Lesson 3: Battles of Gettysburg and Vicksburg: The Gettysburg Address

Class Notes 3:

FIRST let’s review. Why was the U.S. fighting the Civil War in the first place? What were some of the causes?

I. Battle of Gettysburg

→ 3-day battle (July 1 – July 3, 1863) in ______________
→ turning point of the Civil War
→ hurt the South so much that Gen. _____ would never invade a __________ state again

Day One: July 1, 1863
Confederate Gen. A.P. Hill and his Confederate troops were trying to meet up with Gen. _______ after looking for some much-needed shoes. Instead, they met Union troops. The Union troops took control of the________ ground around the town, but the C.S.A. controlled the __________.

Day Two: July 2
C.S.A. troops led by James ________________ were ordered by Lee to take over one area of high ground- Cemetery Ridge (which was held by the Union). A group of Confederate troops from Alabama tried to take over Little Round _____, a key hill that overlooked much of the ____________________. A Union colonel moved to defend the hill and eventually fought off the____________ troops with a bayonet charge. These aggressive Confederate troops around the hill surrendered, saving the Union fro certain rebel ____________ attacks from Little ____________ Top.

Day Three: July 3
Lee ordered an artillery attack against the __________ of the Union forces. Thinking the Union soldiers had given up firing, C.S.A. Gen. Longstreet ordered a charge against the middle of the ___________ lines. This is referred to as ______________ because Gen. Pickett helped lead the operation. The Union troops re-opened first, however, and the C.S.A. troops retreated back to their lines. Thus, the Union kept the high ground. Lee and his men ___________ South, never to invade the Union again. Total casualties at the battle were ____%. Lee was so depressed that he offered his _____________, but Jefferson Davis would not accept it.

Union casualties:
Confederate casualties:

II. Vicksburg

III. Gettysburg Address, November 19, 1863 – several months AFTER the battle
In November, 1863 a ceremony was held to dedicate a cemetery in Gettysburg. After a famous speaker made his speech, President __________________ gave a shot, 2-minute speech – the ______________________________. One of the effects of the speech was uniting America as one → the United States ARE became the United States IS

Highlights of the speech:
→ all men are created equal
→ the government should be ___ the people, ___ the people, ____ the people

Questions to answer:
- What happened 87 years previous to this speech that Lincoln is referring to?
- From what document does Lincoln seem to be getting many of his ideas?
Have students open their textbooks to the Declaration of Independence.
- Why would Lincoln remind listeners of this document?
- What do you think Thomas Jefferson would say about Lincoln referring to this document at this event?
- What do you think about Lincoln’s statement “people will little remember what we say here”?
- Why is this document considered so important today?