

## The Civil War: The Union Versus the Confederacy

**WebQuest Description:** In this lesson, students will explore the two sides of the Civil War which are the Union(North) and the Confederacy(South). They will split into groups, pick one side of the war, find 10 important or interesting facts about any part of the war including sides or battles. Then the students will pick a side of the war and make a small presentation stating the major facts about the side they picked. They will continue by finding one war that their side of the war won and re-create the battle with a shoe-box diorama. This helps the students learn about both sides of the war and the major battles of the civil war.

**Grade Level:** 3-5

**Curriculum:** Social Studies

**Keywords:** Civil War, Key Battles, Union, Confederacy, Major Battles

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### Introduction

The Civil War is an extremely large and important topic in U.S. History because it is what shaped the future of the U.S. and is the reason the United States works the way it does today. The Civil War was a series of both large and small high stakes battles with a high death total that determined the which part of the country would become the main power. It was began when states in the South did not agree with the laws of the North and decided that they did not want to be a part of the country anymore. They seceded from the U.S. and became the Confederate States of America. The battle went on for a few years and ended in a close Union victory. Both of the sides of the war had their own unique strengths, had brave and skilled leaders, and had plenty of skilled Generals to lead the armies. This project will help students understand our history through this war, understand the suffering and hardships that both armies went through, and will help students understand how different the U.S. would be if the war ended differently.

### Tasks

The student's task in this lesson is to gain a higher understanding about all parts of the Civil War including information about the Union and the Confederacy, the war itself, and the major battles that took place throughout the war. By the end of the lesson, the student should be able to state the main leaders of each army, state specific facts about both sides of the war, be able to name important battles as well as simple facts about those battles and most importantly, have fun completing the lesson.

### Process

Step 1: Get into groups of 3-4. Watch the video given, record valuable information and pick a few facts which you found especially interesting. Video 1: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rY9zHNOjGrs> Step 2: Research the two sides of The Civil War and the Civil War as a whole. Find information about both sides of the war including the Leader, military strength, territories and more. Find at least 10 interesting facts about the Civil War, the Union, or the Confederacy. Use the websites given to find the information. Link 1: <http://www.civilwar.org/education/history/faq/> Link 2: <http://www.pbs.org/civilwar/war/facts.html> Link 3: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Union\\_%28American\\_Civil\\_War%29](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Union_%28American_Civil_War%29) Link 4: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Confederate\\_States\\_of\\_America#Armed\\_forces](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Confederate_States_of_America#Armed_forces) Step 3: Go to the given website and use the interactive History Channel exploration to learn even more information about The Civil War. Activity 1: <http://www.history.com/interactives/civil-war-150#/paying-for-the-war> Step 4: Pick one side of the war(Confederacy or Union). Make a Fact Sheet, a Power Point presentation, or write a summary about the information that you have gathered about the side that you chose. Step 5: Watch the attached video and read the attached link about the Major Battles of the Civil War. Video 2: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=25HHVDOaGeE> Link 5: <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/americanexperience/features/timeline/death/> Step 6: Pick one of the major battles that was won by the side of the war that you picked from the Video or the website and gather specific important information such as generals in the battle, duration, death count, troop size, etc. Step 7: With whichever battle you have picked, make a shoebox diorama illustrating some part of the battle whether it be the fight, the soldiers, the terrain, or the supplies used. Step 8: Prepare a presentation with your group that presents the facts about either side of the war, your diorama, and the information about the battle chosen. Step 9: Extra Credit: To receive the extra credit one member of your group must bring in and dress up as a union or confederate soldier, Abraham Lincoln, Jefferson Davis, Robert E. Lee, or Ulysses S. Grant. Step 10: Send via Email all of the document involved in your presentation such as the fact sheet, battle information and/or Power Point before the date of the presentations.

### Evaluation

Category and Score	Incomplete	Average	Good	Perfect	Score
10 Facts About The Civil War	0 - Fact sheet about the Civil War is incomplete.	1-2 - Fact sheet contains all 10 required facts. Facts are lacking in validity.	4-3 - Fact sheet contains all 10 required facts. Facts are either too similar or generic with very little researching involved.	5 - Fact sheet contains all 10 facts. Facts are unique and it is clear that the group spent time researching the topic.	0-5
Fact Sheet, Power Point, or Summary About Chosen Side of the War	0 - Fact sheet, Power Point, or Summary is not attempted or incomplete.	1-2 - Fact sheet, Power Point, or Summary is completed but has several errors, or validity issues.	3-4 - Fact sheet, Power Point, or Summary is completed but has few errors, or lacks quality research.	5 - Fact sheet, Power Point, or Summary is fully completed, has no errors, and is completely accurate.	0-5
Civil War Battle Information	0 - No information is collected about a certain battle in the Civil War or no battle is selected at all.	1-2 - Some information is collected on a battle of the Civil War but is very vague and lacks full knowledge of the battle chosen.	3-4 - A good amount of information is collected on a battle of the Civil War. Data lacks full knowledge of the battle chosen.	5 - Research about the battle chosen is complete and the group clearly has full knowledge of the battle from all sides.	0-5
Battle Diorama	0 - Diorama is incomplete or is not attempted.	1-2 - Diorama is complete but lacks validity, creativity, and is sloppy and unorganized.	3-4 - Diorama is complete and shows creativity. Diorama is lacking in organization but is mostly neat and well put together.	5 - Diorama is complete, shows creativity, organization and is well put together and accurate.	0-5
				Total Score	0-22 (2pts for extra credit)

## Conclusion

Knowing the history of the United States of America is crucial to understanding how the government, and society work today. By learning the information offered in this lesson, you will have gained the knowledge of how we became the country we are today and what the citizens of the U.S. went through so that we could all be free. Knowing information about the Civil War leads into the years after the Civil war and the struggles that the U.S. still faced although the war was over. The knowledge to take away from this lesson is that the Civil War was a long and deadly war that separated the unity of the U.S and was only the beginning of the fight for equality and freedom. If the Civil War is a topic that you wish to learn more about, you can contact me inside class or through email and I can guide you in the direction to learn more. There are several books, videos, and encyclopedia articles covering the Civil War that dive deeper into the subject than we have time for.

## Teacher Page

This Webquest is designed to have the students, following an in class general lesson, dive into the vast subject of the Civil War. This Webquest will give them the chance to be creative, independent, and give them the ability to work with others. This Webquest will give the students a deeper understanding of the Civil War as a whole and the battles that were fought. The amount of time given for the completion of this lesson should be about 2-3 weeks. Make sure to check up on each group and give enough in class time for the students to work on their projects with each other.

### Standards

This Webquest is designed for 5-6 graders in a Social Studies Class. Most curriculums teach the Civil War so this webquest can be used in many towns.

### Credits

I would like to thank PBS and the History channel along with Wikipedia for the information they offered on their websites as well as the Youtube channel CrashCourse for their videos on the Civil War and the Battles of the Civil War.

I would like to thank my instructor Lori Doll who taught Webquest in EDT 210.

### Other