

Student Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

## North vs. South

### North vs. South: The Economic Balance

Directions: It is May 1861, and the Civil War has just begun. Your group has the task of considering the economic advantages and disadvantages of each side, with the goal of helping your overall side (North or South) to demonstrate why it is likely to win.

Use link below for intro:

<https://vimeo.com/214833157>

And the North-South Comparison Chart:

<https://www.gilderlehrman.org/history-by-era/american-civil-war/resources/north-south-comparisons> (click on North-South Comparison Chart to open window)

#### Instructions:

Complete the following chart. For each category, indicate which side—North or South—seemed to possess the advantage, and explain why. Use specific evidence from the map and chart to back up your claims.

	Which side had the advantage?	Explanation
Wealth		
Manufacturing		
Agriculture/Food Production		

Cotton Production		
Railroads		
Slaves		
Immigrants		

## North vs. South: The Military Balance Directions

It is May 1861, and the Civil War has just begun. Your group has the task of considering the military advantages and disadvantages of each side, with the goal of helping your overall side (North or South) to demonstrate why it is likely to win. Using the information that follows, determine which side possesses the military advantage going into the war. Comparing the Army Commanders The interactive “Meet the Army Commanders!”:

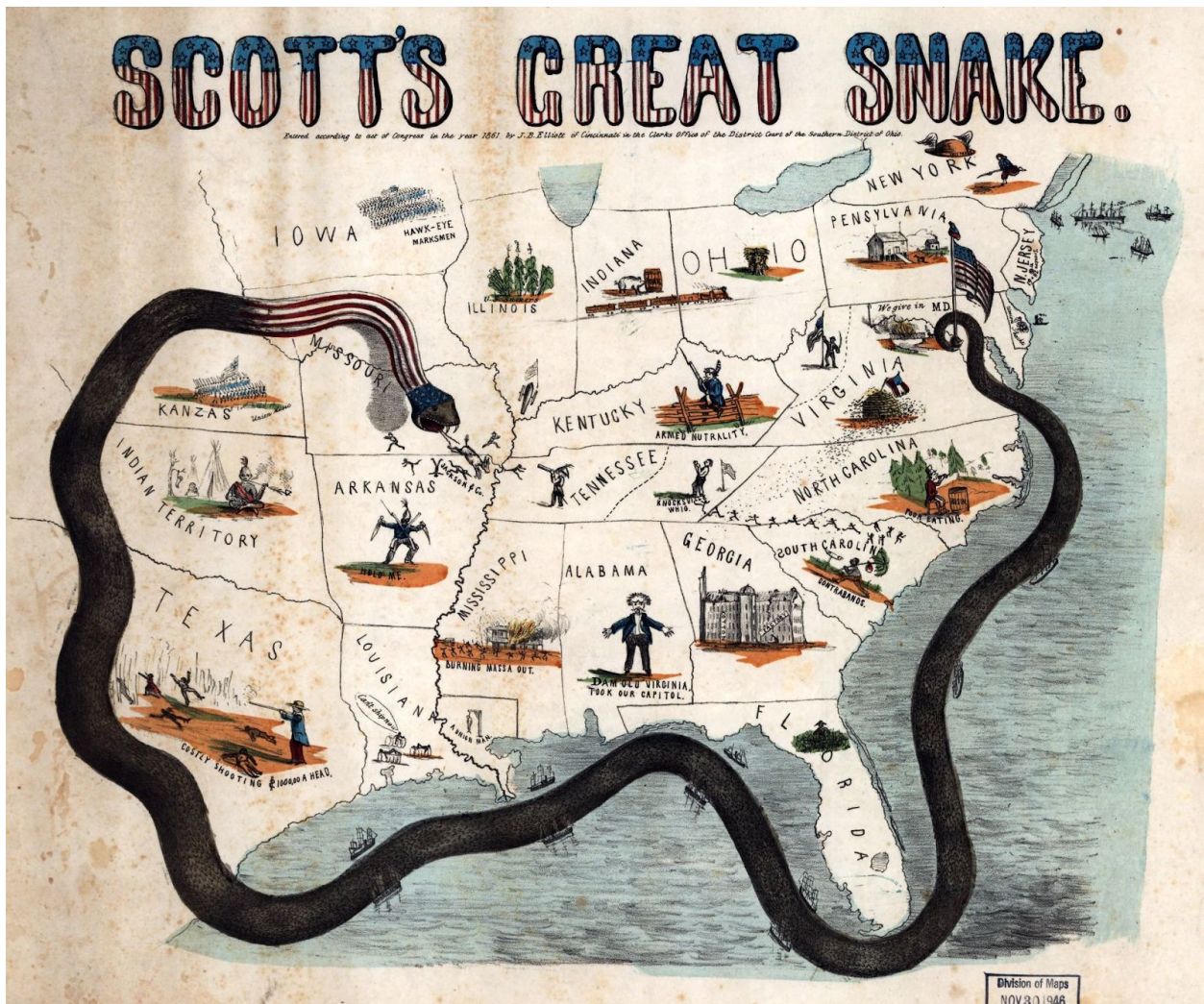
<http://teachingamericanhistory.org/static/neh/interactives/cmdrs/>

This link provides information about the top ranking field commanders in the Confederate and Union armies during the first year of the Civil War. As you study the information, answer the questions that follow, citing specific evidence for your answers.

Question	
Which side’s commanders were more likely to have attended the U.S. military academy at West Point? Why might this make a difference in determining the overall military balance?	
Which side’s commanders, on average, performed better at West Point? Why might this matter?	
Which side’s commanders, on average, were older? How might this make a difference?	
Which side’s commanders, on average, had more military experience? Why might this be important?	

Watch the video below.  
<http://www.history.com/topics/american-civil-war/american-civil-war-history/videos/confederate-vs-union-soldiers>  
Compare and contrast the typical Union soldier with that of a confederate soldier

## North vs. South: The Military Strategy



The North's Strategy: The Anaconda Plan

The Anaconda Plan was a strategy devised by the North to avoid excessive loss of life in a long, drawn out war. It was created by General Winfield Scott in 1861, and it included a blockade off all of the ports in the South. Its goal was to stop all commerce on the Mississippi River and the major ports in the South so no cotton could be exported for money, and no war supplies could be imported. Its main purpose was to put the south under economic pressure to end the war.

The purpose of the blockade was not only to capture the ships that attempted to evade it, but also to discourage others. Unable to sell goods (particularly cotton) on the world market, the Confederate government was already strained financially as early as 1862. Secondly, A major part of the Anaconda Plan was to take The Southern capital of Richmond. Lastly, The Union army wanted to capture the Mississippi. If they could do this they could split the confederacy in half. They were able to do this when they fought the battle of Vicksburg

Questions on Reading:

1. Do you think the Anaconda Plan will be successful? Why or why not?

2. From the reading above, list the three objectives of the Anaconda Plan.

## **The South's strategy: Defensive Battle**

### **Reading:**

At the outset, the South seemed to have great advantages. First and foremost, Southerners were fighting a defensive war on their own soil. They knew the terrain and the most efficient means to traverse it. In addition, when fighting a defensive war, the standard of victory is considerably lower. Defenders need not capture and hold enemy territory, but survive long enough to wear out their opponents. The North's war goal of reoccupying the South would be more difficult to accomplish than the Southern goal of surviving. This defensive fighting also gave the South an important advantage in morale. These men were fighting on their own soil for their own institutions. They had a more immediate and passionate reason for fighting than most enlisted Northerners.

On the other hand, fighting on one's own soil can be a disadvantage, especially if the invader is successful. The loss of territory can adversely affect the morale of both soldiers and citizens. As the war progressed, this disadvantage would become all the more apparent, especially in the area between the Appalachian Mountains and the Mississippi River. Union successes in

western and central Tennessee also deprived the Confederacy of important resources, both agricultural and industrial.

Questions on South's strategy:

1. List the advantages of fighting a defensive war.
2. What are the disadvantages of fighting a defensive war?
3. Why was a defensive war the south's main strategy?

**If you finish early check out this infographic**

<https://www.nps.gov/civilwar/facts.htm>