

Lesson Plan on Battles in the American Civil War

Introduction:

In this activity, students will learn basic facts about the battles of the American Civil War.

Illinois Educational Standards Addressed:

16.A.3a Describe how historians use models for organizing historical interpretation (e.g., biographies, political events, issues and conflicts).

16.A.3b Make inferences about historical events and eras using historical maps and other historical sources.

16.A.3c Identify the differences between historical fact and interpretation.

16.C.3c (W) Describe the impact of technology (e.g., weaponry, transportation, printing press, microchips) in different parts of the world, 1500 – present.

16.A.4a Analyze and report historical events to determine cause-and-effect relationships.

16.A.4b Compare competing historical interpretations of an event.

16.A.5a Analyze historical and contemporary developments using methods of historical inquiry (pose questions, collect and analyze data, make and support inferences with evidence, report findings).

Objectives:

Know the names that the Union and the Confederacy gave to their battles.

Know the dates of the major battles of the Civil War.

In the classroom:

Provide the students with copies of the attached worksheets.

At the library:

Have students research the battles to answer the questions on the worksheets.

Resources at the Pritzker Military Library:

(also available through interlibrary loan from your local library after your visit)

Heston, Charlton. *Smithsonian's Great battles of the Civil War* [videorecording]. New York: MasterVision, 1992. Call number: E470 1992 VOL.1.

Johnson, Robert Underwood, 1853-1937. *Battles and leaders of the Civil War*. New York: Century; 2001. Call number: E470.B33 2002.

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Kagan, Neil. *Great battles of the Civil War: an illustrated history of courage under fire*. Birmingham, AL: Oxmoor House, 2002. Call number: E470.G75 2002.

Rawls, Walton H. *Great Civil War heroes and their battles*. New York: Abbeville, 1985. Call number: E467.G77 1985

Symonds, Craig L. *A battlefield atlas of the Civil War*. Baltimore, MD: Nautical & Aviation, 1983. Call number: G1201.S5 S9 1983.

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Student's name: _____
Worksheet A

The Case of the Civil War Sword

Can you solve this mystery?

Jeff had just opened his antique appraisal shop when in walked an elderly gentleman looking very worried.

"Are you any good at swords?" the man asked.

"If you mean fencing, I'm terrible," Jeff replied. "But if you mean can I authenticate them, then I'm very good."

"That's exactly what I mean," the man said. "My name's Alan Green. I've just been made an offer that seems too good to be true. I was just offered the chance to buy a sword from the Civil War."

"There are thousands of swords left over from the Civil War," said Jeff.

"Yes," agreed Alan, "but how many belonged to General Jackson?"

"Stonewall Jackson?" gasped Jeff. "The great Southern general?"

"Sandy Smith has offered to sell me it for five hundred dollars."

Jeff stood up quick. He had stopped many of Sandy's sly deals before.

"If Sandy is part of this, you'll definitely need help," he said. "Let's go."

Jeff and Alan walked down the street to Sandy's pawnshop. When Jeff walked in the door, Sandy made a face.

"So, you're now a Civil War know-it-all," he scowled. "Well, don't say this sword isn't the real thing."

Jeff walked over to the counter where the sword laid.

Sandy said, "This sword was given to Stonewall Jackson a month after the first Battle of Bull Run. Read what it says on the blade."

Jeff read: *To Thomas J. Jackson, for standing like a stone wall at the First Battle of Bull Run on July 21, 1861. This sword is presented to him by his men on August 21, 1861.*

"Do you think it belonged to General Jackson?" Alan asked.

Before Jeff could answer, Sandy said, "I'm feeling generous today, I'll let you have it for only three hundred, how about it?"

"You won't sell this sword to Alan. It's a fake," said Jeff. "It never belonged to General Stonewall Jackson!"

How did Jeff know that?

Answer: _____

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Student's name: _____

Worksheet B

Civil War Battle Names

There is a disparity between the sides in naming some of the battles of the war. In the North, battles were frequently named for rivers or creeks that were prominent on or near the battlefield. In the South, the nearest town was used. Not all of the disparities are based on this land-versus-water conflict. Most modern accounts of Civil War battles use the names established by the North. However, for some battles, the Southern name has become the standard. The National Park Service frequently uses the southern names for their battlefield parks located in the South, presumably in deference to local sensibilities or because the town names are more frequently found on maps accessible to tourists than are river names.

Here is a list of some of the battles that have two names. Match the names the South gave the battles with the names the North gave for the battles. The dates for the battles are listed to give you some help. What state was each battle fought in?

Confederate's name for the battle:

Place the corresponding letter for the Union's name for the battle and the state in which the battle was fought on each line.

- 1. First Manassas was fought on July 21, 1861 _____
- 2. Oak Hills was fought on August 10, 1861 _____
- 3. Leesburg was fought on October 21, 1861 _____
- 4. Mill Springs was fought on January 19, 1862 _____
- 5. Elkhorn Tavern was fought on March 7 – 8, 1862 _____
- 6. Shiloh was fought on April 6 – 7, 1862 _____
- 7. Fair Oaks was fought on May 31 – June 1, 1862 _____
- 8. Gaines's Mill was fought on June 27, 1862 _____
- 9. Second Manassas was fought on August 29 – 30, 1862 _____
- 10. Ox Hill was fought on September 1, 1862 _____
- 11. Boonsboro was fought on September 14, 1862 _____
- 12. Sharpsburg was fought on September 17, 1862 _____
- 13. Perryville was fought on October 8, 1862 _____
- 14. Murfreesboro was fought December 31, 1862 – January 2, 1863 _____
- 15. Mansfield was fought on April 8, 1864 _____
- 16. Winchester was fought on September 19, 1864 _____

Union's name for the battle:

- A. Seven Pines
- B. Chantilly
- C. Stones River
- D. Ball's Bluff
- E. Opequon
- F. Pittsburg Landing
- G. Chaplin Hills
- H. First Bull Run
- I. Sabine Cross Roads
- J. Logan's Cross Roads
- K. Wilson's Creek
- L. South Mountain
- M. Antietam
- N. Pea Ridge
- O. Second Bull Run
- P. Chickahominy River

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Answers to Worksheets A & B:

Worksheet A:

As soon as he read the words on the blade, Jeff knew the sword was a fake.
The two clues were the words “Bull Run” and “first.”

Jackson’s men, being Southerners, would have called the battle by the South’s name for it, the Battle of Manassas. Bull Run was the name given to the battle by people from the North.

Also, the sword was supposed to have been given to Stonewall Jackson on August 21, 1861. No one could have known then that there would be another battle on the same spot the next year, in 1862.

Only after both battles had been fought would anyone have used the word “first” to describe the battle fought in 1861.

Worksheet B:

1. H Virginia
2. K Missouri
3. D Virginia
4. J Kentucky
5. N Arkansas
6. F Tennessee
7. A Virginia
8. P Virginia
9. O Virginia
10. B Virginia
11. L Maryland
12. M Maryland
13. G Kentucky
14. C Tennessee
15. I Louisiana
16. E Virginia

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