

Name _____



War Words

During the American Civil War (1861–1865), people in the North (Union) and South (Confederacy) used songs, speeches, and propaganda to influence public opinion. These powerful messages helped boost morale, inspire soldiers, and convince people to support the war.



Songs of the War

Music was an important part of life during the war. Soldiers sang songs to stay motivated, and civilians used music to express their feelings about the war.

- The Union's most famous song was "The Battle Hymn of the Republic." It was about fighting for freedom and became a symbol of Union pride.
- The Confederacy's popular song was "Dixie." It celebrated Southern life and made people feel proud of their homeland.
- Some songs, like "When Johnny Comes Marching Home," were hopeful and talked about soldiers returning home after the war.

Songs helped people feel connected to the war, even if they were not on the battlefield.

Speeches That Inspired

Great leaders gave speeches to encourage soldiers and the public. One of the most famous was Abraham Lincoln's Gettysburg Address in 1863. It was short, but it reminded people that the war was about freedom and keeping the country together.

The South had its own strong leaders. Jefferson Davis, the president of the Confederacy, gave speeches to motivate Southerners and convince them to keep fighting.

Propaganda and War Posters

Propaganda is information used to persuade people to think or act a certain way. During the Civil War, both sides used posters, newspapers, and illustrations to shape public opinion.

- Union propaganda showed the war as a fight to end slavery and save the country.
- Confederate propaganda focused on protecting the Southern way of life.
- Both sides used political cartoons to make fun of their enemies and rally support.

Through songs, speeches, and propaganda, the Civil War became more than just battles—it was a war fought with words and ideas, too!