The Battle of Gettysburg

The Turning Point of the War
Lee Invades the North

- June, 1863
  - General Lee and the Army of Northern Virginia made their way north into Pennsylvania
  - General Meade and Army of Potomac followed and protected Washington D.C.
Day 1 – July 1st

• Battle starts as a small skirmish on outskirts of town of Gettysburg, Pennsylvania
• Battle grows as both sides send more troops
Result of Day 1

• Confederate soldiers force Union troops to retreat
• Union soldiers take up defensive position and bring up more soldiers for further engagements
Order of Battle for Day 2 – July 2nd

- Lee planned on an assault on the Union’s left flank by General Longstreet
- Heavy fighting around the Wheatfield and Little Round Top
Charge of the 1st Minnesota

- During the Battle the Union army was in danger of being split in half
- First Minnesota Infantry Regiment ordered to Charge (with 330 men) and hold off a confederate brigade (roughly 4000 men)
- Only 47 Minnesotans returned (82% Casualties)
Day 3 – July 3rd

• Lee planned an all out attack on Union center
• General Pickett led 12,500 Confederate soldiers in
  – Started with 150 cannon bombardment
  – Only half would come out
Impact of Gettysburg

- Lee forced to turn back to Virginia
- About 51,000 Casualties (about 8,000 killed)
  - Led to first national cemetery
- Beginning of end for Confederates