



THE Civil War Curriculum

by the CIVIL WAR TRUST | Civilwar.org/curriculum

GOAL 9 | LESSON PLAN | ELEMENTARY Preserving the Memory

GRADES: Elementary

APPROXIMATE LENGTH OF TIME: 50 minutes

GOAL: Students will be able to illustrate ways in which we can preserve the memory of the war.

OBJECTIVES:

1. Students will be able to discuss one to two reasons why they think it is important to remember historic events.
2. Students will be able to discuss ways that people can be involved with battlefield preservation.

MATERIALS:

1. Preserving the Memory Video
2. Preservation Pamphlet
3. Preserving the Memory Essay

VOCABULARY:

1. Preserve-To keep; to keep safe; to keep in existence; to maintain.

ANTICIPATORY SET/HOOK:

1. Ask your students what they think battlefields and other Civil War sites such as houses, cemeteries, railroad stations, and churches look like today.
2. Do students think they still look like they did during the war?
3. Since the Civil War happened in the United States, do they ever see or have they ever seen a Civil War battlefield or site?

PROCEDURE:

Activity 1

1. Watch the *Preserving the Memory Video* as a class.
2. Discuss the following:
 - a. Why might people want to remember events in history?
 - b. What are some ways we learn about history or certain historic events?
 - c. How does knowing about something that happened so long ago help us today?

Activity 2

3. Hand out the *Preservation Pamphlet*.
4. Have students fold into thirds and complete each section, except for the “Some battlefields that could use our help” portion.

CLOSURE:

1. Complete the *Preserving the Memory Essay*, which asks students to discuss why they think it is important to remember the Civil War.
2. As a class, look at the Civil War Trust’s list of the Most Endangered Battlefields; go to www.civilwar.org/history-under-siege to see the list and visit each site’s webpage to learn more about the preservation threats. Then have students fill in the “Some battlefields that could use our help” section, identifying three endangered battlefields.

EXTENSION:

Take Action – have your students participate in the preservation of a local Civil War site or get them involved with one of the Most Endangered Battlefields.

Participate in Park Day – see if a site in your area is hosting a Park Day event by visiting civilwar.org/parkday.

Tell us about your work through the Teaching Civics through Preservation page at civilwar.org/teachingcivics.

ASSESSMENT IN THIS LESSON:

1. Informal assessment through the video follow-up discussion questions
2. Completed *Preservation Pamphlet*

3. Completed essay describing why each student thinks it's important to remember the Civil War



Preserving the Memory

Learning about the war
from Civil War
battlefields



How I like to learn about
the Civil War:

School:



Name: _____

Date: _____



Vicksburg, Mississippi

**Why We Should Save
Battlefields**

Two Ways You Can Help

1. _____

2. _____



Franklin, Tennessee

*Some battlefields that could
use our help –*

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____



Name: _____

Date: _____

Preserving the Memory Essay

Below explain why you think it is important to remember the American Civil War.

[illegible]