

Teachers' Guide for Cobblestone

January 2014: 1864: A Year in the Civil War

By Debbie Vilardi

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Goal: To learn about the important Civil War related events of the year 1864.

*Always have a parent or trusted adult help with web research.

Before Beginning:

Study the cover. What do you think the articles referenced will be about? Why might the image of a black soldier have been chosen?

"War Weary" by Heather Cox Richardson (Pages 2-5)

Vocabulary: conscripted, dissent, casualties, lenient

Comprehension:

1. Why was the South powerful before the war?
2. What ideas did the North and South share?
3. What impact did the war have on the institution of slavery?
4. Why were food costs in the South high?
5. Why did the confederates need a strong central government?
6. What impact did the number of casualties have on the North and South?
7. How did the Northern government help develop the West?
8. Why did Northerners like their government?
9. How did President Lincoln get Northerners to continue to embrace the war?
10. What was the 10 Percent Plan?
11. Was the plan effective?

Discussion Activity: Study the illustrations and photos that accompany this article. What do you think the effect of these events might have been? Why might the Union soldiers have torn up the railroad? How do the numbers of dead and wounded become a problem for society?

Research: President Abraham Lincoln

"Prisoners of War" by Andrew Matthews (Pages 4-5)

Vocabulary: cavalryman, countenances

Comprehension:

1. What were the conditions like at Andersonville?
2. Why was the prison created?
3. How did these conditions lead to disease?
4. Were conditions better at other camps?

Math Activity: Approximately what percentage of soldiers housed at Andersonville Prison died there?

Writing Activity: The "Fast Fact" on page 5 states that Captain Wirz was found guilty of war crimes and hanged. Do you think this is an appropriate punishment? Do you think Captain Wirz could have done a better job caring for the inmates? Justify your answers.

Research: Andersonville Prison, Captain Henry Wirz

"Stopped at Olustee" by Heather Cox Richardson (Pages 8-9)

Vocabulary: conciliate

Comprehension:

1. What were the Union army's goals for attacking Florida?
2. What did the Union soldiers accomplish in Jacksonville?
3. Why did they march west?
4. How did the troops they confronted at Olustee compare to the troops they had encountered in Jacksonville?
5. What was the outcome of the battle?
6. How did the African American soldiers protect the retreating Union forces?
7. What was the impact of this on Northerners feelings about black men?

Writing Activity: Reread Lincoln's statement at the end of the article. What was his reaction to calls to appease the South by returning freed blacks to slavery? Do you agree that the future would have viewed him poorly if he had done so? Why?

Research: Battle of Olustee, 54th Massachusetts Regiment, 35th U.S. Colored Troops

"On the Red River" by Heather Cox Richardson (Pages 10-12)

Vocabulary: vise, amphibious, sluice gate

Comprehension:

1. Why did Lincoln choose Grant to command the Union forces?
2. What problems occurred when the forces operated independently of one another?
3. What was Grant's plan?
4. Why did Lincoln divert Banks' army to Texas?
5. What was Banks' plan for invading Texas?
6. What was the result of the battle at Mansfield?
7. Why did the Union forces retreat to Alexandria?
8. What was the effect of having ships run aground above Alexandria?
9. What solution did Lieutenant Baily propose?
10. What was the impact of the Red River Campaign?

Writing Activity: Admiral Porter refused to abandon the vessels that had become grounded. Write a letter to him explaining why you think this is a good or bad decision.

Research: General Ulysses S. Grant, Army of the Potomac, Major General William T. Sherman, Major General Nathaniel T. Banks, Napoleon III, Emperor Ferdinand Maximilian, Admiral David Dixon Porter, Red River Campaign, Lieutenant Colonel Joseph Bailey

"No Retreat: Grant's Overland Campaign" by Laura Phillips (Pages 13-16)

Vocabulary: siege

Comprehension:

1. What was Sherman's task?
2. What was Grant's task?
3. Where did Grant set up his headquarters?
4. Why do you think he chose to be in the field?
5. What were Union generals Butler and Sigel supposed to do and why?
6. What went wrong with Grant's plan?
7. Describe the Battle of the Wilderness.
8. What was the outcome of the second day of fighting?
9. What happened at the Battle of Spotsylvania Court House?

10. Who arrived at North Anna River first?
11. What role did bad luck play in the Battle at North Anna?
12. What happened at Cold Harbor?

Math Activity:

1. How many more men did Grant have than Lee?
2. How many men did each army lose during the Battle of the Wilderness?
3. Assuming no reinforcements arrived for either army, how many men remained in each after the battle of Cold Harbor?

Geography Activity: Look at the map on page 14. Why might General Lee's troops been able to arrive at each location more quickly than General Grant's troops?

Research: Army of Tennessee, Army of Northern Virginia, Major General George T. Meade, Major General Benjamin Butler, Major General Franz Sigel, Battle of the Wilderness, Battle of Spotsylvania Court House, Battle of North Anna, Battle at Cold Harbor

"Send in the Cavalry" by Ruth Spencer Johnson (Pages 17-19)

Vocabulary: cavalry

Comprehension:

1. What were the early roles for cavalry units during the Civil War?
2. How did General Forrest earn his nickname?
3. What was the Fort Pillow massacre?
4. How did Union horsemanship compare to Confederate horsemanship?
5. Why did Grant make Sheridan commander of the cavalry?
6. What did Sheridan's men do behind enemy lines?
7. What were the results of the battle with Stuart?
8. What were Sheridan's objectives at the Battle of Trevilian Station?
9. Did he succeed?

Geography Activity: Trevilian Station is not included on the map of the Overland Campaign on page 14. Locate it on a map.

Discussion: Would you rather be a foot soldier or cavalryman? Why?

Research: Nathan Bedford Forrest, Philip H. Sheridan, J.E.B. Stuart, Major General Wade Hampton, General David Hunter, Battle of Trevilian Station

"The Crater" by Marjorie Rackliffe (Pages 20-23)

Vocabulary: ingenious, theodolite

Comprehension:

1. Why did Grant change his strategy for defeating Lee?
2. What made Petersburg important?
3. Why were trenches important?
4. What did the 48th Pennsylvania propose?
5. How was the plan carried out?
6. How did the furnace help the men who were digging?
7. What prevented the explosion from happening on schedule?
8. Why did the attack that followed fail?
9. How much time passed before Lee evacuated Petersburg?

Math Activity:

1. How much did all of the powder weigh?
2. What was the area of the crater created by the explosion?

Engineering and Art: Study the images of the tunnel on page 21 and the information presented in the text. Create a scale model of the tunnel.

Research: Petersburg, Virginia; Elliott's Salient, Lieutenant Colonel Henry Pleasants,

"Did You Know?" by Chris Ware (Pages 24-25)

Research: President Andrew Johnson, President Rutherford B. Hayes, President Benjamin Harrison, President William McKinley

"And in Other 1864 News" by Andrew Matthews (Pages 26-27)

Writing Activity: Select one of the events mentioned and write a report explaining why it was important to the war or the future of the nation.

"Damn the Torpedoes" by Marcia Amidon Lusted (Pages 28-29)

Vocabulary: blockade runners, torpedoes

Comprehension:

1. Why was Mobile Bay important?
2. What were its defenses like?
3. What happened to the USS *Tecumseh*?
4. Who won the battle?

Research: David G. Farragut, Battle of Mobile Bay, Admiral Franklin Buchanan

"Closing the Back Door" by Kathiann M. Kowalski (Pages 30-31)

Vocabulary: foundries

Comprehension:

1. What is meant by the term a "back door" to Washington D.C?
2. Why was the Shenandoah Valley important to the South?
3. What was Lieutenant General Early's objective?
4. How did the North react to Early's close approach to its capital?
5. What role did espionage or spying play at Opequon Creek?
6. Why did the Union cavalry burn parts of the valley?
7. What were the results of the battles in the Shenandoah Valley?

Research: Jubal A. Early, Army of the Valley, Battle of Monocacy, Battle of Opequon Creek

"Total War" by Susan J. Hofstetter (Pages 32-34)

Vocabulary: pillage, culverts

Comprehension:

1. What was Major General Sherman's attitude toward the South?
2. What were Sherman's orders?

3. What city was his first objective and why?
4. What was General Johnston's strategy?
5. Who won at Kennesaw Mountain?
6. Why did President Jefferson Davis replace Johnston with Hood?
7. What was Sherman's strategy for defeating Hood?
8. How did Sherman take Atlanta?
9. What did Sherman do while in Atlanta?
10. Why did Sherman cut his supply lines as his soldiers moved east?
11. How did they get supplies?
12. How long did the march from Atlanta to Savannah take?
13. Why were prisoners moved to the front of the line?
14. What was General Hardee's response to Sherman's arrival?
15. What is meant by a scorched-earth approach?
16. Was it effective?

Research: General Joseph E. Johnston, Lieutenant General John B. Hood, Confederate president Jefferson Davis, Battle of Kennesaw Mountain, Lieutenant General John B. Hood, General William J. Hardee

"Mr. Lincoln's Election" by Duane Damon (Page 35-37)

"A Pocket Veto" by Duane Damon (Page 37)

Vocabulary: Emancipation Proclamation

Comprehension:

1. Why was Lincoln concerned he would not be reelected?
2. Why were many concerned about leaving pre-war Southern leaders in control of their states after the war?
3. Why were some Democrats referred to as Copperheads?
4. Why did the Democrats nominate McClellan?
5. Why did Lincoln want a constitutional amendment outlawing slavery?
6. Why did the Republican Party change its name?

7. Why did they select a new vice presidential candidate to run with Lincoln?
8. What battlefield victories helped ensure Lincoln's victory?
9. What is a pocket veto?

Math Activity: What percentage of the electoral and popular votes did Lincoln win in 1864?

Art: Consider the political cartoon on page 35. Create your own cartoon showing Lincoln's use of the pocket veto and possible responses by his political and military opponents.

Research: George B. McClellan, Wade-Davis Bill

"Nashville's Fate" by Andrew Matthews (Pages 38-39)

Comprehension:

1. What was General Hood's plan?
2. Who did Major General Sherman send in response?
3. Why was the city of Nashville important to Hood?
4. Why was Hood considered reckless?
5. What was the outcome of the Battle of Nashville?

Research: Major General George H. Thomas, Major General John M. Schofield, Battle of Nashville

Activity for the Entire Issue: Select a Civil War battle mentioned in this issue and use it to justify the statement, "A good general makes all the difference."