

THE Civil War Curriculum

by the CIVIL WAR TRUST | Civilwar.org/curriculum

GOAL 6 | LESSON PLAN | MIDDLE SCHOOL

1863: Shifting Tides

GRADES: Middle School

APPROXIMATE LENGTH OF TIME: 50 minutes

GOAL: Students will be able to discuss the effects of the battles of Gettysburg and Vicksburg, paying particular attention to the Gettysburg Address.

OBJECTIVES:

1. Students will be able to create a timeline of events leading up to the Battle of Gettysburg.
2. Students will be able to discuss the effects of the Union victories at Gettysburg and Vicksburg.
3. After reading the Gettysburg Address, students will be able to summarize the content.

MATERIALS:

1. Shifting Tide PowerPoint
2. Battle Cards
3. Shifting Tides Timeline and Map
4. Shifting Tides Timeline Teacher Version
5. Blue and black colored pencils
6. The Gettysburg Address
7. The Gettysburg Address Questions

PROCEDURE:

Print out the PowerPoint with notes prior to class. There are notes included with the slides that can be on the printed slides, but won't be seen by your students during the presentation.

Activity 1

1. Use the *Shifting Tides PowerPoint* to guide the lesson.
2. Break students into pairs.
3. Hand each pair a *Battle Card*. This will be the battle they are responsible for reporting during the PowerPoint.
4. Hand out the *Shifting Tides Timeline and Map*, copied back to back.
5. Allow students a few minutes to fill in the timeline.
6. Have the pairs read over the *Battle Cards*.
7. Be sure to have the pairs identify their battle on their *Shifting Tides Map*.
8. Begin the PowerPoint; -- students will fill in battle information on their maps as the pairs present.

Activity 2

1. When you arrive at The Gettysburg Address in the PowerPoint presentation, pass out *The Gettysburg Address* and read it as a class.
2. Hand out *The Gettysburg Address Questions*; review the discussion questions on the worksheet.
3. Given students to answer the questions independently.

CLOSURE:

1. What happened to the United States after its success at Gettysburg and Vicksburg? What happened to the Confederacy?
2. What do you think will happen next? Do you think the Union will continue to win important battles, or do you think Lee will rally a viable force? Do you think the West will recover?
3. Why do you think Americans feel as though The Gettysburg Address still speaks to them today? Do you think this is an eternal document? Why?

ASSESSMENT IN THIS LESSON:

1. Completed *Shifting Tides Timeline and Map*
2. Completed *The Gettysburg Address Questions*
3. Informal assessment through the closure questions



Name: _____

Date: _____

Battle Cards

| Date | Battle Name | Winner |
|----------------------------|---|--------|
| April 12–13, 1861 | Attack on Fort Sumter, SC | CSA |
| July 21, 1861 | First Manassas, a.k.a. Bull Run, VA | CSA |
| Feb. 11–16 1862 | Fort Henry/Fort Donelson, TN | USA |
| April 6–7, 1862 | Shiloh, a.k.a. Pittsburg Landing, TN | USA |
| March-June, 1862 | Jackson's Valley Campaign, VA | CSA |
| August 28–30, 1862 | Second Manassas, a.k.a. Second Bull Run, VA | CSA |
| Sept. 17, 1862 | Antietam, a.k.a. Sharpsburg, MD | USA |
| Oct. 8, 1862 | Perryville, KY | USA |
| Dec. 13, 1862 | Fredericksburg, VA | CSA |
| Dec. 31, 1862–Jan. 2, 1863 | Stones River, a.k.a. Murfreesboro, TN | USA |
| April 30–May 6, 1863 | Chancellorsville, VA | CSA |
| July 1–3, 1863 | Gettysburg, PA | USA |
| May 18–July 4 1863 | Siege of Vicksburg, MS | USA |

Cut out the following cards and hand one card to each of the pairs.

Attack on Fort Sumter

April 12–13, 1861

Summary: On April 12, 1861, after warning the U.S. Army to leave Fort Sumter, which guarded the port of Charleston, South Carolina, the Confederate Army fired upon the fort. At 2:30 p.m. the next day, the fort surrendered. There were no casualties during the bombardment; however, when leaving the fort, a salute was fired and one man was immediately killed and three others were wounded; one to die later. With this attack the war began, President Lincoln called for 75,000 volunteers for a period of 90 days.

Winner: CSA

Principal Commanders: Maj. Robert Anderson [USA]; Brig. Gen. P.G.T. Beauregard [CSA]

Estimated Casualties: None

First Manassas, Virginia

a.k.a. Bull Run

July 21, 1861

Summary: The first major land battle of the Civil War occurred at Manassas Junction, about 20 miles west of Washington, DC. The Union Army attacked the Confederate Army, but soon became disorganized. The Union Army broke off and retreated hastily to the safety of Washington. This battle demonstrated that the war would not be short.

Winner: CSA

Principal Commanders: Brig. Gen. Irvin McDowell [US]; Brig. Gen. Joseph E. Johnston and Brig. Gen. P.G.T. Beauregard [CS]

Casualties: USA 2,950; CSA 1,750

Fort Henry and Fort Donelson, Mississippi

February 1862

Summary: Ulysses S. Grant gained control over Forts Henry and Donelson in February 1862, earning him the nickname "Unconditional Surrender" Grant. The fall of Forts Henry and Donelson was a tremendous victory for the Union, opening up the Union war effort in Tennessee and Alabama.

Winner: USA

Principal Commanders: Brig. Gen. Ulysses S. Grant [US]; Brig. Gen. John B. Floyd [CS] and Brig. Gen. Lloyd Tilghman [CS]

Casualties: USA 3,730; CSA 13,925

3

Shiloh, Tennessee

a.k.a. Pittsburg Landing

April 6–7, 1862

Summary: Camped at Pittsburg Landing along the Tennessee River, the Union Army, under Maj. Gen. Ulysses S. Grant, was attacked by Confederate forces under generals Albert Sidney Johnston and P.G.T. Beauregard. Ultimately, the Confederates were forced to retreat in the bloodiest battle in United States history up to that time, ending their hopes that they could block the Union advance into northern Mississippi.

Winner: USA

Principal Commanders: Maj. Gen. Ulysses S. Grant [US]; Gen. Albert Sydney Johnston [CS]; Gen. P.G.T. Beauregard [CS]

Estimated Casualties: 23,746 total (USA 13,047; CSA 10,699)

4

Jackson's Valley Campaign, Virginia

March–June 1862

Summary: The Shenandoah Valley was considered the “Breadbasket of the Confederacy,” and it was essential that it be kept as such. Gen. Thomas “Stonewall” Jackson and his troops, moving up and down the Valley, kept Union forces on the run and nervous with uncertainty. His successes boosted the morale of the Confederacy and increased Jackson’s fame and notoriety.

Winner: CSA (Overall)

Principal Commanders: Gen. Stonewall Jackson [CS] and various Union generals

Estimated Casualties: 2,441[CS] 5,735 [US]

5

Second Manassas, Virginia

a.k.a. Second Bull Run

August 28–30, 1862

Summary: The Second Battle of Bull Run was the culmination of an offensive campaign waged by Robert E. Lee against Union general John Pope. Led by Lee, Stonewall Jackson and James Longstreet outmaneuvered Pope, who was driven from the field back to Washington, DC.

Winner: CSA

Principal Commanders: Maj. Gen. John Pope [USA]; Gen. Robert E. Lee and Maj. Gen. Thomas J. Jackson [CSA]

Estimated Casualties: 22,180 total (USA 13,830; CSA 8,350)

6

Antietam, Maryland

a.k.a. Sharpsburg

September 17, 1862

Summary: Hoping to gather new troops from Confederate sympathizers and to leave the devastated fields of Virginia, General Lee invaded the Union state of Maryland. The battle was fought along Antietam Creek, and September 17, 1862, became the single bloodiest day in American history. The day ended as a draw, but since Lee left the field to return with his army to Virginia, the battle is considered a strategic and morale win for the Union. It also gave Lincoln the win he needed to issue the Emancipation Proclamation from a position of strength.

Winner: USA (strategic win, CSA left the field)

Principal Commanders: Maj. Gen. George B. McClellan [US]; Gen. Robert E. Lee [CS]

Estimated Casualties: 23,100 total (U.S.A 12,401; C.S.A 10,316)

7

Perryville, Kentucky

a.k.a. The Battle of Chaplin Hills

October 8, 1862

Summary: This battle seemed at first to be going well for the Confederacy; but as the Union Army continued to be reinforced, it became clear that the Confederates could not hold it off. As the Confederates withdrew, they allowed the Union to claim victory and control of Kentucky for the rest of the war. Some historians consider this battle a turning point in the war.

Winner: USA (strategic win, CSA left the field)

Principal Commanders: Maj. Gen. Don Carlos Buell [US]; Gen. Braxton Bragg [CS]

Estimated Casualties: 7,407 total (USA 4,211; CSA 3,196)

8

Fredericksburg, Virginia

December 13, 1862

Summary: Attempting to attack from across the Rappahannock River, the Union Army faced a smaller Confederate Army. Newly appointed Gen. Ambrose Burnside needed pontoon bridges to cross the river. By the time the bridges arrived, the Confederates had been reinforced and were entrenched on high ground. The Union attempted a bloody uphill attack, but was forced back.

Winner: CSA

Principal Commanders: Maj. Gen. Ambrose E. Burnside [US]; Gen. Robert E. Lee [CS]

Estimated Casualties: 17,929 total (USA 13,353; CSA 4,576)

9

Stones River, Tennessee

a.k.a. Murfreesboro

December 31, 1862–January 2, 1863

Summary: After the Confederate defeat of Perryville, Kentucky, the South needed to gain a foothold in the Tennessee area. The result of three days of fighting in the Stones River Valley, was the largest percentage of casualties in one battle of the war. The Confederates left the field, and the Union Army gained control of Kentucky. This was a needed morale boost to the North after the loss at Fredericksburg.

Winner: USA

Principal Commanders: Maj. Gen. William S. Rosecrans [US]; Gen. Braxton Bragg [CS]

Estimated Casualties: 23,515 total (US 13,249; CS 10,266)

10

Chancellorsville, Virginia

April 30–May 6, 1863

Summary: At Chancellorsville, Robert E. Lee was at his most brilliant, outmaneuvering Union leader Joseph Hooker. Lee took a great risk and divided his army against the much larger Union force. By doing so, he deceived the Union Army and forced it back. This is considered Lee's greatest victory. However, it also cost him his great general, Stonewall Jackson, who was mortally wounded by his own men.

Winner: CSA

Principal Commanders: Maj. Gen. Joseph Hooker [US]; Gen. Robert E. Lee and Maj. Gen. Thomas J. Jackson [CS]

Estimated Casualties: 24,000 total (US 14,000; CS 10,000)

Gettysburg, Pennsylvania

July 1–3, 1863

Summary: Attempting to strike into the north again after his failed attempt at Antietam, General Lee brought his army into Pennsylvania. Gathering at a crossroads where 10 roads met, the Confederate and Union armies battled for three days around the small town of Gettysburg. After attempts on the left and right flanks of the Union line, on the third day Lee attacked the Union center. The Union held a strong position however, and engaged a tighter battle line, known as the “fish hook,” which enabled the Union forces to move more quickly. Lee left the field and never truly invaded the North again.

Winner: USA

Principal Commanders: Maj. Gen. George G. Meade [US]; Gen. Robert E. Lee [CS]

Estimated Casualties: 51,000 total (US 23,000; CS 28,000)

12

Siege of Vicksburg, Mississippi

May 18–July 4 1863

Summary: In an attempt to take control of the Mississippi River, the Union Army, under General Grant, attacked the areas around Vicksburg and held the Confederate Army, under General Pemberton, under siege. Pemberton waited for reinforcements from Gen. Joseph Johnston's Army of the Tennessee, but was forced to surrender the city on July 4 when reinforcements did not arrive. With the loss of Pemberton's army and the vital area on the Mississippi, the Confederacy was now split in half. The combined wins at Gettysburg on July 3 and Vicksburg on July 4 gave the Union a major morale boost and much-needed control of the Mississippi River.

Winner: USA

Principal Commanders: Maj. Gen. Ulysses S. Grant [US]; Lt. Gen. John C. Pemberton [CS]

Estimated Casualties: 19,233 total (US 10,142; CS 9,091)



Shifting Tides Timeline and Map

Name: _____
Date: _____

Timeline:

Put the following events in chronological order along the timeline.

| Date | Battle Name | Winner |
|----------------------------|---|--------|
| Sept. 17, 1862 | Antietam, a.k.a. Sharpsburg, MD | |
| April 12–13, 1861 | Attack on Fort Sumter, SC | |
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| Feb. 6–16, 1862 | Fort Henry/Fort Donelson, TN | |
| Dec. 13, 1862 | Fredericksburg, VA | |
| July 1–3, 1863 | Gettysburg, PA | |
| March–June, 1862 | Jackson's Valley Campaign, VA | |
| July 21, 1861 | First Manassas, a.k.a. Bull Run, VA | |
| August 28–30, 1862 | Second Manassas, a.k.a. Second Bull Run, VA | |
| Oct. 8, 1862 | Perryville, KY | |
| April 6–7, 1862 | Shiloh, a.k.a. Pittsburg Landing, TN | |
| May 18–July 4, 1863 | Siege of Vicksburg, MS | |
| Dec. 31, 1862–Jan. 2, 1863 | Stones River, a.k.a. Murfreesboro, TN | |

Tally the battle victories:

Union | Confederate

Map Key: Fill-in the squares with the colors you use.

U.S.A. Victory ☐

C.S.A Victory ☐

1861 | | | | | | | | 1863



Battles of the Civil War 1861- 1863

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Shifting Tides Timeline and Map (Teacher Version)

Name: _____
 Date: _____

Timeline:

Put the following events in chronological order along the timeline.

Tally the battle victories:

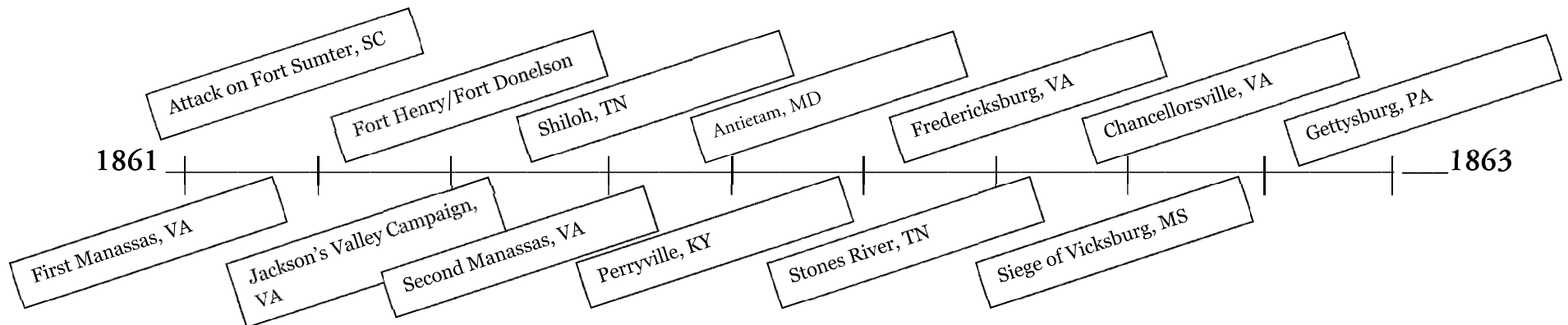
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Union | Confederate

Map Key: Fill-in the squares with the colors you use.

U.S.A. Victory ☐

C.S.A Victory ☐





The Gettysburg Address

November 19, 1863

Abraham Lincoln gave the Gettysburg Address during the dedication of the cemetery for Union soldiers who fought and died in the Battle of Gettysburg. In the address, Lincoln expressed the great need for Americans to remember the sacrifice made by these soldiers.

Four score and seven years ago our fathers brought forth on this continent a new nation, conceived in liberty and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal.

Now we are engaged in a great civil war, testing whether that nation or any nation so conceived and so dedicated can long endure. We are met on a great battlefield of that war. We have come to dedicate a portion of that field as a final resting-place for those who here gave their lives that that nation might live. It is altogether fitting and proper that we should do this. But in a larger sense, we cannot dedicate, we cannot consecrate, we cannot hallow this ground. The brave men, living and dead who struggled here have consecrated it far above our poor power to add or detract. The world will little note nor long remember what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here. It is for us the living rather to be dedicated here to the unfinished work which they who fought here have thus far so nobly advanced.

It is rather for us to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us—that from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave the last full measure of devotion—that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain, that this nation under God shall have a new birth of freedom, and that government of the people, by the people, for the people shall not perish from the earth.



Name: _____

Date: _____

The Gettysburg Address Questions

1. Why do you think Lincoln started out talking about the past and our fathers?

2. For what cause(s) did President Lincoln believe the U.S. soldiers were fighting during the American Civil War?

3. According to Lincoln, how does a nation make sure that free governments (democracies) “shall not perish from the earth”?

4. According to Lincoln, what do the American people have to do to make sure that the U.S. soldiers who were killed at Gettysburg (and other battlefields) had not died “in vain”?

5. What do you think Lincoln meant by the phrase “...government of the people, by the people, for the people...”?
