THE FIRST BATTLE OF BULL RUN

Reading Comprehension

THE FIRST BATTLE OF BULL RUN

Generals
Many Northerners assumed the battle would result in a quick end to the war. The title The First Battle of Bull Run was intended to make the battle seem unimportant. The Confederates named it First Battle of Manassas, after the city they captured. The battle was fought near Manassas, Virginia, where the battle was located.

Background
The Civil War started a year earlier at Fort Sumter in Charleston, South Carolina. The South refused to give up its independence.

Union Attack
Union General Irvin McDowell was successful in attacking Richmond, but he did not want to take the risk of attacking the capital. President Lincoln encouraged him to march on to Richmond. McDowell eventually bowed to the pressure and assembled his forces at Washington, DC. He then agreed to attack the city. However, Union soldiers were not as disciplined as they had been.

Confederate Victory
While Stonewall Jackson held off the Union army, Confederate reinforcements arrived from General Joseph Johnston. His army made the difference. He attacked the Union army and routed them. Confederate General Irvin McDowell left to join the Union army to fight against the Confederates.

Results
The Confederates won the battle, but casualties were high. 747 men were killed, wounded, or captured as Union soldiers.

Multiple Choice

1. Which Union general was successful in attacking Richmond?
   A) Irvin McDowell
   B) Robert E. Lee
   C) Ulysses S. Grant
   D) George Meade

2. Which president encouraged General McDowell to march on to Richmond?
   A) James Buchanan
   B) Abraham Lincoln
   C) Andrew Johnson
   D) Rutherford B. Hayes

3. Which battle was the First Battle of Bull Run?
   A) Battle of Chancellorsville
   B) Battle of First Manassas
   C) Battle of Antietam
   D) Battle of Gettysburg

4. Which general was a Confederate general?
   A) Irvin McDowell
   B) Robert E. Lee
   C) William Tecumseh Sherman
   D) Ulysses S. Grant
THE FIRST BATTLE OF BULL RUN

The First Battle of Bull Run on July 21, 1861 was the first major battle of the Civil War. The battle actually has two names— the Union side named it after Bull Run, while the Confederates named it the First Battle of Manassas, after the city of Manassas, Virginia, where the battle was fought.

Generals
Many Northerners assumed the battle would be an easy Union victory, resulting in a quick end to the war. The two Union armies in the Battle of Bull Run were commanded by General Irvin McDowell and General Robert Patterson. The Confederate armies were commanded by General P.G.T. Beauregard and General Joseph E. Johnston.

Background
The Civil War started a few months earlier at the Battle of Fort Sumter. Both the North and the South were eager to finish the war. The South felt with another major victory, the North would give up and leave the newly formed Confederate States of America alone. Many politicians in the North thought if they were able to take the new Confederate capital city of Richmond, Virginia, the war would quickly be over.

Union Attack
Union General Irvin McDowell was pressured to attack Richmond, but he did not think his soldiers were ready to fight. However, Union president, Abraham Lincoln encouraged him to march south into Virginia anyway. McDowell eventually bowed to the pressure and assembled his forces at Washington, D.C. Standing at 35,000 men, this was the largest army ever assembled in America. They left Washington on July 16th, 1861. General McDowell ordered the Union army to attack on the morning of July 21, 1861. The two inexperienced armies ran into many difficulties. The Union plan was far too complex for the young soldiers to implement and the Confederate army had trouble communicating. The Confederate army only had around 22,000 troops. The superior numbers of the Union started pushing the Confederates back. It looked as if the Union was going to win the battle.
The Confederacy won the battle, but both sides suffered many casualties. 847 men were killed in the First Battle of Bull Run. 2,706 were wounded, and a further 1,325 soldiers, mainly from the Union army, were captured or missing in action. The battle left both sides realizing this would be a long and horrible war. The day after the battle, President Lincoln signed a bill authorizing the enlistment of 500,000 new Union soldiers.
THE BATTLE OF BULL RUN

Complete the chart using the information in the article.

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**FIRST BATTLE OF BULL RUN**

**IDENTIFY**: Use the word bank to identify each term/person described below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>President of the Union during the Civil War</th>
<th>This side outnumbered the other in the First Battle of Bull Run</th>
<th>Confederate General who became famous for his role at Henry House Hill</th>
<th>The new Confederate capital</th>
<th>This Union General felt pressured to attack Confederate troops</th>
<th>The Confederate battle came to be known as this</th>
<th>These two Generals led the Confederate troops in the First Battle of Bull Run</th>
<th>This side won the First Battle of Bull Run</th>
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<tr>
<td>Abraham Lincoln</td>
<td>Richmond</td>
<td>“Stonewall” Jackson</td>
<td>Richmond</td>
<td>Irwin McDowell</td>
<td>Beauregard &amp; Johnston</td>
<td>Beauregard &amp; Johnston</td>
<td>Beauregard &amp; Johnston</td>
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MULTIPLE CHOICE: Choose the best answer.

9. What best describes most Northerners viewpoint of the First Battle of Bull Run?
A. They did not want Union troops to engage in battle with the Confederacy.
B. They felt the Union soldiers stood a good chance against the Confederacy.
C. They felt that the Union soldiers would easily win the battle over the Confederacy.
D. They did not think that the Union soldiers would stand up to the Confederacy.

10. Which best describes the results of the First Battle of Bull Run?
A. The Confederacy lost too many soldiers to be able to continue.
B. The Union troops had a renewed sense of hope after the battle.
C. The Confederate troops were dismayed after the battle.
D. Both sides realized the war was going to be more serious than originally thought.

11. Why was Irvin McDowell hesitant to go on the offensive against the Confederates?
A. He did not think they had enough soldiers.
B. He did not think his soldiers were ready to fight.
C. He thought the Confederate troops were better prepared.
D. He thought the Confederate troops would be ready for them.

12. What was Lincoln’s response to the Union loss?
A. He fired all generals involved.
B. He surrendered.
C. He authorized 500,000 more soldiers to be enlisted.
D. He signed a bill to provide more training to Union soldiers.
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