

Civil War In Missouri: Battle of Wilson's Creek
Bryan Grow, Maryville R-II, 8th, American History
July 2007

Teaching Traditional American History Program

Funded by U.S. Department of Education

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

Lesson Overview: We will examine the impact of the Civil War in Missouri while emphasizing the events at Wilson's Creek and battlefield medicine.

Essential Question(s): How did the outcome of this battle affect the overall Civil War?

What is considered a military victory in warfare? Who won here?

What were common medical practices during the Civil War?

Objectives:

- Through technology students will gain a geographical and military understanding of the events at Wilson's Creek.
- Students will gain knowledge on battlefield medicine.

Assessment: Constructive response (essay) question on chapter test:

I want you to pretend you were sitting on the porch with Mr. Ray at his farm and witnessed the entire battle. Write a letter to a person of your choosing (appropriate heading, introduction, conclusion, and closing) and include the following (13 points):

- 1) What town is the battlefield closest to and what service did it provide following the battle (be descriptive)?
- 2) Who were the generals from each side and what was the fate of the Union General?
- 3) Who won the battle? What was the impact regarding the Civil War?

Materials:

1) A classroom with a Smart Board or a computer lab for students. Any computer being used will need to have downloaded the free version of Google Earth (available at: <http://earth.google.com/>).

2) Any American History Textbook explaining the American Civil War.

Class Time: This lesson plan is designed for a 42 minute 8th grade class period.

Teacher Input: I will initiate a brief discussion on, "What is battlefield medicine?" based off the seatwork for that day. I will then introduce the battle of Wilson's Creek and will be using the smart board. I will select a student aid to help the class navigate to our destination. I will introduce the generals and will give a step by step tour of the battle (about 10-15 minutes). Next we will commence with the activity and then have them for questions and a recap.

Activity:

- 1) After the discussion the teacher will put students into 5 different groups with 3-5 students in each group.
- 2) The teacher will instruct students to pass around a sheet of paper and each group will generate a list of anything that deals with battlefield medicine (ex: amputations, whiskey, saws, elixir, diseases)
- 3) Groups will have 2-4 minutes to fill out their sheets.
- 4) A final question will be asked by the teacher: What was the biggest cause of death during the entire Civil War? Students will have 30 seconds to answer.
- 5) While still in groups we will discuss their lists and finally review why and how battlefield medicine was the biggest cause of death and how Springfield played an important role at the Battle of Wilson's Creek.
- 6) Students will put the desks back and we will conclude and recap.

Questions for review:

- 1) What determines a battlefield victory?
- 2) What was the outcome of the battle of Wilson's Creek?
- 3) What role did Springfield play in the battle?
- 4) What is a good way to describe and define battlefield medicine?

Closure: Go over the questions for review at the end of the lesson.

Extension: They will cover this in high school and I will reference it in class and on seatwork.

All students are encouraged to participate in this lesson.

References:

Google Earth

<http://earth.google.com/>

National Park Service web page for the Battle of Wilson's Creek

<http://www.nps.gov/wicr/>

Any American History textbook that covers the Civil War.