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OUTCOMES OF THE CIVIL WAR

The end of the Civil War in 1865 brought many changes to both the North and the South. The South was ruined economically. There was no money, and the banks were closed. Cities were in ruins. Plantations, roads, bridges, railroads, and crops were destroyed. The South no longer had a working government. Although slaves had gained their freedom, they had not gained equal treatment. This was in spite of the fact that Congress passed laws—including the thirteenth, fourteenth, and fifteenth amendments to the Constitution—in order to reduce the power of the Southern whites. Federal troops were stationed in the South. Numbers of people, called carpetbaggers, entered the ruined South to exploit its condition, further straining the situation. Rebuilding the reunited United States was a slow process. Many Southerners had ill feelings about losing the war, while a large number of Northerners resented the South for—in their opinion—causing the war. The government plan for dealing with the problems was called “Reconstruction.”

Get the Facts!

Language Arts:

Create a dictionary of words that entered the English language because of the Civil War.

Social Studies:

Research and explain the intent and application of the thirteenth, fourteenth, and fifteenth amendments to the Constitution.

Science:

Research the building materials and technology available for rebuilding the South.

The Arts:

Design an idealized Reconstruction plan for a major Southern city.

Math:

Research and estimate the financial cost of the Civil War in Civil War dollars and in today's dollars.

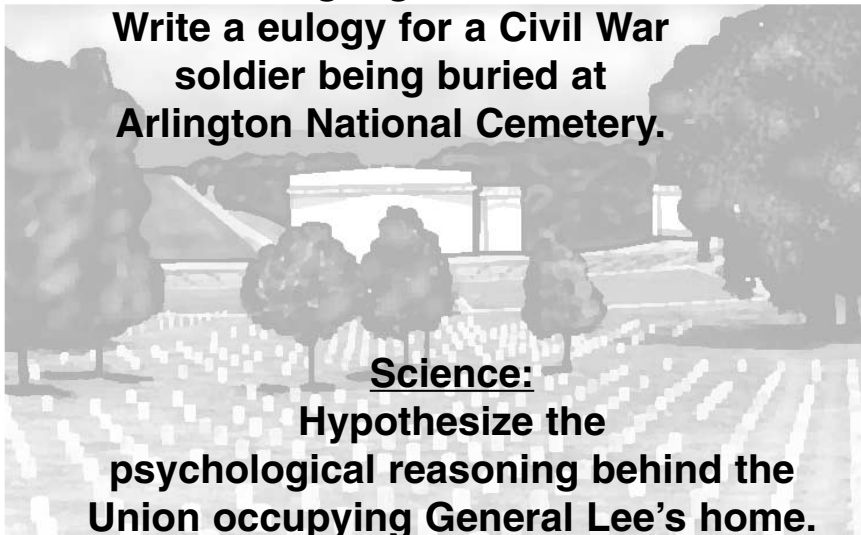
ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY

Arlington National Cemetery is located across the Potomac River from Washington, D.C., on more than 500 acres of what was once the estate of Southern general Robert E. Lee. The centerpiece of the estate was the mansion, Arlington House, which was built by the adopted son of George Washington. Lee was married to Mary Custis in the mansion in 1831. He left to lead the Southern army in 1861, and federal troops occupied the mansion and used it as headquarters and the grounds for an encampment. The first soldier buried there was a Confederate prisoner who had died in a nearby hospital. That was on May 13, 1864. The secretary of war declared the entire estate a military cemetery later that year. Today there are more than 163,000 internments, including soldiers, Presidents, and unknowns.

Get the Facts!

Language Arts:

Write a eulogy for a Civil War soldier being buried at Arlington National Cemetery.



Science:

Hypothesize the psychological reasoning behind the Union occupying General Lee's home.

Social Studies:

Research the process and effects of troops capturing and occupying homes and grounds during wartime.



Math:

Calculate the average number of internments per year between May 13, 1864, and today.



Art:

Explain *trompe l'oeil* and how it is used at Arlington House.

