

**Fact or Fiction?**

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

Below is a passage on Fort Sumter. On the following page is a chart with ten statements. Indicate whether each statement is fact or fiction.

## **From Fort Moultrie to Fort Sumter**

The Battle of Fort Sumter marked the first exchange of fire in the Civil War. After seven southern states ratified their declarations of secession, the state of South Carolina demanded that Federal (United States) troops stationed at Fort Moultrie (in Charleston Harbor) abandon the fort. On December 26, 1860, however, Union Major General Richard Anderson moved his troops from Fort Moultrie to Fort Sumter, because he thought Fort Sumter was more easily defended. South Carolina subsequently seized all other Federal forts in South Carolina except for Fort Sumter. About two weeks later, U.S. president at the time James Buchanan authorized the delivery of reinforcements to Fort Sumter. The ship carrying the reinforcements was fired upon by batteries from the South Carolina shore and the reinforcements never made it.

## **The South is Serious!**

Over the course of the next few months, Confederate forces strengthened batteries around Fort Sumter. Furthermore, the new president of the Confederacy, Jefferson Davis, appointed his first military officer, P.G. T. Beauregard, to command forces in Charleston. Ironically, Anderson and Beauregard were close friends and Beauregard even served as Anderson's assistant after graduation from West Point.

## **The Bombardment and Siege**

Inside the fort, Anderson and his troops were running short on food and supplies as a siege began to form. New president Abraham Lincoln again tried to resupply the fort and notified South Carolina Governor Francis Pickens that he was sending in ships. In response, Confederate forces demanded the immediate surrender of the fort. After General Anderson refused the demand, they began bombarding Fort Sumter at 4:30 in the morning on April 12, 1861.

## **Surrender**

Confederate forces firing on Fort Sumter quickly took their toll. Badly outgunned and outmanned, Anderson's forces inside the fort initially returned fire, but were soon overwhelmed. After 34 hours, Major General Anderson agreed to evacuate the fort. No American or Confederate soldiers were killed during the battle, though two soldiers would die as a result of a gun explosion during the surrender ceremonies on April 14.

	<b>FACT</b>	<b>FICTION</b>
The Battle of Fort Sumter marked the first exchange of fire in the Civil War.		
The battle occurred before seven states seceded from the Union.		
Following the demand for surrender, Richard Anderson moved his soldiers from Fort Sumter to Fort Moultrie.		
Richard Anderson and P.G.T. Beauregard were actually close friends.		
After General Anderson refused the order to surrender, Confederate forces opened fire on Fort Sumter on April 12, 1861.		
Union forces inside Fort Sumter were no match of the Confederate firepower.		
One of the effects of the battle of Fort Sumter was President Lincoln's request for the mobilization of soldiers for the Union army.		
Two Union soldiers were killed during the fighting.		
P.G.T. Beauregard was the first military officer appointed in the Confederacy.		
Following Fort Sumter, four additional states seceded from the Union.		

**Answers:**

	<b>FACT</b>	<b>FICTION</b>
The Battle of Fort Sumter marked the first exchange of fire in the Civil War.	<b>X</b>	
The battle occurred before seven states seceded from the Union.		<b>X</b>
Following the demand for surrender, Richard Anderson moved his soldiers from Fort Sumter to Fort Moultrie.		<b>X</b>
Richard Anderson and P.G.T. Beauregard were actually close friends.	<b>X</b>	
After General Anderson refused the order to surrender, Confederate forces opened fire on Fort Sumter on April 12, 1861.	<b>X</b>	
Union forces inside Fort Sumter were no match of the Confederate firepower.	<b>X</b>	
One of the effects of the battle of Fort Sumter was President Lincoln's request for the mobilization of soldiers for the Union army.	<b>X</b>	
Two Union soldiers were killed during the fighting.		<b>X</b>
P.G.T. Beauregard was the first military officer appointed in the Confederacy.	<b>X</b>	
Following Fort Sumter, four additional state seceded from the Union.	<b>X</b>	