Early Battles of the Civil War

The back and forth fighting from April 1861-July 1863
“On to Richmond”

- Early Union strategy was to capture Confederate Capital of Richmond
First Battle of Bull Run

July 21, 1861

- Union General McDowell tries to march to Richmond
- Stopped at Manassas Junction
- Confederate Generals and troops are superior
Shiloh, Tenn.  
April 6-7, 1862  
• Confederates try to stop Union in West  
• Confederates win 1st day, but Union General Grant able to win battle on 2nd  
  – US: 13,000 casualties  
  – CSS: 10,700 casualties
When at first you don’t succeed....

- New commander of Union General McClellan tries a seaborne invasion of Virginia
- Stopped within sight of Richmond
Summer 1862
• After Confederate General Johnson is Wounded, Robert E. Lee Takes command of army of N. Virginia
• Quickly defeats Union troops in Virginia and pushes to Washington
Monitor and the Merrimack

July 9, 1862
Hampton Roads, Virginia
- CSS Virginia (Merrimack) trying to break blockade
- First battle between steel armored ships
- Neither ship can sink the other
Western Minnesota
Summer 1862
• Native Americans in Central Minnesota decide to try to regain land
Battle of Antietam

Sharpsburg, Maryland
Sept 17, 1862

• Lee trying to capture Maryland
• McClellan trying to destroy Lee’s army
• Both fail
• Bloodiest single day in American history
  – 23,000 casualties
Impact of Antietam

- Lincoln issues Emancipation Proclamation
  - Freed slaves in Confederate States
- Confederates lose support of British and French
Change of Command

- Union Generals in East are weak and indecisive
  - Burnside
    - Nov 1862-Jan 1863
  - Hooker
    - Jan 1863-June 1863