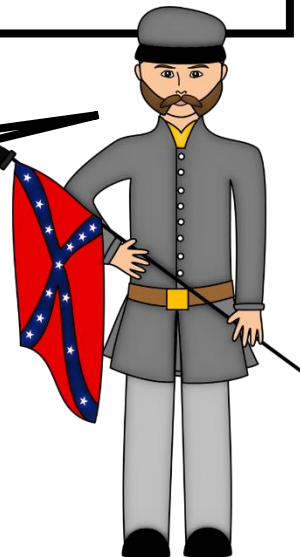
Point of View

Write each person's expected reaction to the Union Blockade.



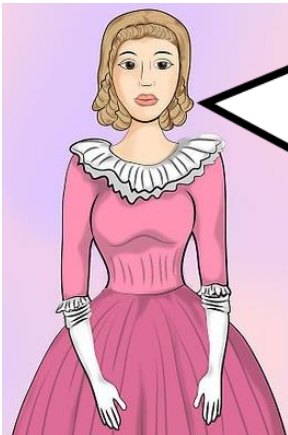
Union Soldier

Empty rectangular box for writing the Union Soldier's reaction.



Confederate Soldier

Empty rectangular box for writing the Confederate Soldier's reaction.



Southern Belle

Empty rectangular box for writing the Southern Belle's reaction.



Abraham Lincoln

Empty rectangular box for writing Abraham Lincoln's reaction.