

Strategies for Victory

Use the information the back of this page to complete the T-Graph below.

Union Plans	Confederate Plans
1.	1.
2.	2.
3.	3.

Use the information in your T-Graph to create a poster titled “Strategies for Victory”

- Be sure your poster is neat, accurate, and illustrated.
- Be sure your poster clearly explains the strategies developed by each side.

Union and Confederate Strategies

The North and South Make Plans for Winning the War (adapted from *This Is America's Story*: Houghton Mifflin, 1981)

Well-trained troops and plenty of supplies are not enough to win a war. A clear-cut plan for conducting the war is also necessary. This planning is known by the military term, **strategy**.

The strategy of the South was simple. The South planned to hold out until the people of the North grew tired of the war. The Northerners might then say, "If the Confederates want a separate country, let them have it. It's too difficult to force them to return to the Union." (2) Whenever possible, of course, the South would invade the North, hoping to win an important victory. (3) The South counted on help from abroad, especially from England. The South planned to exchange its cotton for war supplies, such as guns, ammunition, and medical supplies.

The North had a different strategy. In order to win the war, it had to invade and conquer the South. This was to be done in three ways: (1) The North planned to follow the strategy of "divide and conquer." A large part of the Confederacy lay west of the Mississippi. Union plans called for gaining control of the Mississippi. This move would make it impossible for the Confederacy to get supplies from the states west of the river. After cutting the South in two at the Mississippi, the North would try to cut the eastern part of the Confederacy into smaller pieces. (2) The North also planned a blockade of southern ports, to prevent goods from being shipped into or out of the South. This would block the plan of the South to exchange cotton for war supplies. (3) The Confederate capital must be captured and the armies defending it conquered.

Strategies for Victory (adapted from *The American Nation*: Prentice Hall, 1995)

Fighting during the Civil War took place in three major areas: the East, the West, and at sea. Union war plans involved all three areas.

Union plans. First, the Union planned to blockade southern ports. They wanted to cut off the South's supply of manufactured goods by halting its trade with Europe. Second, in the West, the Union planned to seize control of the Mississippi River. This would keep the South from using the river to supply its troops. It would also separate Arkansas, Texas, and Louisiana from the rest of the Confederacy. Finally, in the East, Union generals wanted to seize Richmond, Virginia, and capture the Confederate government headquartered there.

Confederate plans. The South's strategy was simpler: First, the Confederate army would stay at home and fight a defensive war. Northerners, they believed, would quickly tire of fighting. If the war became unpopular in the North, President Lincoln would have to give up the effort to bring the South back into the Union. Second, Southerners counted on European money and supplies to help fight the war. Southern cotton was important to the textile mills of England and other countries. Confederates were confident that Europeans would quickly recognize the South as an independent nation and continue to buy southern cotton for their factories.