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The Civil War era is one of the most critical and fascinating in our nation's history. There are many books, websites, and primary sources about this period which provides a rich context in which to learn about the Civil War itself and to explore more basic issues about the nature of human life and society.

## **Civil War Internet Project by Britine Burton**

### **Grades 6-11**

#### **Objectives:**

As a result of completing this unit, students will be able to...

- discuss some of the social, political, and personal issues that Americans confronted during the Civil War era.
- use the Internet to locate resources related to the Civil War and incorporate information from these resources into their own writing.
- discuss the central issues of the Civil War from a variety of different perspectives.
- share their personal reactions to what they have learned in both small-group and whole-class discussions.

#### **TEKS/TAKS:**

US8 (A)(B)(C); 8.1(C); 8.4; US24 (A)(B); US25 (A)(B)(C)(D)

#### **TIME REQUIRED:**

3-4 Days

#### **MATERIALS NEEDED:**

Computers with Internet Access

Poster boards

Markers; Map Pencils, Tape

CD's for anyone who wants to do powerpoint presentations

## PROCEDURES:

1. Assign each student a partner or allow them to group themselves depending on each class's make-up.
2. Each group of students needs to be assigned one of the following topics to become a "resident expert" in:
  - a. The Harper's Ferry Raid
  - b. A. Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation (Why did he do it?)
  - c. Significance of the Battle of Gettysburg
  - d. Significance of the Battle of Antietam
  - e. General Robert E. Lee (very brief bio, focus mainly on 1863-65)
  - f. African Americans in the Confederacy (focus on why)
  - g. African Americans in the Union
  - h. Fredrick Douglas's impact during the Civil War
  - i. Eyewitness's to Battles (find at least 5 different primary and secondary sources of eyewitness accounts of any Civil War battle)

Each presentation needs to be broken into the following parts when presented:

Economical impact, Political impact, and the Emotional impact

You must incorporate several of the following items into your presentation:

Posters, photos, letters, military records, cartoons and any other sources you may come across that classifies as a primary source.

You will have 10-15 minutes to present.

## Lesson Wrap-Up

At the close of the presentations have students answer the following questions:

- After studying the Civil War era, do you think it is obvious which side was right and which was wrong? What issues were at stake in the war besides the continuation of slavery? Did your opinions or feelings about the war change as a result of your work in this unit? If so, how?
- Did you find the Internet helpful in learning more about the Civil War? Which sites were the most helpful or interesting? Is using the Internet a fun way to find information? What other topics would you like to explore on the Net?

## **Sources**

[Gettysburg National Military Park](#)

[www.thehistorynet.com](http://www.thehistorynet.com)

[www.archives.gov](http://www.archives.gov)

[www.loc.gov](http://www.loc.gov)

[www.nps.gov](http://www.nps.gov)