

Lesson Title: Battlefield Poster

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Teaching Traditional American History Program

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<http://www.chillihistoryproject.com/>

Lesson Overview: This lesson is designed for students to compare the battle strategy of both sides during the Civil War.

Essential Question(s): What helped determine Civil War battle strategy?

Objectives: After completing this lesson the student will be able to create a poster size map of a Civil War battle of their choice.

MO Grade Level Expectations 9-12:

- GLE (2a, B2) Analyze the evolution of American democracy, its ideas, institutions, and political processes from colonial days to the present to include:
 - The Civil War and Reconstruction
- GLE (5, H8) Using geography to interpret events of the past

Assessment: At the end of the lesson the student will be able to see how each side developed strategy to battle (terrain, type of troops, goals, etc.).

The map poster should include:

- Well organized and neat information
- Correct scale
- Labels complete and correctly spelled
- Symbols and color-coding are clear and effective
- Key in which all symbols are accurately identified
- Easy to read and interpret

Materials: Internet access

Google: Particular battle

Class time: Two class periods plus research and writing time.

1st Class period: instruction

2nd Class period: presentation

Teacher Input: This activity will be completed well into a unit on the Civil War. Students will already be familiar with the causes and resources of both sides. It might be well to assign it after the first battle (Fort Sumter) is completed so they have an idea of what to consider before choosing their battle.

Activities: Completed map posters can then be used in class as a resource when covering the battles. Students can be allowed to provide an explanation of their map poster and share with their peers.

Questions for review:

1. Did terrain have an impact on the battle?
2. Did the type of troops have an impact (Cavalry vs foot soldiers)
3. Did the goal of each side play a role in strategy? Did overall strategy for each side change during the war?
4. Was there a clear cut victor?
5. Is strategy different in today's war?

Closure: Class discussion on just what type of information can be learned from maps of this type and why they are used to teach/learn about our history.

References:

<http://www.archives.gov>

<http://www.libraryofcongress.gov>

<http://www.historychannel.com>

<http://www.thecivilwar.org>

<http://www.civilwaralbum.com>