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.

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. Ask students how they think people felt after the Battle of Manassas? Do students think citizens were worried? What might they be worried about? What might soldiers be worried about?
2. Hand out the *Exit Pass* and have students fill out three reasons why battles happen in certain areas.

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. Completed *exit pass* with three reasons why battles take place in certain areas.
Using the Entrance Pass, have students provide three significant events or developments that led to the American Civil War.
The Civil War Curriculum, Goal 2
1861: The Country Goes to War

The Country Goes to War
Student Note Sheet

Slide 1

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, __ __ __
1861: The Country Goes To War

Slides 2-5

Election of 1860 Winner - __________________ _________________

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

_________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________

Who is Lincoln saying are the aggressors? What do you think he considered aggressive?

_________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________

_________________________________________________________________
Slides 6-8

______________  ________________ 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?

_________________________________________________________________

_________________________________________________________________
Slides 9-12

What is a border state?

_________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________

Why do you think these border states decided not to join the Confederacy?

_________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________

Who does Jefferson Davis say chose to create the Confederacy?

_________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________

Does Jefferson Davis want war or peace?

_________________________________________________________________
Who fired first at Fort Sumter?

○ Union

○ Confederacy

Why?

_________________________________________________________________

_________________________________________________________________

How did the citizens of Richmond, Virginia, feel about the actions at Fort Sumter?

_________________________________________________________________

_________________________________________________________________

Why did they feel this way?

_________________________________________________________________

_________________________________________________________________

Virginia joined the Confederacy April ______, 1861.

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

_________________________________________________________________

_________________________________________________________________
Complete the following timeline:

- Election of 1860, Lincoln is elected 16th president of the United States
- Secession of ___South Carolina___ December 20, 1860
- Firing on ___Fort___Sumter April 12, 1861
- Battle of ___Bull___Run___ of First Manassas July 21, 1861
Slides 2-5

Election of 1860 Winner - _____Abraham_____ __Lincoln_____

The South became fearful that this new president would_____ abolish slavery

_________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________

Who is Lincoln saying are the aggressors? What do you think he considered aggressive?

_____The Southern people. Students answer in free form.____
Slides 6-8

_____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? _Students answer in free form based on South Carolina’s Declaration of Secession excerpt._______

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.________________________________________
Slides 9-12

What is a border state? ____A state located in between Southern and Northern states and that is also slave holding state.__________

Why do you think these border states decided not to join the Confederacy? ____This would be a very dangerous and unprotected position.

Who does Jefferson Davis say chose to create the Confederacy? ____The people__________

Does Jefferson Davis want war or peace? ____Based on his inaugural address, he wants peace.__________
Who fired first at Fort Sumter?

- [ ] Union
- [x] Confederacy

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

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

Why would they feel this way? _Students can provide a free form answer__

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______________________________
Slides 17-19

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?
Labeled U.S. 1860 Map#
Exit Pass

Give three reasons why a battle would happen in a certain area.

1. 
2. 
3. 