

by the CIVIL WAR TRUST | Civilwar.org/curriculum

GOAL 9 | LESSON PLAN | MIDDLE SCHOOL

Preserving the Memory

GRADES: Middle School

APPROXIMATE LENGTH OF TIME: 50 minutes

GOAL: Students will be able to formulate ways in which society can preserve the memory of the

war.

OBJECTIVES:

- 1. Students will be able to conduct research on historic places and evaluate the value of preserving certain locations.
- 2. Students will be able to write an argumentative essay arguing why it is important to preserve historic places.
- 3. Students will be able to provide examples of ways that people can be involved with battlefield preservation.

MATERIALS USED:

- 1. Preserving the Memory Video
- 2. civilwar.org/history-under-siege
- 3. Preserving the Memory Essay Pre-Writing
- 4. Preserving the Memory Essay
- 5. Preserving the Memory Essay Rubric

VOCABULARY:

Preserve-to keep; to keep safe; to keep in existence, to maintain

ANTICIPATORY SET/HOOK:

1. Ask students what do they think battlefields and other Civil War sites such as houses, cemeteries, railroad stations, and churches look like today. Do students think they still look like they did during the war? Since the Civil War happened in the United States, 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 Preserving the Memory Essay Pre-Writing.
- 4. Have students visit civilwar.org/history-under-siege and complete the *Essay Pre-Writing*. To see the individual battlefields click on Read the Report and on the right side of the page there will be a list of 10 battlefields with links to each battlefield.
- 5. If you have limited student computer access you can either place students in groups or read about each battlefield as a class.

Activity 3

6. Hand out the *Preserving the Memory Essay* and *Rubric* and have students complete the essay.

CLOSURE:

1. Tally the students' top choices for Most Endangered Battlefield and discover what they think is the most important battlefield to be preserved. Discuss their reasoning and if there is anything they can do to help protect this site.

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 civilwar.org/parkday.

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

ASSESSMENT IN THIS LESSON:

- 1. Informal assessment through the video follow-up discussion questions
- 2. Completion of the research and pre-writing activity
- 3. Completed final essay

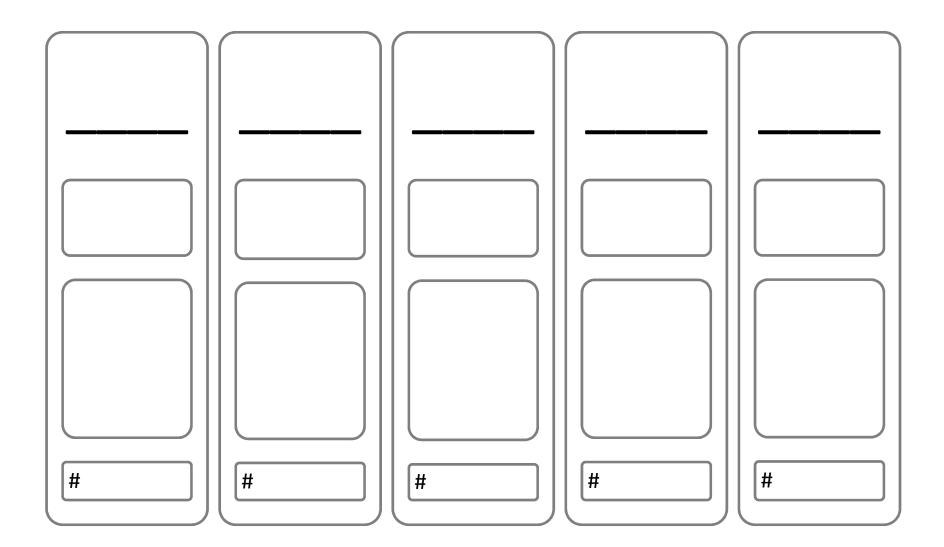


Name:	
Date:	

Fill out the following graphic organizer.

- 1. Fill in the names of The Civil War Trust's 10 Most Endangered Battlefields on the top lines.
- 2. Identify the threats for each battlefield below that site.
- 3. Write your thoughts on the importance of each battlefield and the severity of the threat.

4	. Based on your opinion,	rank them from most enda	ngered to least endangered	d: <u>1 being most endangered</u>	i, <u>10 being least endange</u> red
	#	#	#	#	#



Two re	easons to preserve historic places:
1.	
2.	



Name:	
Date:	

Preserving the Memory Essay

On the following lines, write an essay arguing why it is important to save the historic site that you have chosen.

Be sure to:

- 1. Include the name, location, and a brief history of your site you have chosen.
- 2. Include the threat facing your particular site and how this will affect the site.
- 3. Explain the importance of preserving this site.
- 4. Discuss one way that you think people could help preserve this site.

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Name:	
Date:	

Preserving the Memory Essay Rubric

	1	2	3	4	5
Name of battlefield,					
location, and short					
history.					
Threat facing					
battlefield and how it					
will affect it.					
Explanation of why it					
is important to					
preserve this site.					
Give one way people					
can help preserve this					
battlefield.					
Grammar and					
spelling					
Writing and sentence					
structure					

Student's Name:	 	
/30 pts		