

A House Divided

Money of THE Civil War

MIDDLE GRADE LESSON PLAN

Far from Home

The Civil War was a growing experience for many young men. Boys who had never traveled more than twenty miles from home, were now men, fighting for a cause hundreds of miles away.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this lesson is to help students understand how the Civil War changed the lives of most Americans.

GOALS

At the end of this lesson, students will be able to:

- List the differences between Union, Confederate and Border states.
- Write a historical fiction letter home using Civil War facts mixed with fictional characters.
- Design three pieces of paper currency.
- Describe the economy of the North and South during the Civil War.

BACKGROUND

Even though the Civil War began almost 150 years ago, the central issues of racial justice and states' rights are still with us today. Most students have only a cursory knowledge of the Civil War and the people involved. This is a shame; historian Shelby Foote believed, the war defined us in a way that no other event could.

Students learn best when they are allowed to personalize an activity. This lesson provides a background of knowledge that is crucial for an understanding of the Civil War. The next step involves a creative writing exercise that will allow students to gain a deeper understanding of the effects of the war.

Far from Home *(continued)*

MATERIALS NEEDED

1. Political map of the United States and Confederacy.
2. Map question sheet.
3. Economic worksheet.

INTRODUCTION

Ask students to recall the farthest they have been away from home. Have students explain what it was like to be so far from home. Were they anxious, excited, scared or lonely? Did the students view their home any differently once they returned?

STUDENT ACTIVITIES

1. Students will complete the map provided by labeling and shading Union states one color, border states a second color and Confederate states a third.
2. Students will complete the map direction sheet provided.
3. Students will design a piece of paper money from a Union state, a border state and a Confederate state. The notes must have a motto appropriate to the state, a date and denomination. Designs on the note should reflect the state's involvement in the war. Students are encouraged to look at examples of paper currency printed at that time.
4. Students will complete the Civil War Economy worksheet.
5. Students will read the letter from Sullivan Ballou. Students will compose a letter to a friend or family member from the vantage point of a soldier, doctor, nurse, spy, etc., describing their thoughts and feelings while engaged in war.

CONCLUSION

Lead a discussion with students about the advantages and disadvantages of being alive during the 1860s. Be sure to bring up issues such as medicine, travel/communication, careers and social customs.

INTERNET RESOURCE

Websites: <http://docsouth.unc.edu/imls/currency/civilmain.html>
www.rebelstatescurrency.com/page8.html
www.pbs.org/civilwar/war/ballou_letter.html

Map Directions

A map of the United States at the start of the Civil War is much different than a map of the United States today.

By using the categories of states found below, follow the directions for the map and worksheet.

UNION STATES		CONFEDERATE STATES	BORDER STATES
California	New Hampshire	Alabama	Delaware
Connecticut	New Jersey	Arkansas	Kentucky
Illinois	New York	Florida	Maryland
Indiana	Ohio	Georgia	Missouri
Iowa	Oregon	Louisiana	
Kansas	Pennsylvania	Mississippi	
Maine	Rhode Island	North Carolina	
Massachusetts	Vermont	South Carolina	
Michigan	Wisconsin	Tennessee	
Minnesota		Texas	
Nevada		Virginia	

DIRECTIONS: Label each of the states on the map.

Shade the Union states one color, the Confederate states a second color and the border states a third color.

Please answer the following questions.

1. Border states were states where slavery still existed yet they remained in the Union. Of the four border states, which one do you think was most important for President Lincoln to hold on to? Why?
2. What did all of the existing states west of Texas have in common?
3. Two territories achieved statehood during the Civil War. Which two states were admitted?
4. The Union plan for defeating the Confederacy involved capturing a river that would divide the Confederacy in two. What river did the Union want to capture? (Hint: It feeds into the Gulf of Mexico.)

Map Directions *(continued)*

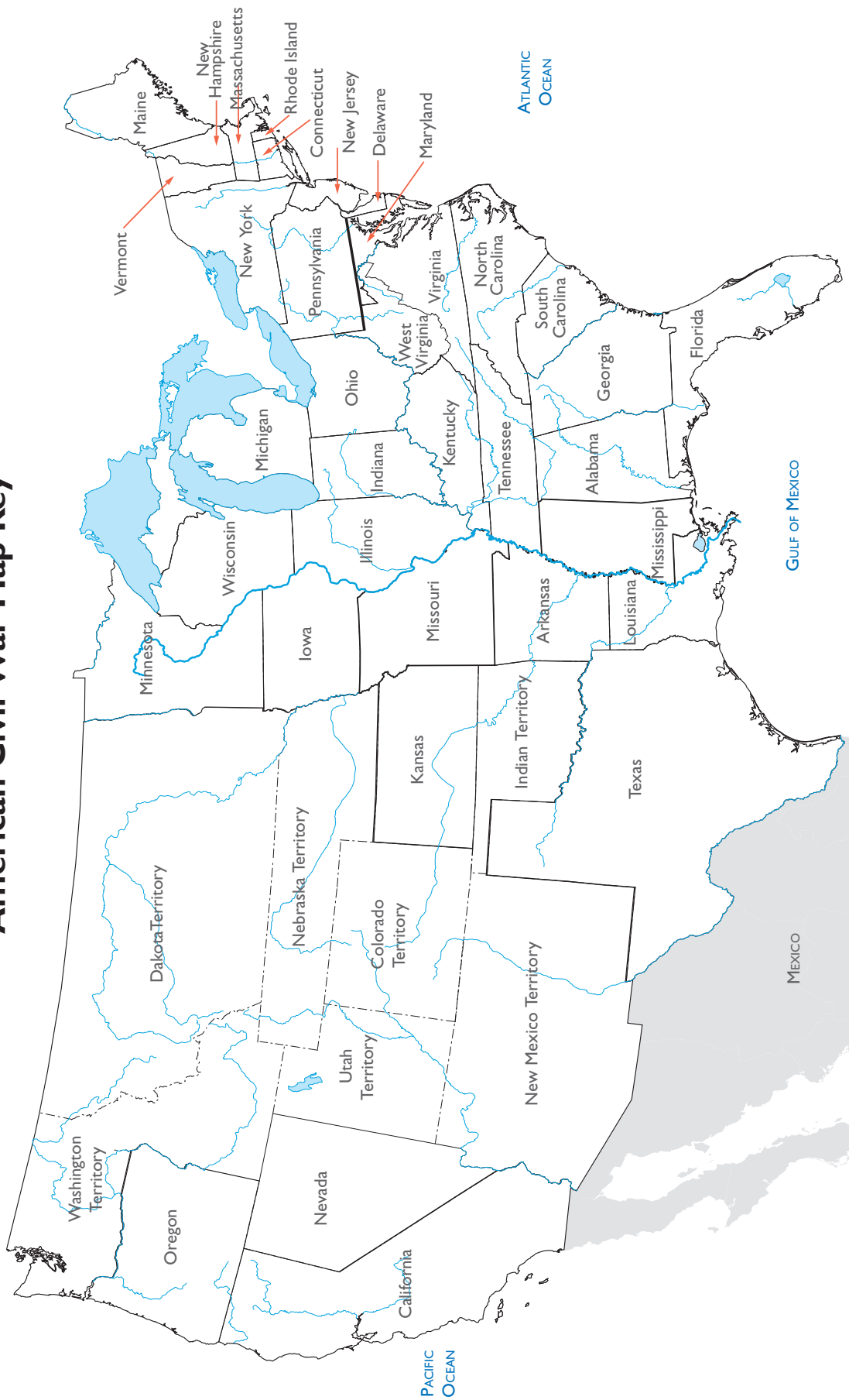
5. A small skirmish took place in a tiny town in New England named St. Albans. In which state would you find St. Albans? (Hint: Presidents Calvin Coolidge and Chester Arthur were born there.)

6. The Mason-Dixon Line symbolizes the area where cultural differences between the Northern United States and the Southern United States occur. Between which two states was the Mason-Dixon Line drawn?

American Civil War Map



American Civil War Map Key



Economic Worksheet

The Union states had a very different economy than that of the South. Many Union states had large cities with factories while the South was still primarily an agrarian society. Southern farmers depended on selling their crops and buying their goods from England and to a lesser extent, other European countries.

DIRECTIONS: Please answer the following questions using complete sentences. (Except for the first question)

1. To conduct war, a successful army requires manufactured goods. Make a list of at least 10 manufactured items that you think were used during the Civil War.
2. Would the North's industrial society or the South's agrarian society have the advantage in producing the items listed above?
3. Part of the North's plan to win the war involved blockading southern ports. How would this hurt the South's economy?
4. As the war continued, the Confederate government printed more and more money. Do you think the printing of more money made prices for goods rise, fall, or stay the same? Why?
5. Coins with a face value of 2 cents were first minted during the Civil War. The 2-cent piece was the first coin to have the motto *In God We Trust*. Why do you think this motto appears on a coin minted during the Civil War?

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