

Name: _____ Date: _____

The War Begins

Shortly after the Confederate States of America formed their new government, they ordered federal troops to leave all government forts and buildings in Confederate territory.

Lincoln refused to comply with this order and pledged to maintain control of all federal property.

Major Robert Anderson commanded Fort Sumter on an island off the coast of South Carolina. When the Confederates demanded that he and his small group of men surrender the fort, he refused. On April 12, 1861, Confederate troops fired on Fort Sumter. Two days later, Major Anderson surrendered.

President Lincoln immediately called for 75,000 volunteers to join the Union Army for three months—he expected the war to be over quickly. He also declared a naval blockade of all Southern ports.

The South had few industries or natural resources. Their major crops were tobacco and cotton, cash crops they exported to Europe in exchange for food and manufactured goods. Few food crops were grown in the South.

Although about 8,000 ships were able to break through the blockade during the four years of the war, that was far less than the 20,000 that had taken goods from the South for sale to Europe and brought supplies back during the four years before the war.

1. Why do you think the Confederate government wanted all federal troops to leave the South?

2. Why do you think Lincoln refused? _____

3. Use a dictionary. What is a blockade? _____

4. How do you think a naval blockade would affect the South? _____

5. How do you think the blockade affected the South's ability to win the war?

