GOAL 2 | LESSON PLAN | MIDDLE SCHOOL

1861: The Country Goes to War

GRADES: Middle School

APPROXIMATE LENGTH OF TIME: 50 minutes

GOAL: Students will be able to explain the state of the nation and list the sequence of events leading to the Civil War.

OBJECTIVES:

1. Students will be able to complete a timeline of events from the election of Lincoln to the First Battle of Manassas.
2. After reading primary source documents from leaders and from citizens, students will be able to discuss how individuals felt about the coming war.
3. Students will be able to identify the Southern states, Northern states, and border states on a map of the United States.

COMMON CORE:

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RH.6-8.1
Cite specific textual evidence to support analysis of primary and secondary sources.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.6.7
Integrate information presented in different media or formats (e.g., visually, quantitatively) as well as in words to develop a coherent understanding of a topic or issue.

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. Entrance Pass
2. The Country Goes to War PowerPoint
3. The Country Goes to War PowerPoint Student Note Sheet
4. The Country Goes to War PowerPoint Student Note Sheet (Teacher Version)
5. 1860 U.S. Map Worksheet
6. Labeled 1860 U.S. Map (for teacher use)
7. Pencils in 3 Different Colors
8. Exit Pass

ANTICIPATORY SET/HOOK

Using the Entrance Pass, have students provide three significant events or developments that led up to the American Civil War.

PROCEDURE:

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

Activity 1

1. Hand out The Country Goes to War PowerPoint Student Note Sheet.
2. Present The Country Goes to War PowerPoint.
3. The students should complete the note sheet during the presentation.

Activity 2

1. Hand out the 1860 U.S. Map Worksheet and have students fill in the Northern states, Southern states, and border states using different colors as a class. See Labeled 1860 U.S. Map as a guide.
2. Have the students answer the follow-up question.

CLOSURE:

1. Have students watch the In4 Video, Union with Dr. Gary Gallagher.
2. Discuss why the idea of Union was so important.
3. Revisit why South Carolina left.
4. Discussion Question or Journal Question: What are some of the reasons why the war broke out?

ASSESSMENT IN THIS LESSON:

1. Entrance Pass completed with three events or developments that pushed the United States toward civil war.
2. A completed The Country Goes to War PowerPoint Student Note Sheet.
3. A colored and labeled map of the U.S. in 1860 with follow-up question.
4. Informal assessment through conclusion discussion. Or journal entry.
Using the Entrance Pass, have students provide three significant events or developments that led to the American Civil War.

1. 
2. 
3. 

POWDER KEG
CAUTION: EXPLOSIVE
The Country Goes to War

Student Note Sheet

Complete the following timeline:

- Election of 1860, Lincoln is elected 16th president of the United States
  - November __, 18__

- Secession of _____ __________
  - December 20, 18__

- Firing on _____ __________
  - April 12, __ __

- Battle of _____ _____ of First Manassas
  - July 21, __ __
US election of 1860 Winner - __________________ _________________

The South became fearful that this new president would...

_________________________________________________________________

_________________________________________________________________

________________ _______________ is the first state to secede from the Union on December 20, 18_ _, 44 days after Lincoln is elected president.

What does “secession” mean?

_________________________________________________________________

_________________________________________________________________

Why did South Carolina secede from the United States?

_________________________________________________________________

_________________________________________________________________

What does South Carolina want other Southern states to do?
Why would these other states want to do this?
__________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________

Who does Jefferson Davis say chose to create the Confederacy?
__________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________

Does Jefferson Davis want war or peace? What in his speech makes you believe that?
__________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________

Does Abraham Lincoln want war or peace? What in his speech makes you believe that?
__________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________
Who fired at Fort Sumter?

- Union
- Confederacy

Why?

Who occupied (was located in) Fort Sumter?

- Union
- Confederacy

Who were the aggressors in this situation? The US or the Confederacy? Explain your answer.

How did the citizens of Richmond, Virginia, feel about the actions at Fort Sumter? How exactly, do you know this?
Who called for troops right after the firing on Fort Sumter?

_________________________________________________________________

Virginia joined the Confederacy April ________, 1861.

In April of 1861, Virginia joined the Confederacy. After Virginia joined, what city became the Confederate capital? ____________________________________________________________

Following the Battle of First Manassas (Bull Run), the governor of New York does what?

_________________________________________________________________

What does this tell you about what people thought of the war?

_________________________________________________________________

The first major land battle of the Civil War took place near __________, Virginia, on July ____, 18____.

At this battle, the Union Army ___________ the Confederate Army.

What did citizens of both the Confederacy and the United States realize at this time?

_________________________________________________________________

_________________________________________________________________
The Country Goes to War
Student Note Sheet (Teacher Version)

Complete the following timeline:

- **Election of 1860, Lincoln is elected 16th president of the United States**
  - November 6, 1860
- **Secession of ___South Carolina___**
  - December 20, 1860
- **Firing on ___Fort___Sumter**
  - April 12, 1861
- **Battle of ___Bull___Run___ of First Manassas**
  - July 21, 1861
Election of 1860 Winner - _____Abraham_____ _Lincoln_____

The South became fearful that this new president would_____ abolish slavery or not support 
the slaveholding states

_____ South_____ _Carolina_________ is the first state to secede from the Union on
December 20, 1861, 44 days after Lincoln is elected president.

What does secession mean?  _To leave the Union ______

Why did South Carolina secede from the United States?  _The non-slaveholding states were not 
following the law that was laid out in the Constitution and that broke the agreement that South 
Carolina had made in order to be part of the Union. They also felt that Lincoln was not going to 
support the slaveholding states.

What does South Carolina want other Southern states to do? _____ Secede as 
well_________________ __________________________________

Why would the other states want to do this? ___ Because they agree with South Carolina’s 
reason for leaving the Union.________________________________
Who does Jefferson Davis say chose to create the Confederacy? ___The people____________

Does Jefferson Davis want war or peace? _____ Peace, students should provide a quote to support this.

Does Abraham Lincoln want war or peace? What in his speech makes you believe that? Peace, students should provide a quote to support this.

Who fired at Fort Sumter?

○ Union

● Confederacy

Why? ___The Confederacy wanted the Union to surrender the federal fort located just off the coast of South Carolina._____

Who occupied (was located in) Fort Sumter?

● Union

○ Confederacy

Who were the aggressors in this situation? The US or the Confederacy? Explain your answer.

___The students will have to decide and use what they have learned to support their answer.

Some may say the Confederacy was the aggressor because they fired the shots. Some may say
the United States was the aggressor because they refused to leave Fort Sumter after South Carolina seceded.

How did the citizens of Richmond Virginia feel about the action at Fort Sumter? _The people were excited and celebrated in the streets._

Who called for troops right after the firing on Fort Sumter?

_____ Both the Confederacy and the United States

Virginia joined the Confederacy _April_ 17, 1861.

In April of 1861, Virginia joined the Confederacy. After Virginia joined, what city became the Confederate Capital? ___Richmond

Following the Battle of First Manassas (Bull Run), the governor of New York does what?

_____ Called for more troops and for a longer volunteer period.

What does this tell you about what people thought of the war? _____ People realized after the devastation of Manassas that the war would be much longer and cost more men than they had previously predicted.
The first land battle of the Civil War took place near __Manassas__, Virginia, on July 21, 1861.

At this battle, the Union Army __lost__ to the Confederate Army.

What did citizens of both the Confederacy and the United States realize at this time? __That the war was not going to be easy or end quickly. ____________________________
In James McPherson’s article, An Overview of the American Civil War he states:

The Civil War started because of uncompromising differences between the free and slave states over the power of the national government to prohibit slavery in the territories that had not yet become states. When Abraham Lincoln won election in 1860 as the first Republican president on a platform pledging to keep slavery out of the territories, seven slave states in the deep South seceded and formed a new nation, the Confederate States of America. The incoming Lincoln administration and most of the Northern people refused to recognize the legitimacy of secession. They feared that it would discredit democracy and create a fatal precedent that would eventually fragment the no-longer United States into several small, squabbling countries.

Based on your map and what McPherson says above, why do you think some of the slave holding states decided not to join the Confederacy?

_______________________________________________________________________________________________________________

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The Traditional Civil War Curriculum
Goal 2
1861: The Country Goes to War

Labeled U.S. 1860 Map

Name: __________________________
Date: ________________