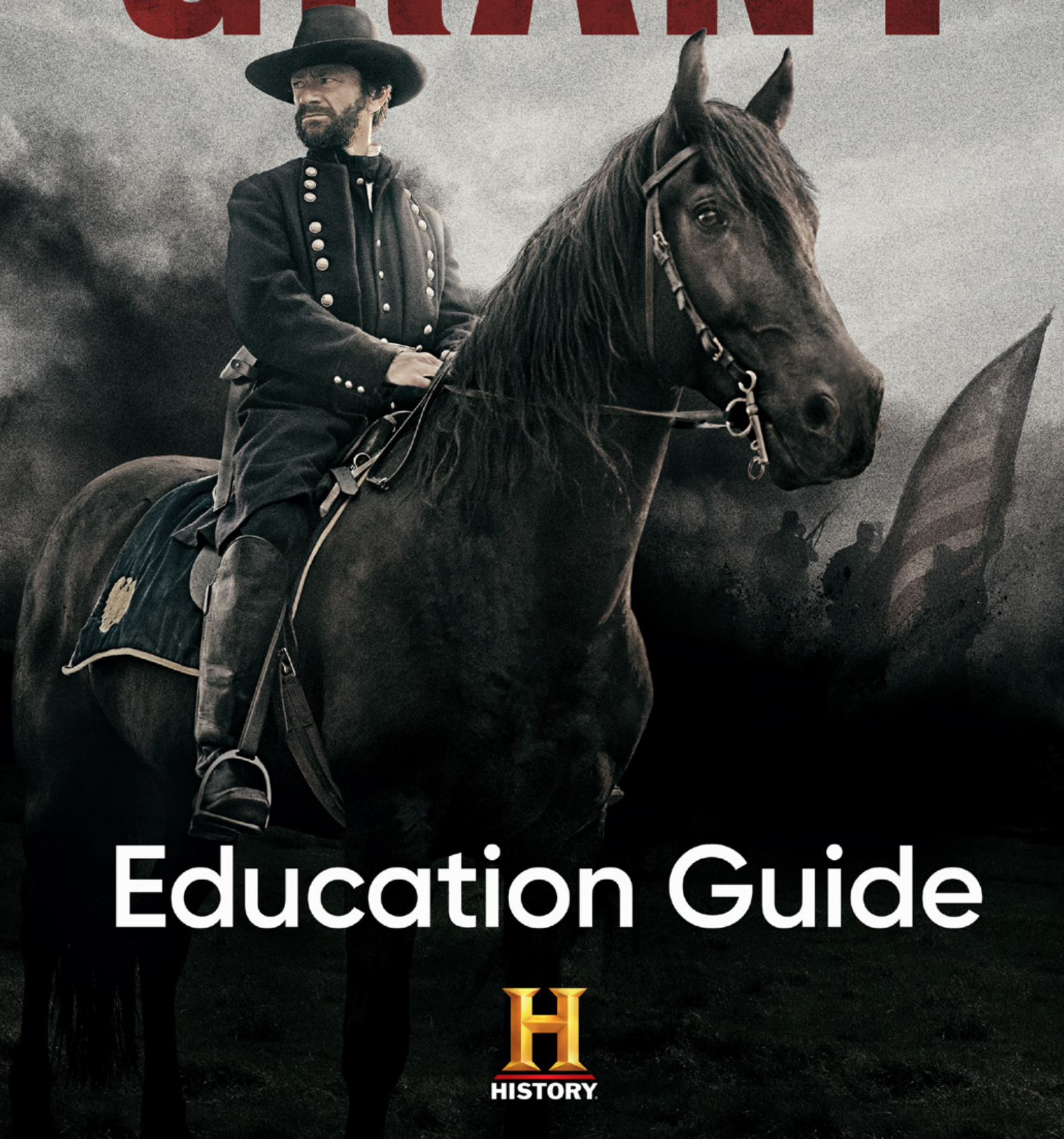


FROM EXECUTIVE PRODUCER LEONARDO DiCAPRIO

GRANT



Education Guide

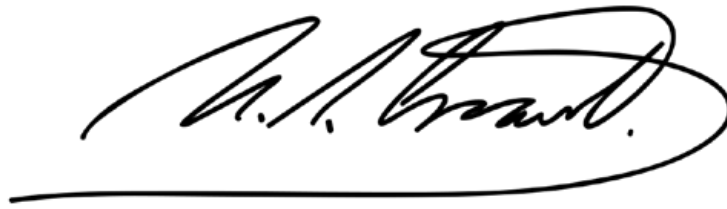


At the time of his death, Ulysses S. Grant was one of the most famous men in the world. He stood alongside leaders like George Washington and Abraham Lincoln in the pantheon of American heroes. But today, many of Grant's contributions are largely forgotten. With a seamless blend of dramatic scenes, expert commentary and beautifully enhanced archival imagery, *Grant* is a three-part miniseries that uncovers the true legacy of the unlikely hero who led the nation during its greatest tests: the Civil War and Reconstruction. Executive produced by Pulitzer Prize-winning author and biographer Ron Chernow and Academy Award-winning actor Leonardo DiCaprio, *Grant* tells his story for a new generation of viewers.

CURRICULUM LINKS:

Grant would be useful for History, American History, Social Studies, Political Science and Government courses. This mini-series is rated TV-14V. Due to some violent scenes, we recommend that educators view the series before recommending it to students below 10th grade. Educators can use this guide as a resource and to develop their own lesson plans or activities best suited to their students and their specific educational benchmarks.





GENERAL DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

Below are some general questions students can discuss after they watch one or more episodes of Grant. Students may also want to answer these questions in essay format.

1. What do you think were Grant's most important contributions, during the Civil War and as president?
2. What were the primary issues that led to the American Civil War?
3. If you had to describe Ulysses S. Grant in three words what would they be and why?
4. What qualities do you think made Grant a successful general?
5. Why do you think more people don't know about the full story of the life of Ulysses Grant?
6. What did you learn about Grant that surprised you most?
7. What if Grant had not emerged as leader of the Union troops during the Civil War? Do you think the war would have ended in 1865?
8. If someone asked you, why should I learn more about Ulysses Grant, what would you say and why?

QUICK EXPLORATIONS

Learn more about the Grant mini-series and related topics:
[history.com/shows/grant](https://www.history.com/shows/grant)

View an animated map of many of Grant's major battles:
[history.com/grantmap](https://www.history.com/grantmap)

Learn more about the life of Ulysses S. Grant:
[history.com/topics/us-presidents/ulysses-s-grant-1](https://www.history.com/topics/us-presidents/ulysses-s-grant-1)

Read more about the Reconstruction era:
[history.com/topics/american-civil-war/reconstruction](https://www.history.com/topics/american-civil-war/reconstruction)

Resources from the American Battlefield Trust:
battlefields.org/learn/biographies/ulysses-s-grant
battlefields.org/learn/quizzes/how-well-do-you-know-ulysses-s-grant
battlefields.org/learn/civil-war

Explore the role of African American soldiers during the Civil War:
battlefields.org/learn/topics/united-states-colored-troops

Read Grant's Memoirs
[gutenberg.org/files/4367/4367-h/4367-h.htm](https://www.gutenberg.org/files/4367/4367-h/4367-h.htm)

GRANT: PART ONE

Born to abolitionist parents, Ulysses S. Grant marries into a slaveholding family and must grapple with his personal feelings about freedom. After graduating from West Point and serving in the Mexican-American War, Grant struggles to earn a living. By the 1850s, the nation is being torn apart over the issue of slavery. Unable to sit on the sidelines, Grant joins the Union Army and in one of the unlikeliest stories in American history, he becomes the winning general in one of the Civil War's most intense battles.

TERMS TO DEFINE

Students can define or reflect on the following terms before or after watching GRANT.

- Abolitionist
- Unconditional surrender
- Secession
- Fortitude
- Sustained
- Emancipation
- Black codes
- Status Quo
- Amendment
- Reconstruction

PART ONE DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. One expert says that the battle of Shiloh is "when Grant becomes Grant." What do you think he means by this?
2. A historian says that the Shiloh battle was like a "metaphorical postcard to America" that said, "this is what you've signed up for." Why was the Shiloh battle so important?

RELATED ACTIVITY:

Civil War Photography. Learn about photography during the Civil War: battlefields.org/learn/topics/photography-civil-war. Choose a photograph that most interests you and write a short essay about what it reveals about the Civil War.



GRANT: PART TWO

In the second year of the Civil War, the Union Army struggles and Ulysses S. Grant is removed from command. With his back up against the wall, Grant takes huge risks, redefines modern battle tactics, and becomes Abraham Lincoln's favorite General. As men of humble origins who rise to the height of powers, Grant and Lincoln develop a close bond as they fight to turn the tide of the war. Lincoln issues the Emancipation Proclamation in January of 1863. It announced that "all persons held as slaves" within the rebellious areas "are, and henceforward shall be free." African American men are permitted into the Union Army and Navy. With a brilliant strategy and an unrelenting dedication to the cause of freedom for all Americans, Grant prepares for an epic clash with General Robert E. Lee.

PART TWO DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What was so effective about Grant's strategy at Vicksburg?
2. In this episode General Petraeus says that "results matter" on the battlefield. How is this true in battle and also in our world today?
3. Why was the Emancipation Proclamation a major turning point during the Civil War?

RELATED ACTIVITY:

Emancipation Proclamation. Read this article from the American Battlefield Trust exploring ten facts about the Emancipation Proclamation:

battlefields.org/learn/articles/10-facts-emancipation-proclamation Write a short essay or article about why this document was a turning point in the Civil War.



GRANT: PART THREE

Ulysses S. Grant clashes with Robert E. Lee in a series of epic battles. With the fate of the nation at stake, Grant achieves victory and brings freedom to 4 million formerly enslaved people. After the assassination of President Abraham Lincoln, Grant is called to duty again to serve as president during one of the most difficult periods in American history: the Reconstruction era. With no political experience, Grant struggles to keep the country together as he fights to protect the rights of newly freed African Americans. Before he dies of throat cancer in 1885, Grant writes his memoirs, now considered an American literary classic.

PART TWO DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What do you think were the key factors that helped bring an end to the Civil War?
2. What were the goals of Reconstruction? Why did these goals ultimately fall short?

RELATED ACTIVITY:

Grant's Memoirs. Grant's memoirs, written shortly before his death, are now considered one of the classics of American literature. Read excerpts from his memoirs or explore the story of his memoirs by reading this article: [history.com/news/how-ulysses-grant-died-memoirs-mark-twain](https://www.history.com/news/how-ulysses-grant-died-memoirs-mark-twain)



ULYSSES S. GRANT: QUOTES

Below are quotes from Grant's letters and memoirs. Students can choose a quote and reflect on what Grant was trying to convey and why they find the quote meaningful.

"The friend in my adversity I shall always cherish most. I can better trust those who have helped to relieve the gloom of my dark hours than those who are so ready to enjoy with me the sunshine of my prosperity."

"To maintain peace in the future, it is necessary to be prepared for war.

"[T]his war was a fearful lesson, and should teach us the necessity of avoiding wars in the future."

"We have but little to do to preserve peace, happiness and prosperity at home, and the respect of other nations."

"I have never felt any sort of fondness for war, and never advocated it except as a means of peace."

"My failures have been errors of judgement, not of intent."

"People in civil life have no idea of the immense labor of the commander in the field. If they had they would never envy them."

"I promise the country my undivided time...any fault shall be from an error in judgement, not of heart."

