

Causes for the American Civil War

Lesson Designed by: Brian Swink
Eugene Field Elementary
Fourth Grade
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Teaching Traditional American History Program

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

Lesson Overview: There were many causes that led to the division of our nation during the American Civil War. One creative aspect for exploring these differences is to explore the music of the time period. Not only did each side have their own patriotic tunes, but at times they also stole the opposing sides "sacred song" and put new lyrics to it to match their view of the war. Music was critical to the men fighting the war. As one soldier put it, it was "better than rations or medicine." Another tale of Robert E Lee comes at one of the lowest points of the Confederate war effort. He called the leader of one of the bands who was afraid he'd be asked to put down his instrument and take up arms. Lee told him to keep up his good work and that the music he made was crucial to morale and must continue. If a commanding general sees that much importance in the war effort, then it must be a valuable place to begin a search for how to understand this dramatic part of American history.

Essential Questions:

1. What were the causes of the American Civil War?
2. What states made up the Confederacy?

Objectives: After completing this lesson the student will be able to:

- Identify political, economic and social causes and consequences of the Civil War and Reconstruction
SS 2a Level 5

Assessment:

Have students write a lyrical summary of what they've learned to be the causes of the war. Choose a familiar tune like "Yankee Doodle" and create new words just like the soldiers did in trying to steal the enemy's "sacred songs." The student can then perform the song for the class, a small group, read it instead, or turn it in to the teacher only. The lyrical summary should show several reasons beyond the issue of slavery to get full credit.

Materials:

- Copies of song lyrics for each group of students
- Copies of Worksheet 1 & 2 for each student
- Dictionaries or web access
- Civil War Reference Books
- Sample music to play (optional)

Class Time: Two 50 minute periods

Teacher Input:

1. If available, play a few songs for students to get into the spirit of the assignment. CD's of Civil War time period music are available from a variety of sources. The Federal City Brass Band, which I heard near Petersburg, Virginia, has several CD's for sale on their web site at www.jvmusic.net/FCBB.html
2. I also have songs in my musical library that have been spoofed by other artists. Weird Al Yankovic or the Apologetics take popular songs and give them new words with totally different meanings. This would be a good transition into the idea that many melodies from this time period were familiar to both armies, but have very different meanings.

In this way the music became an important weapon in the arsenals of each army. It was used to remind those fighting the purpose for which they were dying as well as raise morale. The following quote comes from the diary of Mrs. Tillie Pierce Alleman (At Gettysburg, or What a Girl Saw and Heard of the Battle).

"A crowd of 'us girls' were standing on the corner of Washington and High Streets as these soldiers passed by. Desiring to encourage them, who, as we were told, would before long be in battle, my sister started to sing the old war song "Our Union Forever." . . . Thus we sought to cheer our brave men; and we felt amply repaid when we saw that our efforts were appreciated. Their countenances brightened and we received their thanks and cheers."

3. Before passing out the song lyrics, be sure to explain that some words used then may not be familiar now. This is why it is recommended to complete this assignment with the aid of dictionaries and or civil war reference books.

Activities:

1. Using each song, examine the lyrics of the Northern and Southern version. In the T-Chart provided, students should copy information that helps them understand the position of the United States (Northern Version) and the Confederate States (Southern Version).
2. Using the map provided, find in the song lyrics the order in which states succeeded from the union. Label the map with the state name and the number in which it left the union.
3. Complete the lyrical summary assessment described above.

Questions for review:

Was the reason for the war the same for both the North and the South? Explain.

How many states succeeded from the union?

Closure:

Take time to share the lyrical summaries. If technology allows, record them as a podcast for later reference or for future classes to learn from.

Extension:

1. Find more songs and research other parts of the war besides motives. Can students learn anything about living conditions, morale, civilians, etc?

Visual 1



The band of the 24th Michigan



The band of the 26th North Carolina, CSA, in Salem, NC, summer 1862

Worksheet 1

Research Page

Name: _____

Northern Reasons for War	Southern Reasons for War

The Battle Cry for Freedom (Rallying Song)

Northern Version	Southern Version
<p>Words and music by George F. Root</p> <p>Oh, we'll rally 'round the flag, boys, we'll rally once again, Shouting the battle cry of freedom; We will rally from the hillside, we'll gather from the plain, Shouting the battle cry of freedom.</p> <p><u>Chorus</u></p> <p>The Union forever, hurrah, boys, hurrah! Down with the traitor, Up with the star; While we rally 'round the flag boys, rally once again, Shouting the battle cry of freedom.</p> <p>We are springing to the call of our brothers gone before, Shouting the battle cry of freedom, And we'll fill the vacant ranks with a million freemen more, Shouting the battle cry of freedom. We will welcome to our numbers the loyal, true, and brave, Shouting the battle cry of freedom, And although they may be poor not a man shall be a slave, Shouting the battle cry of freedom.</p> <p>So we're springing to the call from the East and from the West, Shouting the battle cry of freedom, And we'll hurl the Rebel crew from the land we love the best, Shouting the battle cry of freedom.</p> <p><u>(Battle Song)</u></p> <p>Yes for Liberty and Union We're springing to the fight, Shouting the battle cry of freedom, And the vict'ry shall be ours For we're rising in our might, Shouting the battle cry of freedom.</p>	<p>Words and music by George F. Root</p> <p>We are marching to the field, boys, We're going to the fight, Shouting the battle cry of freedom, And we bear the Heavenly cross, For our cause is in the right, Shouting the battle cry of freedom.</p> <p><u>Chorus</u></p> <p>Our rights forever, Hurrah! Boys! Hurrah! Down with the tyrants, Raise the Southern star, And we'll rally 'round the flag, boys, We'll rally once again, Shouting the battle cry of freedom.</p> <p>We'll meet the Yankee hosts, boys, With fearless hearts and true, Shouting the battle cry of freedom, And we'll show the dastard minions What Southern pluck can do. Shouting the battle cry of freedom.</p> <p>We'll fight them to the last, boys, If we fall in the strife, Shouting the battle cry of freedom, Our comrades-noble boys! Will avenge us, life for life, Shouting the battle cry of freedom.</p>

Dixie

Southern Version	Northern Version
<p>Words by Albert Pike Music: "Dixie Land" (by Daniel D. Emmett)</p> <p>Southrons, hear your country call you! Up, lest worse than death befall you! To arms! To arms! To Arms! In Dixie! Lo! all the beacon fires are lighted— Let all hearts be now united! To arms! To arms! To arms! In Dixie!</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Chorus</u></p> <p>Advance the flag of Dixie! Hurrah! Hurrah! For Dixie's Land we take our stand, And live or die for Dixie! To arms! To arms! And conquer peace for Dixie! To arms! To arms! And conquer peace for Dixie!</p> <p>Hear the Northern thunders mutter! Northern flags in South winds flutter! To arms! etc. Send them back your fierce defiance! Stamp upon the cursed alliance! To arms! etc.</p> <p>How the South's great heart rejoices At your cannon's ringing voices! To arms! etc. For faith betrayed and pledges broken, Wrongs inflicted, insults spoken, To arms! etc.</p> <p>Strong as lions, swift as eagles, Back to their kennels hunt these beagles! To arms! etc. Cut the unequal bond asunder! Let them hence each other plunder! To arms! etc.</p> <p>Halt not till our Federation Secures among earth's powers its station! To arms! etc. Then at peace, and crowded with glory, Hear your children tell the story! To arms! etc.</p>	<p>Words: anonymous Music: "Dixie Land" (by Daniel D. Emmett)</p> <p>Away down South in the land of traitors, Rattlesnakes and alligators, Right away, come away, right away, come away. Where cotton's king and men are chattels, Union boys will win the battles, Right away, come away, right away, come away.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Chorus</u></p> <p><i>Then we'll all go down to Dixie, Away, away, Each Dixie boy must understand, That he must mind his Uncle Sam, Away, away, And we'll all go down to Dixie. Away, away, And we'll all go down to Dixie.</i></p> <p>I wish I was in Baltimore, I'd make Secession traitors roar, Right away, come away, right away, come away. We'll put the traitors all to rout, I'll bet my boots we'll whip them out, Right away, come away, right away, come away.</p> <p><i>Then they'll wish they were in Dixie, etc.</i></p> <p>Oh, may our Stars and Stripes still wave Forever o'er the free and brave, Right away, come away, right away, come away. And let our motto ever be— "For Union and for Liberty!" Right away, come away, right away, come away.</p> <p><i>Then we'll all go down to Dixie, etc.</i></p>

The Bonnie Blue Flag

<p style="text-align: center;">Southern Version</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Words by Harry McCarthy Music: "The Irish Jaunting Car"</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">2nd Southern Version</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Words ascribed to Carrie Bell Sinclair Music: "Bonnie Blue Flag" ("Irish Jaunting Car")</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">We are a band of brothers, and native to the soil, Fighting for the property we gained by honest toil. And then our rights were threatened, the cry rose near and far: "Hurrah for the Bonnie Blue Flag that bears a single star!"</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Chorus</u> Hurrah! Hurrah! For Southern rights, hurrah! Hurrah! Hurrah for the Bonnie Blue Flag that bears a single star.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">As long as the Union was faithful to her trust, Like friends and brethren, kind were we, and just; But now, when Northern treachery attempts our rights to mar, We hoist on high the Bonnie Blue Flag that bears a single star.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">First gallant South Carolina nobly made the stand, Then came Alabama and took her by the hand; Next, quickly, Mississippi, Georgia, and Florida, All raised on high the Bonnie Blue Flag that bears a single star.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Ye men of valor gather round the banner of the right, Texas and fair Louisiana join us in the fight; Davis, our loved President, and Stephens statesmen are; Now rally round the Bonnie Blue Flag that bears a single star.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">And here's to brave Virginia, the Old Dominion State. With the young Confederacy at length has linked her fate. Impelled by her example, now other States prepare To hoist on high the Bonnie Blue Flag that bears a single star.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Then cheer, boys, cheer, raise a joyous shout, For Arkansas and North Carolina now have both gone out; And let another rousing cheer for Tennessee be given, The single star of the Bonnie Blue Flag has grown to be eleven.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Oh, yes, I am a Southern girl, And glory in the name, and boast it with far greater pride Than glittering wealth or fame. We envy not the Northern girl, Her robes of beauty rare, Though diamonds grace her snowy neck, And pearls bedeck her hair.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Chorus</u> Hurrah! Hurrah! For the sunny south so dear; Three cheers for the homespun dress The Southern ladies wear.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">The homespun dress is plain, I know, My hat's palmetto, too; But then it shows what Southern girls For Southern rights will do. We have sent the bravest of our land To battle with the foe, And we will lend a helping hand; We love the South, you know.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Now, Northern goods are out of date; And since old Abe's blockade, We Southern girls can be content With goods that's Southern made. We sent our sweethearts to the war, But dear girls, never mind, Your soldier-love will ne'er forget The girl he left behind.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">The Southern land's a glorious land, And has a glorious cause; Then cheer three cheers for Southern rights, And for the Southern boys, We scorn to wear a bit of silk, A bit of Northern lace; But make our homespun dresses up, And wear them with such grace.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">And now, young man, a word to you, If you would win the fair, Go to the field where honor calls, and win your lady there. Remember that our brightest smiles Are for the true and brave, And that our tears are all for those Who fill a soldier's grave.</p>

The Confederate States of America

Name: _____

Instructions: Using the lyrics from the songs provided, label the states that left to form the Confederate States of America by writing each state's name within its borders and assign it a number for the order in which it left the union.

