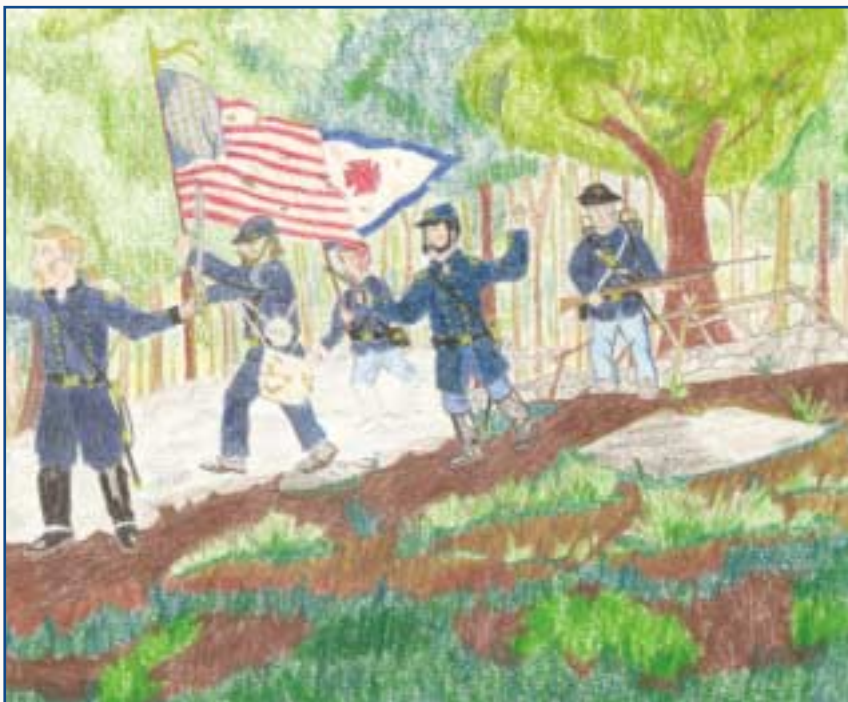


Civil War Preservation Trust

Two Week Curriculum for Teaching the Civil War



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CHANNEL



Who We Are:

About the Civil War Preservation Trust

The Civil War Preservation Trust is America's largest non-profit organization devoted to the preservation of our nation's endangered Civil War battlefield lands. The Trust also promotes educational programs and heritage tourism initiatives to inform the public about the war and the fundamental conflicts that sparked it.

The CWPT has ***saved more than 17,000 acres of Civil War battlefields*** That's land at more than 60 Civil War battlefields in 18 states. In addition to preserving battlefield land, we interpret the land with **waysides** and **driving tour brochures**. We sponsor **Park Day** – an annual volunteer clean-up day for the Civil War sites we cherish.

The CWPT also conducts programs designed to inform the public about the events and consequences of the Civil War, foster an understanding of the need for preservation, and create a personal connection to the past. We have led **educational tours, conferences, reenactments, and preservation marches**.

Our **teacher and student programs** range from a **poster and essay contest** for kids to **workshops and curriculum guides** for teachers. We also have ***The American Civil War*** video – a ten-minute overview of the Civil War developed for schools and historic sites by CWPT with The History Channel.

We have produced the **Voices of the Civil War Traveling Exhibit**. This is a traveling panel exhibit that explores the experiences and memories of the Civil War through the words and images of those who experienced it. Another educational program is the **Civil War Explorer** – an interactive, multimedia computer exhibit on the Civil War featuring photographs, maps, historic documents, video footage, music and narrative. The Explorer is currently being adapted for the Internet and will be located in the "History Center and Classroom" section of the website when complete

Our **Civil War Discovery Trail** is a heritage tourism initiative that links more than 500 Civil War sites in 28 states, and promotes visitation through themed itineraries; it is one of the White House Millennium Council's sixteen flagship National Millennium Trails.

Our outreach efforts also include the CWPT Website – www.civilwar.org, which includes details on preservation, Civil War history, and the Civil War Preservation Trust. In addition, our members – who are the lifeblood of the organization – receive ***Hallowed Ground*** – CWPT's quarterly magazine, which includes articles on history, preservation techniques and upcoming events.

To find out more information or to join the Civil War Preservation Trust, call 888-606-1400 or visit www.civilwar.org.

How to Use this Curriculum

Thank you for requesting a copy of our Civil War curriculum! The Civil War Preservation Trust is proud to offer this valuable tool for your classroom.

The mission of the CWPT is to preserve America's significant Civil War battlefields by protecting the land and educating the public about the vital roles those battlefields played in directing the course of our nation's history.

The Civil War was perhaps the greatest turning point in American history. The dual themes of slavery and power deeply divided the growing nation during the first half of the 19th century.

The Civil War changed many things about the United States. It freed 4 million slaves and put civil rights on the national agenda for the first time. It made us a unified nation instead of a collection of states. It made the industrial North the focus of political power. And it damaged millions of dollars of property. Most importantly, when the war ended after four years, 625,000 soldiers and 50,000 civilians had died, 200,000 women had become widows, and 500,000 of the soldiers who returned home were wounded or crippled.

The students in your classrooms will be making important decisions about our Civil War battlefields. Remember, **you** are educating the future leaders and decision-makers of America. Your students will have to decide whether to preserve – or throw away – the sites that changed the face of America forever.

This is an enormous challenge. For instance, should our leaders preserve the site of a Civil War battlefield, or should they develop it into a new shopping mall? Should they preserve – and interpret – the battlefield, or create a housing development? Which option, ultimately, will best serve the community? How are kids supposed to make intelligent decisions if they don't know where the battlefields are, what they mean, or why they're important?

Most Americans come to care about battlefields for one of three reasons: either they had an ancestor who fought in the war, they read a great book or watched a great movie about the Civil War, or because they had a great teacher. And **you** are that great teacher! We hope that our curriculum will make your job easier.

So, how do you use this curriculum?

This two-week curriculum is designed for students in grades 5, 8, and 11. For each grade level, there are 6 sections: **Disunion, War, Soldier Life, The War at Home, Field Trips, and Preservation** are featured. The Field Trip and Preservation sections are especially vital in using battlefield land as “outdoor classrooms.”

The curriculum is full of practical and creative ideas for the classroom. In addition, there are ideas for interdisciplinary activities. The curriculum will be updated frequently as battlefield-specific lessons and other items are added.

Obviously, the best way to learn about the Civil War is to

VISIT THE BATTLEFIELDS THEMSELVES!

What a powerful tool – to recreate a famous charge, or see the actual land where soldiers (***perhaps from your home state***) fought! What better way to understand why a particular charge succeeded (or failed) than to experience the terrain firsthand?

In addition to the volume you have in front of you, there are two companions. It would be best if you could visit the battlefields, but we understand that it isn't always an option. If you can't get to a historic site, why not ask a Civil War reenactor to visit your class? Civil War reenactors possess a wealth of knowledge – as well as reproduction uniforms and equipment – and are certainly much more interesting than a textbook. They put a lot of time into their hobby – so put them to work for you! Visit our web site to find a reenactor in your area.

You can also reserve our Civil War traveling trunk. The trunk can be reserved if you can't get a reenactor and can't go on a battlefield field trip. There are sections on camp life, medicine, food, uniforms, and music. These “props” will help your students get a better idea of what it was like to live during the Civil War era.

You can also take advantage of any of the optional activities that are also included. You are the master teacher, and you know your students – so feel free to adapt the program to suit your students' needs!

Good luck!

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***For periodic additions to the curriculum,
please visit www.civilwar.org!***

