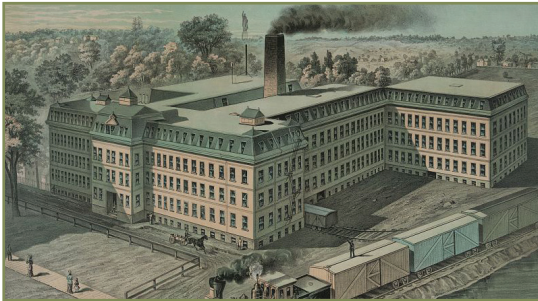


Comparing Civil War Advantages: North vs. South

The most destructive war in America's history was fought within its own borders. Geography and conflicting ideas about slavery divided the two sides. By 1861, the North was rapidly industrializing, and the South was a mostly rural society with large cotton and tobacco plantations. The differences between the North and South shaped each side's advantages during the war.



A Northern factory with railroad transportation in Plymouth, Massachusetts



A Southern cotton plantation in the early 1800s

Read the table comparing resources in the North and the South. Based on the data below, decide which region had an advantage in each category. Write "North" or "South" on the line.

	North: The Union	South: The Confederacy	Advantage: North or South?
States*	20 states	11 states	<u>North</u>
Population	18.5 million free people	5.5 million free people; 3.5 million enslaved people	<u>North</u>
Corn, wheat, and livestock production	Corn: 400,000,000 bushels Wheat: 100,000,000 bushels Livestock: 40,000,000 animals	Corn: 250,000,000 bushels Wheat: 35,000,000 bushels Livestock: 35,000,000 animals	<u>North</u>
Money available	\$234,000,000	\$74,000,000	<u>North</u>
War resources	Horses: 3,400,000 Miles of railroad: 20,000 Factories: 101,000	Horses: 1,700,000 Miles of railroad: 9,000 Factories: 21,000	<u>North</u>
Enlistment	2,672,341 soldiers	750,000 to 1,227,890 soldiers	<u>North</u>
Military schools	1 military academy	11 military academies	<u>South</u>

Source: National Parks Service: Civil War Facts, 1861-1865 and *The Young Lions: Confederate Cadets at War*, James Lee Conrad

*Note: Five "border states" were not officially part of either the North or the South: Maryland, Delaware, West Virginia, Kentucky, and Missouri

Comparing Civil War Advantages: North vs. South



Painting depicting the Northern Union soldiers, on the left, fighting the Southern Confederate soldiers, on the right, at the Battle of Franklin on November 30, 1864

Bonus question: The North had many resource advantages. So why did it take the North four years to defeat the South? Below are three advantages the *South* had over the *North*. Based on those examples and data in the table on page 1, write a short essay explaining why neither side had an easy path to victory in the Civil War.

- Military strategy: The South was fighting a defensive war and did not need to consider invading the North.
- Homefield advantage: Most Civil War battles were fought in areas that were familiar to Southerners and closer to their supply lines.
- Well-trained generals: The South attracted some of the U.S. Military Academy’s best generals such as Robert E. Lee, “Stonewall” Jackson, and Pierre Beauregard. They were all Southerners with personal ties to the region.

Answers will vary.
