Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**North vs. South**

As the hostilities broke out between the North and South, both sides believed that they would prevail in short order. Few on either side, envisioned a bloody four-year war that would pit brother against brother. In this activity you will consider the economic, military, and diplomatic balance of the North and South in 1861. Based on these factors, you will make a judgment as to which side possessed the overall advantage at the outset of the war.

Directions: It is May 1861, and the Civil War has just begun. Your group, of four people or less, has the task of considering the economic, military and diplomatic advantages and disadvantages of each side. Your goal is to help your overall side (North or South) demonstrate why it is likely to win. Your job is to investigate, questions, draw conclusions, and evaluate the information as a historian would. To help you keep track of your data, you must fill in the chart below as you proceed.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | Which side had the advantage? | Explanation |
| Wealth |  |  |
| Manufacturing |  |  |
| Agriculture (food)  Production |  |  |
| Cotton Production |  |  |
| Railroads |  |  |
| Slaves |  |  |
| Immigrants |  |  |

Military : Reference the military commanders fact sheets

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Question | Answer |
| Which side’s commanders were more likely to have attended the U.S. military academy at West Point? Why might this make a difference in determining the overall military balance? |  |
| Which side’s commanders, on average, performed better at West Point? Why might this matter? |  |
| Which side’s commanders, on average, were older? How might this make a difference? |  |
| Which sides’ commanders, on average, had more military experience? Why might this be important? |  |

Strategic Objectives: Reference the readings

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Question | Answer |
| What does Lincoln believe to be the overall goal of this war? |  |
| Based on your reading of this document, what will Union troops have to do in order to win the war? |  |
| What does Davis believe to be the overall goal of this war? |  |
| Based on your reading of this document, what will Confederate troops have to do in order to win the war? |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |

Maps: <http://teachingamericanhistory.org/static/neh/interactives/civilwar/lesson1/>