Lesson Plans and Resources for *The Civil War*

The book version of *The Civil War* combines extensive primary reports from the era with expert secondary commentary from contemporary scholars.

We strongly encourage teachers to explore some of the audiovisual and multimedia resources that can round out this reading. Thanks to the recent sesquicentennial of the war, a broad range of items are available for educators, often with discussion prompts or full lesson plans attached.

**COMPLETE LESSON PLANS**

*The Civil War Documentary Website*
Comprehensive resources and lesson plans come from the PBS companion website to *The Civil War* miniseries. Many of the following activities have been selected from that larger collection. DVD copies of the documentary are available from the Free Library.

http://www.pbs.org/civilwar/classroom/index.html

*Civil War Trust Lesson Plans*
Over twenty stand-alone lessons for high school students on a wide variety of topics.

http://www.civilwar.org/education/teachers/lesson-plans/

*Case Studies for Students*
Two lesson plans that address the following essential questions:
- How is it possible for different people to interpret an event differently?
- What role do multiple causations play in describing a historic event?

http://www.pacivilwar150.com/ResourcesFor/Students.html

*National Archives Civil War & Reconstruction Lessons*
A series of lesson plans, each one built around one or more artifacts held by the National Archives. Discussion questions and extension activities are included.

http://www.archives.gov/education/lessons/civil-war-reconstruction.html

**RESEARCH & READINGS**

*Civil War Era Literature*
From the National Endowment for the Humanities, an overview of the major authors who lived through and wrote about the war, complete with links to excerpts of their work.

http://edsitement.neh.gov/feature/literature-civil-war

*Civil War Generals*
A database providing write-ups about dozens of generals from both armies.

http://www.historynet.com/civil-war-generals
Data Visualization: Battles and Casualties
An interactive map where students can scroll over different battle sites to read descriptions of each event and look at the related statistics.
http://www.elibrosen.com/civilwar/

The Civil War Educator’s Index
A comprehensive database of facts and figures, pulled mostly from the Library of Congress, as well as lesson plans and activities. Items are sorted and labeled by category and type.
http://www.pacivilwar150.com/ResourcesFor/Teachers/EducatorsIndex.html

Disunion Blog - The New York Times
A four-year project where the newspaper provided background and commentary on the war during the sesquicentennial.
http://opinionator.blogs.nytimes.com/category/disunion/

LOCAL CONNECTIONS

Civil War Philadelphia and its Countryside
A comprehensive website built in honor of the 150th anniversary of the civil war. Education page includes a list of relevant online resources as well as historical sites and museums in the area.
http://www.civilwarphilly.net/education.html

The Civil War in Philadelphia
A written overview of how the war affected our city in different ways — Lincoln's presence, the African American community, the medical contribution, and more. Includes a gallery of relevant images.
http://www.civilwarphilly.net/findingaids/cwphila.html

PA Civil War 150
A state-wide collection of resources built in honor of the anniversary of the war. Includes an interactive timeline, artifact showcase,
http://www.pacivilwar150.com

MULTIMEDIA

Telling Details
http://www.pbs.org/civilwar/cwimages/tellingDetails/flash.html
Explore the details within each archival image. Click on the highlights in each image to learn more about the places, battles and daily life of the Civil War.

Civil War Video Maker: Telling A Story
http://www.pbs.org/civilwar/cwimages/tellingStory/flash.html
In *The Civil War*, Ken Burns used archival images as an important storytelling tool. Try telling a story by mixing archival images, narration and music. Then email your "movie" to a friend.

**National Archives - Pictures of the Civil War**  
[http://www.archives.gov/research/military/civil-war/photos/](http://www.archives.gov/research/military/civil-war/photos/)  
Select photographs from the military records of the Library of Congress.