

Brunswick School Department
Social Studies
Grade 8 Civil War

Unit Overview

This unit will cover basic historical facts of the Civil War such as important battles and key leaders and military personnel. It will also delve into deeper themes such as how does conflict lead to innovation, and what were the effects of the prolonged war on the political and social structures of the time. Primary and secondary sources will be used.

Essential Understandings

The outcome of the Civil War was affected by the interaction of people, places, and events.

Priority Standards and Performance Indicators

(as based on the Maine Learning Results)

P.S. SS-4 Utilize concepts and processes from geography to understand issues involving people, places, and environments in the United States and the world.

- c. Use the geographic grid and a variety of types of maps to identify geographic information.
- d. Describe the dynamic relationship between geographic features and various cultures, including the cultures of Maine Native Americans, various historical groups in the United States, and other cultures in the world.

P.S.SS-5 Draw on concepts and processes from history to develop historical perspective and understand issues of continuity and change in the community, Maine, the United States, and world.

- a. Explain that history is the study of the written record of the past, based on available evidence from a variety of sources.
- c. Identify and analyze major historical eras, major enduring themes, turning points, events, consequences, and people in the history of Maine, the United States and various regions of the world.

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Examples of Formative / Summative Assessments

- Write numerous letters about Civil War events from the point of view of a participant. (i.e... soldier, nurse, doctor, spy, camp follower, photographer, newspaper correspondent, artist, family member, etc.)
- Open Note Test over Civil War notes
- Identify leaders of the era and their significant contributions
- Analyze a speech (Emancipation Proclamation, Gettysburg Address)
- Locate key battles on a map
- Describe the many hardships the Union and Confederacy faced during the war both on and off the battlefields

Sample Texts and Materials/Resources

- Publications:
 - American: A History of Our Nation - Prentice Hall
 - War, Terrible War, by Joy Hakim
 - Battles of the Civil War, by Daniel Rosen (PRIME Social Studies)
 - Bivouac with the Dead by Joshua Chamberlain
 - The Greatest Civil War Battles, by Frank Coffin and Jana Martin
- Video:
 - “America, The Story of Us”