The Save Our History Educator’s Manual

Curriculum Links to State History and Social Studies Standards in Georgia

Social studies standards from each state have been adapted and aligned to Save Our History lesson plans by Susan Ganley, Social Science Education Faculty, University of South Florida.

The Save Our History lesson plans and activities focusing on “The Civil War” are inclusive of NCSS Performance Standards and fulfill many of the objectives of National Standards for History guidelines as recommended by the National Council for History Education. In addition, the activities connect with many state history and social studies standards. The information below provides a guide for using these activities to achieve the recommendations of these performance and skill standards. For further standards matching, we recommend that you consult the curriculum goals outlined by your state or school district.

Elementary Lesson Plan
The focus of these activities is to build an understanding of the Civil War as a “turning point” in history and one that affirmed that Americans would continue to be citizens of the United States.

Elementary Activity #1 Categorizing to Build Understanding
This activity is appropriate for intermediate and upper elementary levels. The students will either brainstorm or be provided with a list of people, events, dates and documents associated with the Civil War. These words will become the building blocks of historical knowledge as they categorize them, justify this categorization, further research the background of the vocabulary, share this with the whole class and finally give a category a topic name to further research and summarize.

Historical Understandings
SS3H2 The student will discuss the lives of Americans who expanded people’s rights and freedoms in a democracy.

SS4H7 The student will examine the main ideas of the abolitionist and suffrage movements.

SS5H1 The student will explain the causes, major events, and consequences of the Civil War.

SS5H2 The student will analyze the effects of Reconstruction on American life.

Government/Civic Understandings
SS2CG3 The student will give examples of how the historical figures under study demonstrate the positive citizenship traits of honesty, dependability, liberty, trustworthiness, honor, civility, good sportsmanship, patience, and compassion.
SS4CG5 The student will name positive character traits of key historic figures and government leaders (honesty, patriotism, courage, trustworthiness).

Elementary Activity #2 Remembering and Honoring
This activity is appropriate for all elementary levels. The activity includes a focus on the monuments and memorials that have been built throughout the United States, and the battlefields that have been transformed into parks to remember the Civil War. Elementary students will design a monument for a local hero while older students will work in groups to gather details of monuments of their choosing.

Historical Understandings
SS3H2 The student will discuss the lives of Americans who expanded people’s rights and freedoms in a democracy.

SS4H7 The student will examine the main ideas of the abolitionist and suffrage movements.

SS5H1 The student will explain the causes, major events, and consequences of the Civil War.

SS5H2 The student will analyze the effects of Reconstruction on American life.

Elementary Activity #3 Abraham Lincoln
This elementary level activity has as its focus Abraham Lincoln. Using related literature, they will find stories of Lincoln’s life and identify the qualities that a good leader needs. They will then give examples of the leadership qualities of Lincoln during the Civil War.

Historical Understandings
SS3H2 The student will discuss the lives of Americans who expanded people’s rights and freedoms in a democracy.

SS4H7 The student will examine the main ideas of the abolitionist and suffrage movements.

SS5H1 The student will explain the causes, major events, and consequences of the Civil War.

Government/Civic Understandings
SS2CG3 The student will give examples of how the historical figures under study demonstrate the positive citizenship traits of honesty, dependability, liberty, trustworthiness, honor, civility, good sportsmanship, patience, and compassion.

SS4CG5 The student will name positive character traits of key historic figures and government leaders (honesty, patriotism, courage, trustworthiness).

Elementary Activity #4 The Gettysburg Address: Myths and Meanings
This intermediate and upper elementary activity asks students to review The Gettysburg Address and explore the myths and facts related to the speech, the meaning of the speech, why the document remains important today, and where and how the original copy is preserved.

**Historical Understandings**
SS3H2 The student will discuss the lives of Americans who expanded people’s rights and freedoms in a democracy.

SS5H1 The student will explain the causes, major events, and consequences of the Civil War.

**Government/Civic Understandings**
SS2CG3 The student will give examples of how the historical figures under study demonstrate the positive citizenship traits of honesty, dependability, liberty, trustworthiness, honor, civility, good sportsmanship, patience, and compassion.

SS4CG5 The student will name positive character traits of key historic figures and government leaders (honesty, patriotism, courage, trustworthiness).

**Middle School Lesson Plan**
The focus of these activities is to build an understanding of the Civil War as a “turning point” in history and one that affirmed that Americans would continue to be citizens of the United States.

**Middle School Activity #1 The Battle of Antietam: Is a Picture Worth a Thousand Words?**
Students will view a group of three document sets by individuals that attempted to record the magnitude of destruction and suffering that took place at Antietam. Through analysis of these visuals, the students will respond and react to the power of the picture.

**Grade 8 Georgia Studies**
**Historical Understandings**

SS8H6 The student will analyze the impact of the Civil War and Reconstruction on Georgia.

**Middle School Activity #2 Lincoln’s Legacy: Was the Civil War a “New Birth of Freedom”?**
Each individual student will analyze the Emancipation Proclamation and the Gettysburg Address. Small groups will then compare and contrast the two documents. Finally a Venn diagram will synthesize the group interpretations of the significance and legacy of these primary documents.

**Grade 8 Georgia Studies**
Historical Understandings

SS8H6 The student will analyze the impact of the Civil War and Reconstruction on Georgia.

Middle School Activity #3 Was the Life of a Civil War Soldier “99 Percent Boredom and 1 Percent Terror”? Students are to put themselves in the role of the soldier fighting in the Civil War in this activity. Through recording in their diary their decisions and thoughts and feelings, of a Union soldier, they will do the same as a Confederate soldier seeing the war through both perspectives.

Grade 8 Georgia Studies
Historical Understandings

SS8H6 The student will analyze the impact of the Civil War and Reconstruction on Georgia.

Middle School Activity #4 Making History Local: What did Great, Great, Great, Great Grandpa Do in the War? In this activity the students will use on-line resources to access a database with millions of records of soldiers and sailors who served in the military during the Civil War. Individual students will research individual soldiers for facts and then as a class this information will be synthesized and discussed as a whole group.

Grade 8 Georgia Studies
Historical Understandings

SS8H6 The student will analyze the impact of the Civil War and Reconstruction on Georgia.

High School Lesson Plan
Through examination from multiple perspectives, the focus of these activities is to build an understanding of the Civil War as a pivotal event in the history, which served to both transform American society and forever redefine democracy in the United States.

High School Activity #1 Major Civil War Battles: How did America’s Backyard Become a Graveyard? This activity asks students to work in small groups to research the Civil War battles. Included in this research will be the dates, locations, military commanders and outcome and significance of each battle. A pie chart will visually illustrate the victory percentage for each side.

United States History
SSUSH9 The student will identify key events, issues, and individuals relating to the causes, course, and consequences of the Civil War.

High School Activity #2 *The First Battle of Bull Run: How Can the Same Event be Viewed Differently?*
Students are assigned the primary documents of three individuals who experienced the Battle of Bull Run. Biographies of these individuals will be written and shared.

**United States History**
SSUSH9 The student will identify key events, issues, and individuals relating to the causes, course, and consequences of the Civil War.

High School Activity #3 *Making History Local: Were any Civil War Battles Fought Here?*
Students will learn that the Civil War was fought in over 10,500 locations around the United States. Through accessing information on these locations, students will summarize the battles that were fought in their area, state, or region of the United States. They will then create a map identifying the locations and a chart that synthesizes the information they found throughout their research.

**United States History**
SSUSH9 The student will identify key events, issues, and individuals relating to the causes, course, and consequences of the Civil War.

High School Activity #4 *Making History Local: What did Great, Great, Great, Great Grandpa Do in the War?*
In this activity the students will use on-line resources to access a database with millions of records of soldiers and sailors who served in the military during the Civil War. Individual students will research individual soldiers for facts and then as a class this information will be synthesized and discussed as a whole group.

**United States History**
SSUSH9 The student will identify key events, issues, and individuals relating to the causes, course, and consequences of the Civil War.