

Library of Congress Civil War Battles

Written by Georgia Harding

Course/Grade Level is 8th grade American History

Overview of the Lesson is for student to learn major battles in the Civil War and create a timeline of those events.

TEKS/TAKS 8.8

Objectives: The learner will analyze major Civil War battles.

Time Required: One class period

Materials Needed:

Student's completed map on Civil War battles

Major Battles worksheet (at end of this lesson)

Scissors

Procedure

- After students complete Prentice Hall Map: "Major Battles of the Civil War", with a partner, students will cut apart Major Battles map worksheet.
- Students will use text to find the month and year in order to put the battles in chronological order.
- In their interactive student notebook students will draw a timeline of the major battles.
- Using both the map and the timeline, discuss the following critical thinking questions:
 - How did geography influence the North's/South's strategy to choose locations to defend/fight? (Accept reasonable answers.)
 - **(Fort Sumter)** How did Lincoln trick Jefferson Davis to begin the Civil War? (Lincoln informed Davis before sending supplies to Ft. Sumter, making clear that it was not a hostile act.)

- Why is the Battle of Gettysburg significant? (The battle took place in the North, turning point of the war, and occurred at the same time as the siege of Vicksburg.)
- (Bull Run) How does the location of the battle make it significant? (Located near the US capital.)
- If the Confederate Army pushed their advantage at Bull Run, what could have happened?
- At Forts Donelson and Henry, what geographic feature made these locations desirable?
- What is the significance of holding Pittsburg Landing at Shiloh? (It was important to control the waterways, rivers, to slow down the opposition.)
- What made Antietam so deadly a day? (It was early in the war and both sides were somewhat evenly matched with the USA with 8,600 and the CSA with 7, 700.)
- What is Appomattox Court House? (A village in which the surrender was signed in the McLean House parlor.)
- If the South would have won, what would North America look like? What kinds of things would be different? (Accept reasonable answers.)

Document Source:

<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/index.html>

At this site individual battles were searched.

Fort Sumter



LOC digital Image

The firing on Fort Sumter by Confederate soldiers begins the Civil War.

Date: _____
(Month/Year)

Battle of Bull Run



LOC digital Image

The Battle of Bull Run is the first major battle of the Civil War.

Date: _____
(Month/Year)

Forts Henry & Donelson

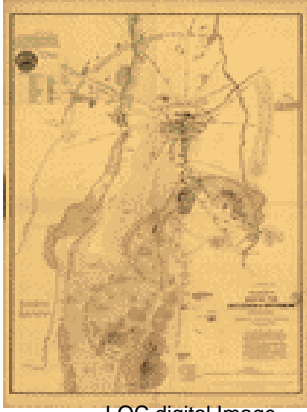


LOC digital Image

Forts Henry and Donelson are major victories in Tennessee by General Grant

Date: _____
(Month/Year)

Battle of Gettysburg



LOC digital Image

The Battle of Gettysburg is the turning point in favor of the United States of America.

Date: _____
(Month/Year)

Battle of Shiloh



LOC digital Image

The Battle of Shiloh was a hard won victory for the North, USA.

Date: _____
(Month/Year)

Battle of Antietam



LOC digital Image

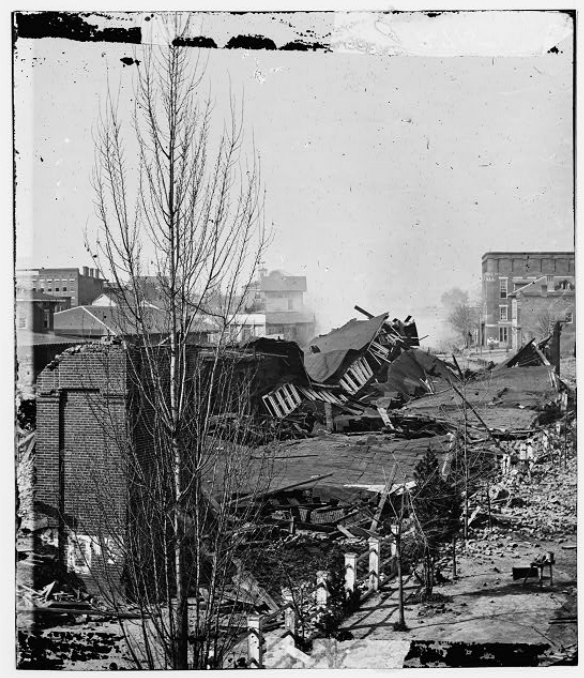
The Battle of Antietam is the single bloodiest day of the war. In the one day battle, more soldiers die in that single day than any other single day of the war.

Date: _____
(Month/Year)

Atlanta before Sherman



LOC digital Image



LOC digital Image

Atlanta after Sherman

Due to the United States military strategy of "Total War" much of Atlanta is destroyed during the Civil War.

Date _____
(month/year)

Appomattox Courthouse



LOC digital Image

Appomattox Court House is the location of the surrender of General Robert E. Lee of the Confederate States of America to General U. S. Grant of the United States of America.

Date: _____
(Month/Year)