



Civil War – Military Lesson Plan

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STANDARDS:

Era 5: Civil War and Reconstruction (1850-1877)

- Standard 2A: The student understands how the resources of the Union and Confederacy affected the course of the war.
- Standard 2B: The student understands the social experience of the war on the battlefield and homefront.

LESSON:

Create a profile about a Civil War Soldier.

Have each student choose a civil war soldier to research. Use historical records to make a profile for the soldier and present their findings to the class as a report or presentation.

- When and where did the soldier enter service? Did he enlist or was he drafted? What were his motivations for joining the military?
- What company and regiment did the soldier fight for? Who were the leaders of his company and regiment? Did he have friends and family in the same unit?
- What battles did the soldier fight in? Did the North or South win those battles? What were the casualties from the battles on the soldier's company?
- Was the soldier ever captured and put in prison? Did they ever get sick and have to go to a hospital?
- How did the soldier's military service end? Was he discharged, injured, killed in battle or died from disease?
- What happened to the soldier after the war ended? Did he go back home or move away? What was his occupation? Did he receive a pension? Did his widow or children receive a pension due to his service? When did the soldier die? Where was the soldier buried?

Records to use to research the soldier include: census records, historical maps, newspapers, civil war databases on Ancestry.com (soldiers, pensions, regimental histories, battle histories, and prison records), city directories, cemetery records, and local histories.

Research the Civil War companies from your community.

Study local histories, regimental histories, and newspapers to determine what happened to Civil War companies and regiments from your community. Students can be put into groups to study different companies or the class can study them together.

- How many companies were raised from your community? Did the soldiers enlist or were they drafted to fill the companies?
- Who were the leaders of the companies? Why were they chosen as leaders?
- What battles did the companies fight in? What was their role in each battle?
- How many soldiers from the companies were killed? How many were injured? How many died of diseases?
- What was daily life like for the soldiers? What did they eat? How did they sleep?
- What were the attitudes of the soldiers at different times during the war?