**Standard 8-4:** The student will demonstrate an understanding of the multiple events that led to the Civil War.

**Enduring Understanding:**

The outbreak of the Civil War was the culminating event in a decades-long series of regional issues that threatened American unity and South Carolina’s identity as one of the United States. To understand how South Carolina came to be at the center of this conflict, the student will . . .

**8-4. 5 Compare the military strategies of the North and the South during the Civil War and the fulfillment of these strategies in South Carolina and in the South as a whole, including the attack on Fort Sumter, the Union blockade of Charleston and other ports, the early capture of Port Royal, and the development of the Hunley submarine; the exploits of Robert Smalls; and General William T. Sherman’s march through the state.**

**It is essential for students to know:**

The military strategy of the North was fourfold: to blockade Southern ports to cut off supplies from Europe, to break the Confederacy in two at the Mississippi River, to destroy the transportation and communication systems of the Confederacy thus crippling morale and to attack the Confederate capital at Richmond. The Southern strategy was to fight a defensive war, using supplies from Europe gained from the sale of cotton, until Northern forces tired of the war.

Although most of the fighting of the Civil War took place in northern Virginia and along the Mississippi River, there were several specific events that took place at geographic locations in South Carolina. The first shots of the war were fired by the Confederacy on Fort Sumter (to confiscate it) after northern attempts to re-supply the federally owned forts in Charleston harbor were foiled (by the Confederates). The first major setback for the Confederate Army was the capture of areas surrounding Port Royal Sound along the coast near Hilton Head by Union troops. These areas remained under Union control throughout the Civil War.

The Union strategy was to prevent ships from importing or exporting from South Carolina ports.

Although the Confederacy initially withheld its chief cash crop from the European markets to increase the demand for it and thus gain allies willing to assist in the war effort in order to obtain their product, this strategy ultimately failed as the blockade became more effective, new international cotton markets were found, and the purpose of the war changed with the issuance of the Emancipation Proclamation. The Northern blockade was effective in South Carolina despite the efforts of blockade runners and the use of a new technology, the submarine *Hunley***.** The blockade was devastating to the South because it kept the Confederate Army from receiving supplies. Union forces laid siege to Charleston attacking from Port Royal and bombarding the city for over a year. During this campaign, the 54th Massachusetts unit of African American soldiers led the charge on Fort Wagner at the mouth of Charleston Harbor.

Robert Smalls, a 23 year old slave who was the pilot of a Confederate ship, his wife and children escaped to a Union ship engaged in the blockade. While the white crew was ashore, Smalls navigated the harbor giving the appropriate signals to all of the Confederate forts he passed until he reached the Union blockade line where he surrendered the ship. Smalls provided the Union with valuable information about the fortifications around Charleston. After the Civil War, Smalls served as an officer in the South Carolina militia and as a state legislator. Smalls also helped draft the constitution of South Carolina and served 5 terms as a Congressman from South Carolina. Union General

William Sherman marched into South Carolina, after his capture of Atlanta, as part of his march-to-the-sea campaign. Sherman’s goal was to make total war, bringing the war home to civilians to convince the South to surrender. This had a direct impact on the civilians in South Carolina, destroying homes, plantations, railroads and towns along the way. The current state house, at the time still under construction, was shelled. Although there is some controversy over who started the fire, the capital city of Columbia burned. Sherman especially wanted to convince South Carolina to surrender since it was the first state to secede from the Union.