a majority of the soldiers were between 18 and 30 years old
most were farmers, nearly half

African Americans wanted to fight were not allowed to at the start of the war
eventually the North allowed African Americans to join the army

in total, about 2 million men served for the Union army and about 1 million for the Confederate army

men joined the army for various reasons:
- adventure
- glory
- escape from factory/farm
- money
- loyalty to state/country

soldiers lived in tents and moved often
training followed strict schedule – awake at dawn, drills and chores at camp

Union army was usually uniformed in BLUE
Confederate army was usually uniformed in GREY

both sides had problems getting proper supplies

camps were often dirty and soldiers had poor personal HYGIENE (practices and conditions which promote health)

people were not yet aware that disease was spread through germs

weapons of war had advanced much since the Revolutionary War
RIFLE – gun with a grooved barrel that causes a bullet to spin through the air

MINIE BALL – bullet with a hollow base, shot further and more accurate than a musket

IRONCLADS – warships covered in iron plates to protect it

a major Confederate ironclad was the VIRGINIA (MERRIMAC)

a major Union ironclad was the MONITOR

CSS VIRGINIA (MERRIMAC)
THE MERRIMAC VS THE MONITOR

their famous battle ends in a tie after four hours of hitting each other
after the first two years of fighting neither side had gained a decisive advantage.