



GOAL 6 | LESSON PLAN | MIDDLE SCHOOL

## 1863: Shifting Tides

**GRADES:** Middle School

**APPROXIMATE LENGTH OF TIME:** 50 minutes

**GOAL:** Students will be able to discuss the effects of the battles of Gettysburg and Vicksburg, paying particular attention to the Gettysburg Address.

**OBJECTIVES:**

1. Students will be able to create a timeline of events leading up to the Battle of Gettysburg.
2. Students will be able to discuss the effects of the Union victories at Gettysburg and Vicksburg.
3. After reading the Gettysburg Address, students will be able to summarize the content.

**COMMON CORE:**

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RH.6-8.2

Determine the central ideas or information of a primary or secondary source; provide an accurate summary of the source distinct from prior knowledge or opinions.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RH.6-8.6

Identify aspects of a text that reveal an author's point of view or purpose (e.g., loaded language, inclusion or avoidance of particular facts).

**NCSS STANDARDS FOR SOCIAL STUDIES:**

- 1—Culture
- 2—Time, Continuity, and Change
- 3—People, Places, and Environment
- 5—Individuals, Groups, and Institutions
- 6—Power, Authority, and Governance
- 10—Civics, Ideals, and Practices

**MATERIALS:**

1. Shifting Tide PowerPoint
2. Shifting Tides Timeline and Map
3. Shifting Tides Timeline Teacher Version
4. Highlighters
5. The Gettysburg Address

## 6. The Gettysburg Address Questions

**PROCEDURE:**

Print out the PowerPoint with notes prior to class. There are notes included with the slides that will be on the printed slides, but won't be seen by your students during the presentation.

## Activity 1

1. Use the *Shifting Tides PowerPoint* to guide the lesson.
2. Hand out the *Shifting Tides Timeline and Map*, copied back to back.
3. Allow students a few minutes to fill in the timeline.
4. Begin the PowerPoint. Students will fill in battle information on their maps throughout the presentation.

## Activity 2

1. When you arrive at The Gettysburg Address in the PowerPoint presentation, pass out *The Gettysburg Address* and read it as a class.
2. Hand out *The Gettysburg Address Questions*; review the discussion questions
3. Give students time to answer the questions independently.

**CLOSURE:**

1. Why do you think Americans feel that The Gettysburg Address still speaks to them today? Do you think this is an eternal document? Why?

**ASSESSMENT IN THIS LESSON:**

1. Completed *Shifting Tides Timeline and Map*
2. Completed *The Gettysburg Address Questions*
3. Informal assessment through the closure questions



## Shifting Tides Timeline and Map

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Timeline:

Put the following events in chronological order along the timeline.

Date	Battle Name	Winner
Sept. 17, 1862	Antietam, a.k.a. Sharpsburg, MD	
April 12–13, 1861	Attack on Fort Sumter, SC	
April 30–May 6, 1863	Chancellorsville, VA	
Feb. 6–16, 1862	Fort Henry/Fort Donelson, TN	
Dec. 13, 1862	Fredericksburg, VA	
July 1–3, 1863	Gettysburg, PA	
March–June, 1862	Jackson's Valley Campaign, VA	
July 21, 1861	First Manassas, a.k.a. Bull Run, VA	
August 28–30, 1862	Second Manassas, a.k.a. Second Bull Run, VA	
Oct. 8, 1862	Perryville, KY	
April 6–7, 1862	Shiloh, a.k.a. Pittsburg Landing, TN	
May 18–July 4, 1863	Siege of Vicksburg, MS	
Dec. 31, 1862–Jan. 2, 1863	Stones River, a.k.a. Murfreesboro, TN	

Tally the battle victories:

Union	Confederate

Map Key: Fill-in the squares with the highlighter colors you use.

U.S.A. Victory

C.S.A Victory





**Battles of the Civil War  
1861- 1863**

[www.civilwar.org](http://www.civilwar.org)

The Civil War Trust



## Shifting Tides Timeline and Map (Teacher Version)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Timeline:

Put the following events in chronological order along the timeline.

Tally the battle victories:

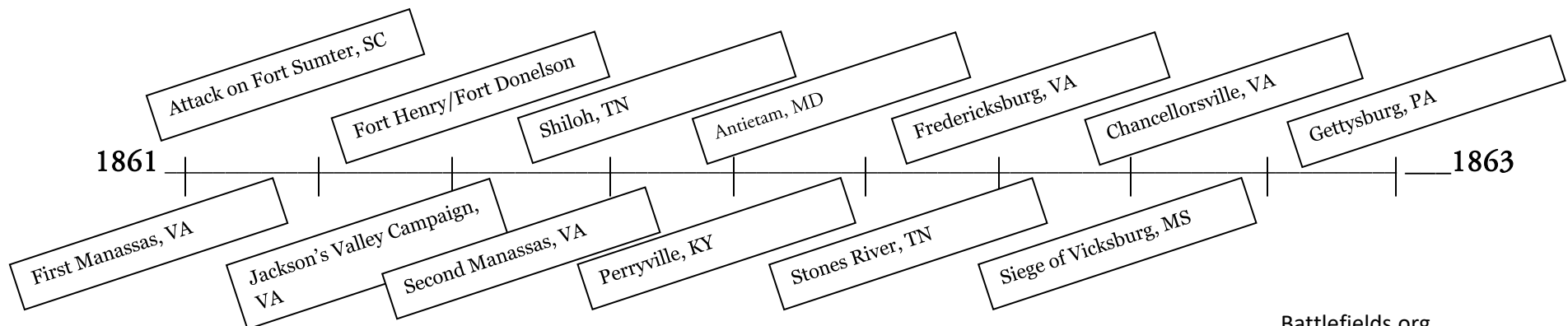
Date	Battle Name	Winner
Sept. 17, 1862	Antietam, a.k.a. Sharpsburg, MD	USA
April 12–13, 1861	Attack on Fort Sumter, SC	CSA
April 30–May 6, 1863	Chancellorsville, VA	CSA
Feb. 6–16, 1862	Fort Henry/Fort Donelson, TN	USA
Dec. 13, 1862	Fredericksburg, VA	CSA
July 1–3, 1863	Gettysburg, PA	USA
March–June, 1862	Jackson's Valley Campaign, VA	CSA
July 21, 1861	First Manassas, a.k.a. Bull Run, VA	CSA
August 28–30, 1862	Second Manassas, a.k.a. Second Bull Run, VA	USA
Oct. 8, 1862	Perryville, KY	USA
April 6–7, 1862	Shiloh, a.k.a. Pittsburg Landing, TN	USA
May. 18–July 4 1863	Siege of Vicksburg, MS	USA
Dec. 31, 1862–Jan. 2, 1863	Stones River, a.k.a. Murfreesboro, TN	USA

Union	Confederate
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Map Key: Fill-in the squares with the colors you use.

U.S.A. Victory

C.S.A Victory





## The Gettysburg Address

November 19, 1863

*Abraham Lincoln gave the Gettysburg Address during the dedication of the cemetery for Union soldiers who fought and died in the Battle of Gettysburg. In the address, Lincoln expressed the great need for Americans to remember the sacrifice made by these soldiers.*

Four score and seven years ago our fathers brought forth on this continent a new nation, conceived in liberty and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal.

Now we are engaged in a great civil war, testing whether that nation or any nation so conceived and so dedicated can long endure. We are met on a great battlefield of that war. We have come to dedicate a portion of that field as a final resting-place for those who here gave their lives that that nation might live. It is altogether fitting and proper that we should do this. But in a larger sense, we cannot dedicate, we cannot consecrate, we cannot hallow this ground. The brave men, living and dead who struggled here have consecrated it far above our poor power to add or detract. The world will little note nor long remember what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here. It is for us the living rather to be dedicated here to the unfinished work which they who fought here have thus far so nobly advanced.

It is rather for us to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us—that from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave the last full measure of devotion—that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain, that this nation under God shall have a new birth of freedom, and that government of the people, by the people, for the people shall not perish from the earth.



## The Gettysburg Address Questions

1. Why do you think Lincoln started out talking about the past and our fathers?

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2. For what cause(s) did President Lincoln believe the U.S. soldiers were fighting during the American Civil War? Provide a quote from the document.

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3. According to Lincoln, how does a nation make sure that free governments (democracies) “shall not perish from the earth”?

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4. According to Lincoln, what do the American people have to do to make sure that the U.S. soldiers who were killed at Gettysburg (and other battlefields) had not died “in vain”?

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5. What do you think Lincoln meant by the phrase “...government of the people, by the people, for the people...”?

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