

The Civil War was a conflict between the states of the United States of America. The states of the North, called the Union, fought against the states of the South, or the Confederates.

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The fighting began on April 12,  
1861, when the Confederate army  
attacked a Union army in South  
Carolina at Fort Sumter.



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There are numerous causes as to why war erupted between the two sides. Most agree to two major causes - slavery and states' rights.

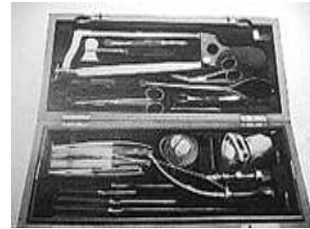
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The muzzle-loading rifle could be loaded at the rate of about three times a minute. Its maximum range was about 1,000 yards.



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Surgeons never washed their hands after an operation because all blood was assumed to be the same, nor did they wash their instruments.



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There were over 2,000 boys who were 14 years-old or younger in the Union ranks. Three hundred were 13 years or less, while there were 200,000 no older than 16 years.

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