

Writing & Technology

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NSCU

Title of the Lesson: Stories of the Civil War

Grade Level: *Middle School Social Studies. Can be modified for additional content areas.*

Length of Lesson: *Two 45 minute class meetings*

Overview of the Lesson: *Students will create a detailed timeline about one year of the Civil War, while taking on the perspective of a Civil War soldier experiencing these events.*

Essential Learning Outcomes Questions: *By the end of this lesson, students will be able to... identify major events that took place during a specific year of the Civil War, and detail these events in chronological order using myhistro.com. Students will learn how to add photos to their myhistro map. Students will be able to use the information that they have researched, and create a letter written from the experience of a Civil War soldier experiencing these events. Students will post these letters to their online portfolio. (Class website when available)*

NC Common Core Standards Being Addressed:

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RH.6-8.7 :*Integrate visual information (e.g., in charts, graphs, photographs, videos, or maps) with other information in print and digital text.*

NC Essential Standards Being Addressed:

8.C&G.1.4 - *Analyze access to democratic rights and freedoms among various groups in North Carolina and the United States (e.g. enslaved people, women, wage earners, landless farmers, American Indians, African Americans and other ethnic groups).*

8.G.1.1 - *Explain how location and place have presented opportunities and challenges for the movement of people, goods, and ideas in North Carolina and the United States.*

Materials Needed: *Individual access to the internet, individual computers/ipads.*

Background Information needed: Students should have a basic understanding of the causes of the Civil War.

How the Lesson Will Flow:

Introduction: (5 minutes) *Question of the Day: If we were to have a war between states, would you fight against your friends/family? How would you feel being asked to do this?*

Students will answer this independently in their notebooks and share with the class as a way to introduce the perspective of Soldiers in the Civil War.

Teacher Input/Guided Work: As a way to review the material, as well as familiarize students with the webtool, myhistro, the teacher will go through the process of creating a myhistro using the events leading up to the civil war. These can include events such as the Missouri Compromise, Mexican American War, Bleeding Kansas, Harper's Ferry Raid, and Lincoln's election. The teacher may choose to have students volunteer to help by approaching the board, and adding an event.

Independent Work: Students are instructed to choose one year from the Civil War (1861-1865) and research major events that took place in the United States during that year. Students should choose 6 events, at least 4 of which must directly relate to the Civil War itself. Students will then use their device (laptop, Ipad, etc.) and the webtool, Myhistro.com, to create a story containing these events. Each event should be accompanied by a photo. Students should link the completed story to the class website, or online student portfolio.

Homework: Using the timeline created through MyHistro, students will take the perspective of a soldier who experienced the war during their chosen year. Students create a letter, written home by their soldier, detailing their experience in the war. Letters should include at least 2 events from the students myhistro, and should describe the feelings and emotions faced by the soldier. Minimum length is one page. These should be posted to the class website, or online student portfolio.

Assessment: *The informal assessment will be the two products created: myhistro story line, and letter home. Students will be graded on the accuracy of their research as well as the inclusion of all minimum requirements.*

Sources for the Lesson: *myhistro.com*