1863: Shifting Tides

GRADES: High School

APPROXIMATE LENGTH OF TIME: 50 minutes

GOAL: Students will be able to describe the effects of the battles of Gettysburg and Vicksburg and analyze the Gettysburg Address.

OBJECTIVES:

1. Students will be able to place the historical developments between the attack on Fort Sumter and the battles of Gettysburg and Vicksburg on a timeline and a map.
2. Students will be able to discuss the political, social, and military effects of the Union victories at Gettysburg and Vicksburg.
3. Students will be able to analyze the impact of the Gettysburg Address during the Civil War and evaluate its importance and relevance today.

MATERIALS:

1. Shifting Tides PowerPoint
2. Battle Cards
3. Blue and Black Colored Pencils
4. Shifting Tide Timeline and Map
5. Shifting Tide Timeline Teacher Version
6. The Gettysburg Address
7. Gettysburg Address Questions
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. Use the *Shifting Tides PowerPoint* to guide the lesson.
2. Break students into pairs
3. Hand each pair a *Battle Card*; this will be the battle they are responsible for reporting on during the PowerPoint presentation.
4. Hand out the *Shifting Tides Timeline and Map*
5. Allow students a few minutes to fill in the timeline.
6. Have the pairs read over the *Battle Cards*
7. Be sure to have the pairs identify their battle on their *Shifting Tides Map*
8. Begin the PowerPoint presentation—students will fill in battle information on their maps during the discussion.

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* and review the discussion questions on the worksheet.
3. Have students answer the questions independently.

CLOSURE:

1. At this point in the war, Lincoln feels that it is important to go to Gettysburg and give a speech to the American people. Why do you think he chooses this point in the war?
2. What do you think his speech does for the American people?

ASSESSMENT IN THIS LESSON

1. Completion of the *timeline and map*, identifying the time and location of historic events.
2. Informal assessment through discussion questions in the PowerPoint presentation
3. Completion of the *Gettysburg Address Questions*.
# Battle Cards

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Cut out the following cards and hand one card to each of the pairs.

**Attack on Fort Sumter**  
**April 12–13, 1861**

**Summary:** On April 12, 1861, after warning the U.S. Army to leave Fort Sumter, which guarded the port of Charleston, South Carolina, the Confederate Army fired upon the fort. At 2:30 p.m. the next day, the fort surrendered. There were no casualties during the bombardment; however, when leaving the fort, a salute was fired and one man was immediately killed and three others were wounded; one to die later. With this attack the war began, President Lincoln called for 75,000 volunteers for a period of 90 days.

**Winner:** CSA

**Principal Commanders:** Maj. Robert Anderson [USA]; Brig. Gen. P.G.T. Beauregard [CSA]

**Estimated Casualties:** None

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**First Manassas, Virginia**  
a.k.a. Bull Run  
**July 21, 1861**

**Summary:** The first major land battle of the Civil War occurred at Manassas Junction, about 20 miles west of Washington, DC. The Union Army attacked the Confederate Army, but soon became disorganized. The Union Army broke off and retreated hastily to the safety of Washington. This battle demonstrated that the war would not be short.

**Winner:** CSA


**Casualties:** USA 2,950; CSA 1,750
Fort Henry and Fort Donelson, Mississippi
February 1862

Summary: Ulysses S. Grant gained control over Forts Henry and Donelson in February 1862, earning him the nickname "Unconditional Surrender" Grant. The fall of Forts Henry and Donelson was a tremendous victory for the Union, opening up the Union war effort in Tennessee and Alabama.

Winner: USA


Casualties: USA 3,730; CSA 13,925

Shiloh, Tennessee
a.k.a. Pittsburg Landing
April 6–7, 1862

Summary: Camped at Pittsburg Landing along the Tennessee River, the Union Army, under Maj. Gen. Ulysses S. Grant, was attacked by Confederate forces under generals Albert Sidney Johnston and P.G.T. Beauregard. Ultimately, the Confederates were forced to retreat in the bloodiest battle in United States history up to that time, ending their hopes that they could block the Union advance into northern Mississippi.

Winner: USA


Estimated Casualties: 23,746 total (USA 13,047; CSA 10,699)
Jackson’s Valley Campaign, Virginia
March–June 1862

Summary: The Shenandoah Valley was considered the “Breadbasket of the Confederacy,” and it was essential that it be kept as such. Gen. Thomas “Stonewall” Jackson and his troops, moving up and down the Valley, kept Union forces on the run and nervous with uncertainty. His successes boosted the morale of the Confederacy and increased Jackson’s fame and notoriety.

Winner: CSA (Overall)
Principal Commanders: Gen. Stonewall Jackson [CS] and various Union generals
Estimated Casualties: 2,441[CS]   5,735 [US]

Second Manassas, Virginia
a.k.a. Second Bull Run
August 28–30, 1862

Summary: The Second Battle of Bull Run was the culmination of an offensive campaign waged by Robert E. Lee against Union general John Pope. Led by Lee, Stonewall Jackson and James Longstreet outmaneuvered Pope, who was driven from the field back to Washington, DC.

Winner: CSA
Estimated Casualties: 22,180 total (USA 13,830; CSA 8,350)
Antietam, Maryland  
a.k.a. Sharpsburg  
September 17, 1862

Summary: Hoping to gather new troops from Confederate sympathizers and to leave the devastated fields of Virginia, General Lee invaded the Union state of Maryland. The battle was fought along Antietam Creek, and September 17, 1862, became the single bloodiest day in American history. The day ended as a draw, but since Lee left the field to return with his army to Virginia, the battle is considered a strategic and morale win for the Union. It also gave Lincoln the win he needed to issue the Emancipation Proclamation from a position of strength.

Winner: USA (strategic win, CSA left the field)


Estimated Casualties: 23,100 total (U.S.A 12,401; C.S.A 10,316)

Perryville, Kentucky  
a.k.a. The Battle of Chaplin Hills  
October 8, 1862

Summary: This battle seemed at first to be going well for the Confederacy; but as the Union Army continued to be reinforced, it became clear that the Confederates could not hold it off. As the Confederates withdrew, they allowed the Union to claim victory and control of Kentucky for the rest of the war. Some historians consider this battle a turning point in the war.

Winner: USA (strategic win, CSA left the field)


Estimated Casualties: 7,407 total (USA 4,211; CSA 3,196)
Fredericksburg, Virginia

December 13, 1862

**Summary:** Attempting to attack from across the Rappahannock River, the Union Army faced a smaller Confederate Army. Newly appointed Gen. Ambrose Burnside needed pontoon bridges to cross the river. By the time the bridges arrived, the Confederates had been reinforced and were entrenched on high ground. The Union attempted a bloody uphill attack, but was forced back.

**Winner:** CSA


**Estimated Casualties:** 17,929 total (USA 13,353; CSA 4,576)

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Stones River, Tennessee

a.k.a. Murfreesboro

December 31, 1862–January 2, 1863

**Summary:** After the Confederate defeat of Perryville, Kentucky, the South needed to gain a foothold in the Tennessee area. The result of three days of fighting in the Stones River Valley, was the largest percentage of casualties in one battle of the war. The Confederates left the field, and the Union Army gained control of Kentucky. This was a needed morale boost to the North after the loss at Fredericksburg.

**Winner:** USA


**Estimated Casualties:** 23,515 total (US 13,249; CS 10,266)
Chancellorsville, Virginia

April 30–May 6, 1863

Summary: At Chancellorsville, Robert E. Lee was at his most brilliant, outmaneuvering Union leader Joseph Hooker. Lee took a great risk and divided his army against the much larger Union force. By doing so, he deceived the Union Army and forced it back. This is considered Lee’s greatest victory. However, it also cost him his great general, Stonewall Jackson, who was mortally wounded by his own men.

Winner: CSA


Estimated Casualties: 24,000 total (US 14,000; CS 10,000)
Gettysburg, Pennsylvania

July 1–3, 1863

**Summary**: Attempting to strike into the north again after his failed attempt at Antietam, General Lee brought his army into Pennsylvania. Gathering at a crossroads where 10 roads met, the Confederate and Union armies battled for three days around the small town of Gettysburg. After attempts on the left and right flanks of the Union line, on the third day Lee attacked the Union center. The Union held a strong position however, and engaged a tighter battle line, known as the “fish hook,” which enabled the Union forces to move more quickly. Lee left the field and never truly invaded the North again.

**Winner**: USA


**Estimated Casualties**: 51,000 total (US 23,000; CS 28,000)
Siege of Vicksburg, Mississippi

May 18–July 4 1863

**Summary:** In an attempt to take control of the Mississippi River, the Union Army, under General Grant, attacked the areas around Vicksburg and held the Confederate Army, under General Pemberton, under siege. Pemberton waited for reinforcements from Gen. Joseph Johnston’s Army of the Tennessee, but was forced to surrender the city on July 4 when reinforcements did not arrive. With the loss of Pemberton’s army and the vital area on the Mississippi, the Confederacy was now split in half. The combined wins at Gettysburg on July 3 and Vicksburg on July 4 gave the Union a major morale boost and much-needed control of the Mississippi River.

**Winner:** USA


**Estimated Casualties:** 19,233 total (US 10,142; CS 9,091)
**Timeline:**
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**Tally the battle victories:**
- **Union**
- **Confederate**

**Map Key:** Fill-in the squares with the colors you use.
- U.S.A. Victory
- C.S.A. Victory

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1861

1863
Battles of the Civil War
1861-1863

www.civilwar.org

The Civil War Trust
# Shifting Tides Timeline and Map (Teacher Version)

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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?

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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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