

Surrender at Appomattox Student Worksheet

Introduction:

By April, 1865, it was obvious that the Confederacy could not win the Civil War. Richmond, the Confederate capital, had fallen to Union forces, and General U.S. Grant's troops were fast in pursuit of General Robert E. Lee's Army of Northern Virginia. Recognizing the hopelessness of his situation, Lee began a correspondence with Grant to arrange surrender terms. Finally, on April 9th, Lee and Grant met at the home of Wilmer McLean in Appomattox Court House, Virginia to discuss the surrender of Lee's army.

Surrender at Appomattox, 1865

http://www.socialstudies.com/c/article.html?article@surrender_appomattox

1. Approximately how many days had elapsed since the fall of Richmond to the surrender?
2. How does the resource describe what each army's strategy was during the period from the time the Confederate capital fell until Lee and Grant met?
3. Which of the two generals started the correspondence that led to the surrender?
4. How did General Grant attempt to convince General Lee in his dispatch of April 7 that surrender was necessary?
5. How did General Lee respond to Grant's request?
6. With what terms did Grant respond to Lee's reply?

7. How did Grant propose to meet Lee to discuss surrender terms?

After a further exchange of dispatches, Lee agreed to meet Grant on April 9th to discuss surrender terms. Union General Horace Porter described the scene. (Scroll down the page to find Porter's description.) Answer the following questions based on his account.

8. How did Porter describe the "mood" of the room where Lee and Grant met? How did he describe the physical characteristics of the two generals?

9. What surrender terms did Lee and Grant eventually agree upon? (Note: read the information at the bottom of the last page that says "Surrender Terms" to read the actual terms.)

10. Would you describe these surrender terms as harsh or easy on Southern troops? Give evidence to support your opinion.

11. How do you think the surrender terms helped or hindered the reconciliation of the two sides? Explain your answer.