

## West Virginia Studies Resource Development

<b>Title of Lesson: Robert E. Lee in West Virginia</b>
<b>Grade level:</b> <b>8<sup>th</sup> Grade</b>
<b>Summary:</b>  Through this lesson, students will learn about the experiences of Robert E. Lee in West Virginia during the Civil War. Students will learn about the battles/conflicts Lee participated in throughout the region. Students will understand Lee's successes or failures in West Virginia during the Civil War. Further, students will compare Lee's record as a commanding officer in the early years of the Civil War vs. the latter years.
<b>WV CCR Social Studies Standards:</b>  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"><li>• Explain the effect of key events leading to western Virginia's separation from Virginia after secession (e.g., First and Second Wheeling Conventions and John Brown's Raid).</li><li>• 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 1871).</li><li>• Compare and contrast the military strategies of the North and South with regard 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).</li><li>• Identify significant contributions of men and women of West Virginia during the Civil War and identify the roles of ethnic and racial minorities.</li></ul>
<b>Essential Question (content):</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- In what battles did Robert E. Lee fight in West Virginia during the Civil War?</li><li>- Could Lee's actions in West Virginia be considered a failure or success?</li><li>- What is the legacy of Robert E. Lee in West Virginia during the Civil War?</li></ul>
<b>Students will be able to do (skills):</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Identify the battles of the Northwest Virginia Campaign in the Civil War</li><li>- Understand the role of Robert E. Lee in West Virginia</li><li>- Identify Lee's successes and failures in West Virginia during the Civil War</li></ul>
<b>Materials &amp; Resources:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- <b>Robert E. Lee Article from WV e-Encyclopedia</b> <a href="https://www.wvencyclopedia.org/articles/1340">https://www.wvencyclopedia.org/articles/1340</a></li><li>- <b>"General R.E. Lee's Northwest Virginia Campaign"</b> <a href="http://archive.wvculture.org/history/journal_wvh/wvh5-1.html">http://archive.wvculture.org/history/journal_wvh/wvh5-1.html</a></li><li>- <b>Civil War in 4 Video on Robert E. Lee</b> <a href="https://www.battlefields.org/learn/videos/robert-e-lee">https://www.battlefields.org/learn/videos/robert-e-lee</a></li><li>- <b>Battles of the Northwest Virginia Campaign Chart</b></li><li>- <b>Mobile Computer Lab</b></li><li>- <b>WV e-Encyclopedia Articles on the battles of the Northwest Virginia Campaign</b></li></ul>

**Learning Plan:**

1. Students will begin the lesson by viewing a Civil War in 4 video from the American Battlefield Trust on Robert E. Lee.
2. Next, students will discuss the battles of the Northwest Virginia campaign (i.e. those battles which took place in present day West Virginia).
3. Students will then read the article from wvculture.org about Lee and the Northwest Virginia campaign to gain more information about the events of the campaign.
4. Students will be given a brief chart and map to complete detailing the battles of the campaign. This chart will include information on the date of the battle, its location, casualties, victor, etc. Students will utilize a mobile computer lab or computer lab to complete the chart with a partner.
5. After completing the chart, students will answer a series of questions which will require analysis of the data in the chart as well as the map of the battles.
6. Students will then write a letter from Robert E. Lee to Confederate president Jefferson Davis summarizing the campaign and its success or failure. Students will be required to defend Lee's actions in the conflicts and argue for his continued command of the Army of Northern Virginia.

**Checking for Understanding:**

Students will demonstrate their comprehension of the role of Robert E. Lee in the Northwest Virginia campaign through their completion of the analysis questions related to the chart, as well as the information used to reinforce the arguments of their letters to Jefferson Davis about Lee's command. Students will also participate in class discussions on the material which will further serve to demonstrate their comprehension of the material to the instructor.

**Accommodations:**

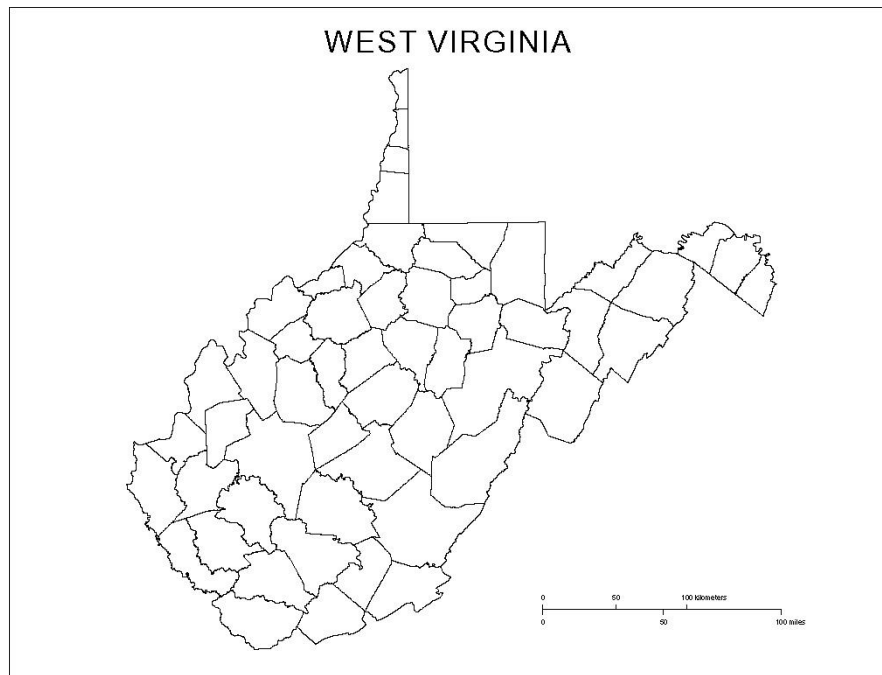
Accommodations for this lesson may include providing students with a completed chart to use to answer the analysis questions as opposed to asking students to research the answers. Students may also be assigned to work with a partner to complete the letter writing assignment. Advanced students could be asked to complete an alternative writing assignment. Students could be asked to take a side as to whether Lee should have retained his command after the campaign in western Virginia and argue their respective side through arguments backed with evidence. This would allow students to form their own opinions and draw conclusions about the leadership abilities of Robert E. Lee.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

### Battles of the Northwest Virginia Campaign Analysis Chart

**Directions:** Using the WV e-Encyclopedia and other Internet sources, complete the chart below on the battles of the Northwest Virginia campaign and label the locations on the map below. Then, using the chart and map, complete the accompanying analysis questions with complete sentence answers.

	Battle	Date	Location	Outcome	Union Casualties	Confederate Casualties	Lee's Actions in Battle
1	Philippi						
2	Rich Mountain						
3	Corrick's Ford						
4	Kessler's Cross Lanes						
5	Carnifax Ferry						
6	Cheat Mountain						
7	Greenbrier River						
8	Camp Allegheny						



1. **Identify the largest and the smallest conflicts of the Northwest Virginia Campaign. What were the casualties of these battles?**

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2. **Drawing your own conclusions from the chart and map, why do you think these battles were fought in West Virginia? What do you notice about the time frame of the battles? Why is this significant?**

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3. **Using the information from the WV e-Encyclopedia articles and various other resources, why do you think Robert E. Lee was not successful in western Virginia? Do you think he learned anything which shaped his future command decisions as general of the Confederate Army? Provide examples to support your answer.**

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