

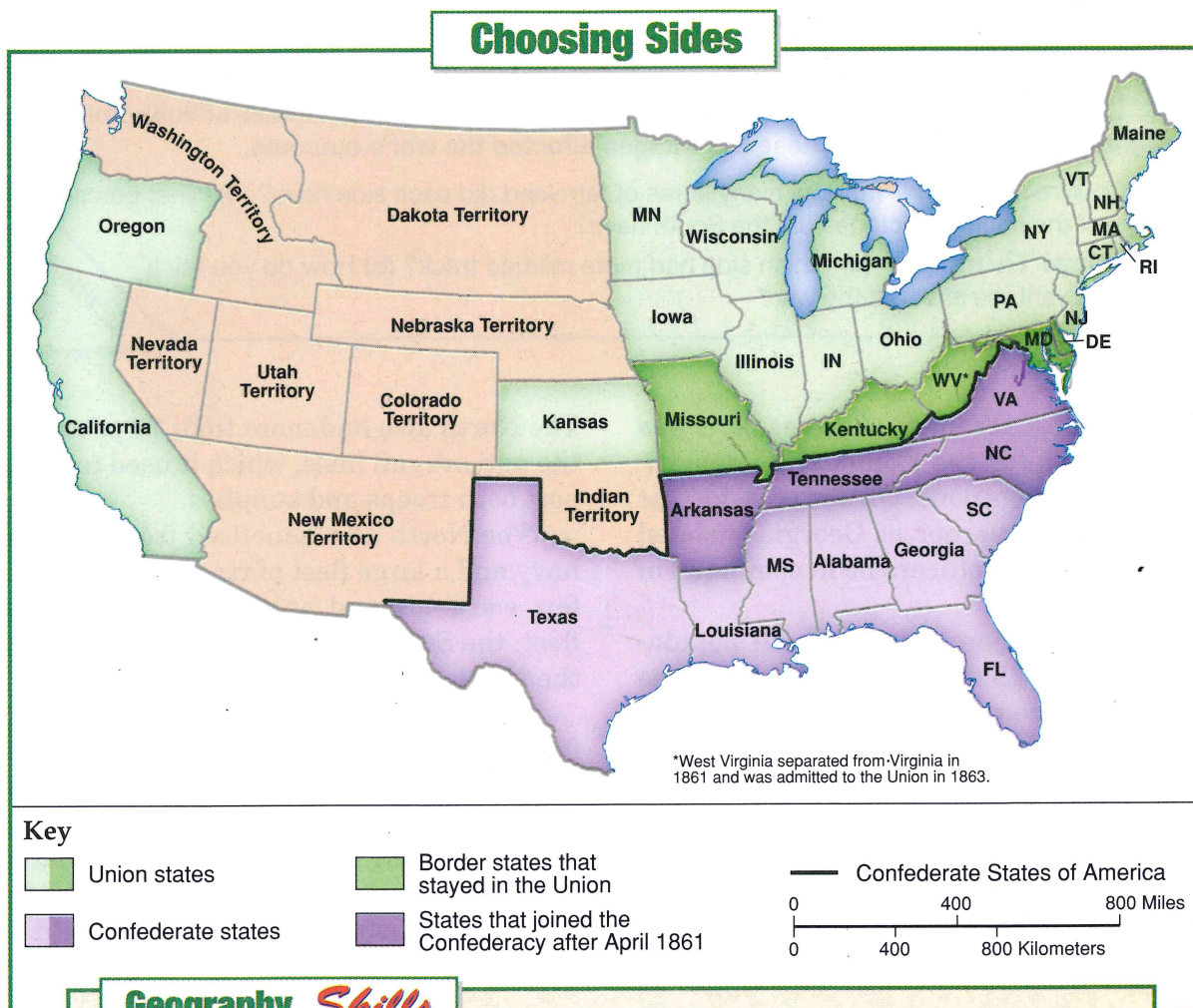
## The South

Southerners believed that they were fighting a war for independence, similar to the American Revolution. Defending their homeland and their way of life gave them a strong reason to fight bravely. "Our men must prevail in combat," one Confederate said, "or they will lose their property, country, freedom—in short, everything."

Also, many southerners had skills that made them good soldiers. Hunting was an important part of southern life. From an early age, boys learned to ride horses and

use guns. Wealthy young men often went to military school. Before the Civil War, many of the best officers in the United States Army were from the South.

The South, however, had serious economic weaknesses. (See the chart on page 450.) It had few factories to produce weapons and other vital supplies. It also had few railroads to move troops and supplies. The railroads that it did have often did not connect to one another. The South also had political problems. The Confederate constitution favored states' rights and limited the authority



### Geography Skills

In April 1861, eight slave states were still in the Union. As war began, these states had to choose sides in the struggle.

- 1. Comprehension** On the map, locate: (a) Maryland, (b) Virginia, (c) West Virginia, (d) Kentucky, (e) Arkansas.
- 2. Region** (a) Which states seceded after April 1861? (b) Which border states stayed in the Union?
- 3. Critical Thinking** Why do you think many Civil War battles took place in Virginia?