

Battle Breakdown: Fort Sumter

Name _____

Instructions: Read the narrative and fill in the chart on the next page.

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.

Mobilizing for War

Both the North and the South became galvanized in their war efforts after Fort Sumter. President Lincoln's request for the mobilization of 75,000 additional troops prompted the secession of four other states.

What was the cause of the battle?	
What were the roles of each of the following players?	
Abraham Lincoln	
Richard Anderson	
P.G.T. Beauregard	
Jefferson Davis	
Francis Pickens	
Which side won the battle?	
What was the effect of the battle?	

Answers:

What was the cause of the battle?	
Union forces refused to abandon Forts Moultrie and Sumter in South Carolina after it seceded from the Union.	
What were the roles of each of the following players?	
Abraham Lincoln	Abraham Lincoln was the president of the United States at the time. He tried to send reinforcements to Fort Sumter, but the ship was fired upon by batteries on the South Carolina shore.
Richard Anderson	Richard Anderson was the Union general in charge of American soldiers at Fort Moultrie and Fort Sumter. He was forced to surrender the fort when the situation became hopeless inside of it.
P.G.T. Beauregard	P.G.T. Beauregard was a former assistant to Richard Anderson. Beauregard was in charge of military forces within Charleston and led the bombardment of Fort Sumter.
Jefferson Davis	Jefferson Davis was the president of the Confederate States of America, who made Beauregard his first military appointment.
Francis Pickens	Francis Pickens was the governor of South Carolina.
Which side won the battle? Confederacy	
What was the effect of the battle?	
Following the surrender of Fort Sumter, President Lincoln requested the mobilization of 75,000 troops for military service to the Union. This request prompted four additional states to secede from the Union and join the Confederacy. The states were: Tennessee, North Carolina, Virginia, and Arkansas.	