The Civil War

Pre-Visit Lesson

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<th>Grades: 5th &amp; 8th</th>
<th>Class Time Needed: 40 minutes</th>
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**Big Idea**
Students will understand the division that led to the Civil War as well as Maryland’s role as a border state.

**Maryland Curriculum Standards**

**Social Studies Framework**

- Essential Question (5th grade): How did conflicts over slavery result in the Civil War?
- Essential Question (8th grade): How did regional tension challenge national unity?
- Essential Question (8th grade): What factors lead a country to Civil War?

**Materials Needed**

- Civil War Map worksheet (see end of lesson plan)
- Writing & coloring utensils of your choice
- Internet access
- Projection screen

**Teacher Resources**

- Civil War Video Resource (https://youtu.be/VzAtJjDrL2M)
- Informational Resource for Kids on the Civil War (https://www.ducksters.com/history/civil_war.php)
Lesson Procedure

Introduction:

Begin the lesson by establishing any prior knowledge students have about the Civil War. If needed, supplement knowledge with the video in the “Teacher Resources” section to make sure students understand the causes and tensions leading to the Civil War.

Direct Instruction:

Complete the Civil War Map worksheet with students. This can be done by working together as a class with the teacher leading students through instructions or having students complete the map independently (or in pairs/groups). If students are working independently or in groups, come together as a class to review the correct answers at the end of the lesson.

Conclusion:

Using the knowledge developed from the video and map activity, have students participate in the following discussion:

- Why was Maryland an important state during the time of the Civil War?
- Why do you think railroads were an important resource during the Civil War?
- What do we mean when we say Maryland was a “border state?”
- How does the succession of Southern states during the Civil War still affect our nation today?
Civil War and the Railroad Map

Use the railroad track map and the United States Civil War Map to label the items listed below on this map. Don’t forget to make a key for your map!

Your map should include:

1. A line showing the divide between Union and Confederate states.
2. Color in the state of Maryland.
3. The railroad tracks in Maryland, West Virginia and Virginia.
4. The capital of both the Confederacy and the Union.
Southern and Border State Railroad Tracks of the Civil War