

Vicksburg Virtual Field Trip Lesson Plan

GRADE LEVELS: All

APPROXIMATE LENGTH OF TIME

2-3 hours, depending on how many supplemental materials you choose to incorporate.

GOAL

To virtually explore the history of Vicksburg via video, primary and secondary sources and classroom discussion.

OBJECTIVES

Upon completion of this lesson, the students will be able to:

1. Knowledge
 - a. Students will be able to identify important locations and historic events in Vicksburg.
2. Comprehension / Application / Analysis
 - a. Read primary source documents.
 - b. Summarize findings by writing an original creative piece.
3. Evaluation
 - a. Evaluate and discuss some of the key locations and historic moments in and around Vicksburg, Mississippi.

INSTRUCTIONS

Before class, look through the supplemental videos, articles and lesson plans to decide which you want to utilize alongside the Virtual Field Trip. Show students the Virtual Field Trip Video and have them answer the multiple-choice question worksheet (while watching or after the video). Utilize the discussion questions after watching the video.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Have you ever visited this city or any of its historic sites?
- Which site would you like to visit and why?
- What role did this city have during the American Civil War?
- What was your favorite site the video visited and why?
- Is there a site or subject from the video you'd like to know more about?
- Was there something you didn't understand about the video? What was that?

ACTIVITIES

1. Watch some or all the [Vicksburg Virtual Field Trip video](#). (Some classes might like to fill out the Video Question Quiz Worksheet while watching the video.)
2. Conduct a group discussion utilizing the discussion questions.
3. Have the students complete the [Video Question Quiz Worksheet](#).
 - a. If the entire Virtual Tour video was watched, have the students complete all of it.
 - b. If only some of the Virtual Tour video was viewed, the students can complete the relevant sections.
4. Have the students complete the following exercise utilizing primary and secondary sources to influence a creative piece.
 - a. Have students read one of the following primary source(s):
 - i. ["Would Dig Our Ditch About Four Feet Wide"](#) or [Vicksburg: "Either by Charge or by Siege"](#) or [Vicksburg: "Our Fate Seems To Stare Us In The Face"](#)
 - ii. [Vicksburg: "The Cave We Inhabited"](#)
 - iii. [Vicksburg: "The Yazoo Was Full of Torpedoes"](#) or [Vicksburg: "The Total Loss of the Gunboat Cairo"](#)
 - b. Then, have them draw a scene as described in the primary source and in the video for the corresponding bullet point:
 - i. An army trench or earthwork as seen in the large diorama of the Siege.
 - ii. A cave-dwelling that civilians lived in during the Siege.
 - iii. A gunboat like the USS Cairo.
 - c. Have them show their drawing to the class in a short presentation.
5. Complete an optional exercise.

STANDARDS

Please visit the [Lesson Plan Page](#) and select the "Common Core and NCSS Standards for Social Studies" to view the details.

RESOURCES

Visit the [Lesson Plan Page](#) to find all resources in one convenient place. You'll find everything mentioned or linked in this Lesson Plan along with additional videos, articles, primary sources, maps, and biographies.

Quick Links

- [Vicksburg Virtual Field Trip \(Video\)](#)
- [Video Question Quiz Worksheet](#)

OPTIONAL EXERCISES / HOMEWORK / ASSESSMENT / ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES:

OPTION #1: Break students into small groups and assign one or two chapters of the video for each group to watch. Have the groups only watch their assigned sections. After viewing, have the small groups present what they learned to the class.

OPTION #2: Have students research one aspect of the video that piqued their interest. They can prepare a 500-word paper or present their findings to the class in the form of an in-person or video presentation.

OPTION #3: Show students the photograph of Shirley House during the Siege of Vicksburg in 1863. Lead a discussion about the photograph utilizing the questions provided. Both are found [here](#).

OPTION #4: Have students read this [article from American Battlefield Trust](#). Have students search for a monument at Vicksburg National Military Park at [Monuments and Markers Database](#). Once they have chosen a monument at Vicksburg, instruct them to sketch it and write a brief description of it.

OPTION #5: Students will pick five items that are either featured or in the background of the Virtual Field Trip video to put in a time capsule that will tell Vicksburg's historic story.

- a) Time Capsule Summary: Time capsules are containers that hold historical information often about a specific period of time, place, or person. This information could be in the form of documents or objects, such as photographs, ticket stubs or toys. Time capsules are a representation of what is happening in the present day for those that open it in the future.
- b) Pick five items that you saw in the video that helps tell Vicksburg's historic story. Write a sentence or two for each artifact about why its historically important and what it tells about Vicksburg's historic story.

Teacher Preparation – If you're watching the Virtual Tour, then visiting Vicksburg in-person:

Visiting Vicksburg will be a memorable experience for you and your class. We want it to be memorable for the right reasons...not logistical headaches! Here are a few helpful tips as you prepare to use this lesson plan and begin your explorations.

TEACHING TIPS

1. Download the American Battlefield Trust's FREE [Vicksburg Battle App](#)
2. Check out this tour itinerary for more ideas:
 - a. [Tour the Vicksburg Battlefield in One Day | American Battlefield Trust](#)
 - b. [Tour Vicksburg in Three Days | American Battlefield Trust](#)
3. Contact any sites or museums that you plan to visit.
4. Consider if you would like to hire a local guide to help you and your students explore the local history and the city! There are many buses and walking tour guides available.
5. Print any resources that you will want on paper – like maps or photographs.
6. Pre-watch any videos that you don't want to pre-download for the day.

MAPS

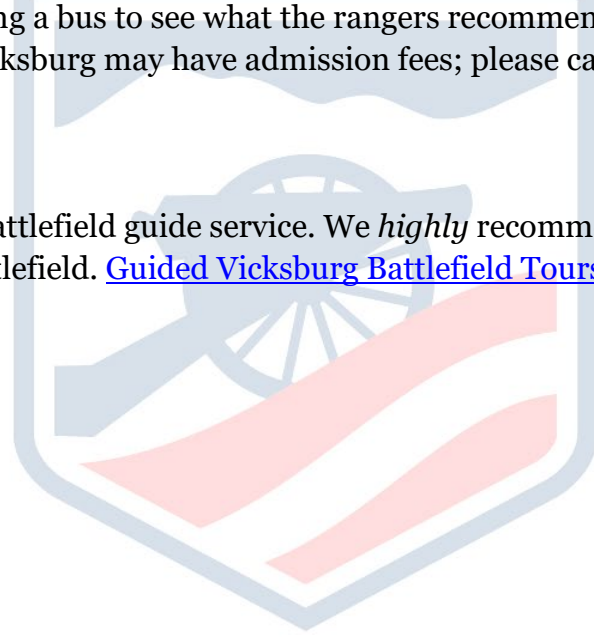
- Print or download our tour map:
 - [Tour the Vicksburg Battlefield in One Day - Google My Maps](#)
 - [Tour Vicksburg in Three Days - Google My Maps](#)

Vicksburg National Military Park

- There are various [entrance fees](#) to visit Vicksburg National Military Park. We recommend calling ahead if bringing a bus to see what the rangers recommend.
- Other museums in Vicksburg may have admission fees; please call or check their websites for group rates.

BATTLEFIELD GUIDES

Vicksburg offers a licensed battlefield guide service. We *highly* recommend hiring a guide to take you and your class across the battlefield. [Guided Vicksburg Battlefield Tours](#).



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