

Lesson Plan on Important Naval Battles of the American Civil War

Introduction: In this activity, students will learn about the naval battles of the American Civil War and what role they played.

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 dates and locations of the major naval battles of the American Civil War

Know who the military leaders of the Union and Confederate navies were.

Know what ships these leaders commanded.

Know what battles these leaders led their ships into.

Know the strategies of the leaders.

Know the outcome of the battles and the effect they had on the war.

In the classroom:

Have students, individually or in groups, choose a different naval battle of the Civil War, such as:

Battle of Port Royal (November 7, 1861)

Battle of Hampton Roads (March 8, 1862 – March 9, 1862)

Battle of Forts Jackson and St. Philip (April 16-28, 1862)

Battle of Island Number Ten (February 28 - April 8, 1862)

Battle of Memphis (June 6, 1862)

Second Battle of Sabine Pass (September 8, 1863)

Battle of Fort Hindman (January 9 – January 11, 1863)

Battle of Mobile Bay (August 2-23, 1864)

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At the library:

Have students research their battle and answer these questions:

Where and when did the battle take place?

Who was fighting who?

What were their strategies?

Who won? Who lost? Why?

What effect did the outcome of the battle have on the outcome of the war?

In what condition were the soldiers and the ships before and after the battle(s)?

Do you think the outcome of the battle could have or should have been different? Why or why not?

Resources at the Pritzker Military Library:

(also available through interlibrary loan from your local library)

Books:

Anderson, Bern. *By sea and by river: the naval history of the Civil War*. New York: Da Capo Press, 1989. Call Number: E591.A54 1989.

Canney, Donald L., 1947-. *Lincoln's navy: the ships, men, and organization, 1861-65*. Annapolis: Naval Institute Press, 1998. Call Number: E591.C28 1998.

Coombe, Jack D. *Gunfire around the Gulf: the last major naval campaigns of the Civil War*. New York: Bantam Books, 1999. Call Number: E591.C75 1999.

Greene, Jack. *Ironclads at war: the origin and development of the armored warship, 1854-1891*. Pennsylvania: Combined Pub., 1998. Call Number: D362.G74 1998.

Konstam, Angus. *Duel of the ironclads: the USS Monitor vs. the CSS Virginia at Hampton Roads 1862*. Osceola, WI :Osprey, 2003.
Call Number: E473.2.K66 2003.

Luraghi, Raimondo. *A history of the Confederate Navy*. Annapolis: Naval Institute Press, 1996. Call Number: E596.L8713 1996.

United States. Naval History Division. *Civil War naval chronology, 1861-1865*. Washington : Dept. of the Navy, 1971. Call Number: E591 .C58 1971

Videos:

Entertainment Distributing. *Sea of honor: the U.S. Navy story, 1775-1945*. Eugene, OR: Distributed by Entertainment Distributing, 1996.
Call Number: E182 .S43 1996 VOL.1.

Glover, Danny. *The Monitor vs. the CSS Virginia*. Alexandria, VA: Time-Life, 1994.
Call Number: E468.7 1994.

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