

Lesson Title: Home Court: Advantage or Disadvantage?  
Lesson Design by:  
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**Teaching Traditional American History Program**

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Lesson Overview: Students will examine the pros and cons of battles fought within a region. They will determine whether having the majority of the battles fought on their home soil helped or hurt the cause of the South. They will determine the effects of the Anaconda Plan.

Essential Question: During the American Civil War, did the South really have an advantage by having the war fought in the Southern States or did it hurt their cause?

Objectives:

- Understanding the causes and consequences of the Civil War Interpret political, economic and social causes and consequences of the Civil War and Reconstruction(MO GLE: US.2a.H.8)
- Explain how regions of the United States relate to one another and change over time (MO GLE: GS.5.H.8)
- Explain how changes in transportation, communication and other technologies affect the movement of people, products and ideas (MO GLE: GS.5.G.7)
- Create maps to communicate information (MO GLE: TI.7.C.3)

Assessment: Students will write a letter, as resident of the South, to a friend or relative living in the North or West and explain how the War has impacted their life and state. Use attached scoring guide.

Materials:

- Text: *The Americans*, McDougal-Littell
- Maps of Civil War South, to be marked on
- Markers
- Find Someone Who? Handout
- Impact of the War Handout

Class Time: 1 class period

Teacher Input:

1. Begin class by asking students “Do you feel your team has an advantage in a sporting event when it takes place at your school?” This would be a

- home court advantage.
2. Explain that if we look at the American Revolution and the War of 1812 – the home court was an advantage. Brainstorm advantages. (*Know the land, close to supplies, strive to protect home, less travel time for troops & orders, etc.*)
  3. “Were these advantages for the South during the Civil War? Why or why not?”
    - The South strived to protect their homes, but the North was striving to protect the Union of the States established by the U. S. Constitution.
    - The Confederate troops tended to fight only within their state so this led to a less cohesive military force. The number of troops available during any give campaign could change drastically. The Union troops formed regular military units that traveled together.
    - Orders and supplies may have had fewer miles to travel in the beginning, but as the war progressed the Union was able to cut the Confederate supply lines. This created shortages for the Confederate troops.
  4. Complete Map Activity
  5. Describe siege at Vicksburg
    - “How would your life change if your town was cut off from the rest of the world for several months?” (Shortages, communications, etc.)
    - How do you deal with shortages created by siege?
      1. newspaper printed on wallpaper
      2. recipe substitutions
    - How is communication effected by siege?
      1. Smaller newspapers
      2. Trisking Parties
    - Effects of siege on morale
  6. Find Someone Who? Activity

Activities:

1. Map Activity (10 minutes)
  - a. Divide students into groups of 2-3.
  - b. Give each group markers and a map of the Civil War South.
  - c. Have each group read about the Anaconda Plan
  - d. As a group draw troop movements on the map.
2. Find Someone Who? (7 minutes)
  - a. Hand out Find Someone Who? (attached)
  - b. Everyone should stand with their handout and a pencil.
  - c. Students are to find someone who knows the definition/description of the the items listed.
  - d. They tell answer, you write it in the box with the term and the person who supplied the answer initials it.
  - e. Each person is allowed to supply only one answer to each student.
  - f. Give the students a limited amount of time to complete this task. (3-5 minutes)
  - g. When time is up have students return to their seats and randomly

- call on students to define terms.
3. Assign the Effects of War Letter. Hand-out with scoring guide attached.

Questions for review:

Q: What was the purpose of the Anaconda Plan?

A: *To cut off supplies to the South*

Q: What Tactics were used to in the Anaconda Plan?

A: *Navel Blockade, Total War, Cut Transportation and Communication Lines.*

Closure:

Q: **Summarize our discussion today, who can tell me the Big Idea about the effects of the war being fought in the South, on the South?**

A: Because the war was fought in the South with the tactics used by the Union the South had their homes and economy destroyed.

Extension:

- For further study, have students read a book about life in the South during the Civil War. An example would be *My Cave Life in Vicksburg* that tells of life during the Siege at Vicksburg.
- For reinforcement, students can use *Find Someone Who?* Handouts as Bingo cards to review vocabulary.
- Have students participate in Human Map in place of Mapping Activity.

References:

Burd, Frank, *Civil War Book of Facts*, (John Hinde Curteich, USA).

Danzer, Gerald A. ed., *The Americans*, (McDougal Littell, Evanston, IL, 2005) 338-371.

Dickinson, Jack L., *Civil War Paper Items*, (Pictorial Histories Publishing Company, Charleston, WV, 2005).

*My Cave Life in Vicksburg*, (Vicksburg and Warren County Historical Society, Vicksburg, MS, 2003).

Roland, Charles P., *An American Iliad The Story of the Civil War*, 2<sup>nd</sup> Ed. (University Press of Kentucky, Lexington, KY, 2002).

# Impact of War Letter

**Task:** You are living in the South. The war has ended or is drawing to a close. Write a letter to a friend or relative living in the North or West. Tell how the war has affected your life and the impact it has had on your state and the Confederacy.

The letter should be in friendly letter format. Include details to make the letter historically and geographically correct.

Due: \_\_\_\_\_

## Scoring Guide

<b>Criteria</b>	<b>Excellent</b>	<b>Average</b>	<b>Needs Improvement</b>
<b>Content</b>	Contains 3 effects of the war. Details of each	2 effects given with some details of each.	Only 1 effect given Little or no details
<b>Accuracy</b>	Geographically and historically accurate.	Some geographical or historical errors.	Not historically or geographically correct.
<b>Mechanics</b>	Use correct friendly letter format with complete sentences and paragraphs. Letter is organized.	Friendly letter format. Has paragraphs and sentences with some errors	Not in letter format. No paragraphs or incomplete sentences.

**Total Points Earned** \_\_\_\_\_

## Find Someone Who?

Atlanta	Anaconda Plan	Gettysburg	William Tecumseh Sherman	Antietam
Richmond	Ulysses S. Grant	<i>Monitor</i>	Chancellorsville	Jefferson Davis
Wilson's Creek	David G. Farragut	F R E E	<i>Merrimack</i>	Stonewall Jackson
The Wilderness Campaign	Robert E. Lee	Shiloh	March to the Sea	Blockade
Petersburg Siege	Bull Run	Abraham Lincoln	Total War	Vicksburg Siege