

West Virginia Studies Resource Development

Title of Lesson: War Correspondents- Civil War Battles Behind the Scenes
Grade level: 8th Grade
Summary: Students have recently become journalists for the West Virginia Tellegraph Newspaper. Their editor-in-chief (teacher) has assigned each student journalist to a Union regiment to follow for a time to report on events the armies are engaged in. Students will be writing articles for the paper detailing the events of the battles and skirmishes they witnessed. Students will draw from a selection of battles in West Virginia, then research it on-line. Their articles must contain 200 words or more detailing the number wounded, killed, name of General in charge, what other commissioned officers fought in the battle, name of the battle and its location. Students will also provide a map of western Virginia copied from their text showing counties and place a star on the map where the battle took place, along with the battle name.
WV CCR Social Studies Standards: SS.8.22 Demonstrate an understanding of the American Civil War including its causes, effects, and the major events that led to West Virginia statehood. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Explain the effects of the key events leading to western Virginia's separation from Virginia after secession (e.g., First and Second Wheeling Convention and John Brown's Raid).• Describe the moral, ethical, and legal tensions that led to the creation of the new state of West Virginia and how these tensions were resolved (e.g., Virginia vs. West Virginia).• Compare and Contrast the military strategies of the North and South with regards to specific events and geographic locations in West Virginia (e.g., the Battle of Philippi, Rich Mountain, Droop Mountain, Battle of Scary Creek and Battle of Carnifex Ferry).• Identify significant contributions of men and women of West Virginia during the Civil War and identify the roles of ethnic and racial minorities.
Essential Question (content): <ul style="list-style-type: none">• What happened at: the Battle of Philippi, Battle of Carnifex Ferry, Droop Mountain, Battle of Scary Creek, Battle of Kessler's Cross Lanes, and Rich Mountain?• How many Union soldier's were killed, or wounded?• What Generals were leading the charge, and did they win or lose?• Where was the battle located on a West Virginia map?
Students will be able to do (skills): <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ascertain and understand through research what events took place in the battle they drew?• Students will cite names of Generals, and other commissioned officers who fought in that particular battle.• Students will cite the number of men who were wounded or killed (including the status of the commissioned officers).• Locate and cite the place of battle and the battle's name.• State who won the battle- Union or Confederacy

Materials & Resources:

Resource materials from the local or school library, computers, paper for rough draft or use of Microsoft Word

Learning Plan:

- The teacher will have a list of battles in a container for the students to draw from.
- Students will research their particular battle, looking for number wounded, killed, names of the commissioned officers involved and what General was in charge.
- Once their information is gathered, students will begin their article detailing everything on their list.
- Their article will be in-depth, and must have 200 words or more covering the battle.
- Students then will copy a West Virginia county map from their textbook to indicate the name of the battle and show its location with a star.

Checking for Understanding:

- Teacher will rephrase the assignment in question form.
- Students will repeat the assignment.
- Teacher will walk around the room, checking student's reference materials and notes

Accommodations:

- Below average students may be paired with another student to complete the assignment or may have additional time to complete on their own.
- Gifted or above average students may do additional research and add more information to their article, go further in-depth in their research, or add an additional element to the assignment.