

Fact or Fiction?

Name: _____

Below is a biography on Ulysses S. Grant. On the following page is a chart with ten statements. Indicate whether each statement is fact or fiction.

Ulysses Simpson Grant was born April 26, 1822, in Point Pleasant, Ohio. Against his father's wishes, Grant entered the US Military Academy and finished in the middle of the class. Like most military school graduates at the time, Grant was sent to Mexico and served under General Zachary Taylor during the Mexican War. In other endeavors before the Civil War, Grant was unsuccessful.

"Unconditional Surrender" Grant

At the outbreak of the Civil War, Ulysses S. Grant was working at his father's leather shop in Illinois. He was appointed by the Illinois governor as the commander of a local militia but soon rose to the rank of brigadier general in the Civil War. Grant's aggressive and bold tactics were a major reason why the Union Army was able to defeat the Confederates. His campaigns in the Mississippi River Valley were legendary and crucial to Union victory. In 1862, Grant led his forces to victories at Fort Henry and Fort Donelson in Tennessee. At Fort Donelson, Grant earned the nickname "Unconditional Surrender Grant." Though less successful at Shiloh, Grant's leadership opened the way for Union occupation of the Mississippi River. Grant went on to take the key port city of Vicksburg and then broke Confederate ranks at Chattanooga.

Grant's Overland Campaign and Lee's Surrender

In 1864, President Lincoln named him Commander of the Union army. Grant's "Overland Campaign" at such battles as Wilderness, Cold Harbor, and Petersburg took a heavy toll on Lee's Army of Northern Virginia, despite the heavy casualties inflicted upon his forces. Lee's weakened forces held the Confederate strongholds of Petersburg and Richmond for ten months before being overwhelmed by Grant's forces. On April 9, 1865, Ulysses S. Grant received Lee's surrender and the Civil War was over.

Presidency

In 1869, Grant was elected president of the United States. Unlike his military campaigns, his presidency was less than successful and plagued by corruption. Although he presided over Reconstruction in the South, and was a great advocate of African-Americans, Grant was seen associating with prospectors who tried to corner the market in gold. When he realized their plan, he authorized the Treasury to sell enough gold to ruin the plan, but the damage had already been done to business. After the presidency, Grant joined a financial firm that ultimately went bankrupt and was left virtually destitute. In 1885, he died of throat cancer shortly after writing his personal memoirs. His works ultimately made \$450,000 for his family. Grant is currently honored on the fifty-dollar bill of the United States.

	FACT	FICTION
Ulysses S. Grant was very successful before the Civil War began.		
Grant scored victories at both Fort Donelson and Fort Henry in 1862.		
Grant is honored on the United States \$50 bill.		
Grant became president of the United States in 1863.		
As president, Grant supported African-Americans and was an advocate of Civil Rights.		
Grant is credited with systematically weakening the Union Army in 1864.		
On April 9, 1865, Robert E. Lee accepted Grant's surrender at Appomattox Courthouse.		
Grant earned his nickname after his victory at Fort Donelson.		
Grant's father always supported his son's military aspirations.		
Grant's presidency was considered very successful.		
Grant scored victories for the Union Army at Vicksburg and Chattanooga.		

Answers:

	FACT	FICTION
Ulysses S. Grant was very successful before the Civil War began.		X
Grant scored victories at both Fort Donelson and Fort Henry in 1862.	X	
Grant is honored on the United States \$50 bill.	X	
Grant became president of the United States in 1863.		X
As president, Grant supported African-Americans and was an advocate of Civil Rights.	X	
Grant is credited with systematically weakening the Union Army in 1864.		X
On April 9, 1865, Robert E. Lee accepted Grant's surrender at Appomattox Courthouse.		X
Grant earned his nickname after his victory at Fort Donelson.	X	
Grant's father always supported his son's military aspirations.		X
Grant's presidency was considered very successful.		X
Grant scored victories for the Union Army at Vicksburg and Chattanooga.	X	