

Experiencing the Battle – Teacher Aid

Lesson Plan: The Battle of Franklin

When we read about Civil War battles, there is the tendency to forget the human side of the battle. What was it like to fight in a Civil War battle? What did you see and hear? What did you feel? Could you smell or taste anything?

You may need to guide the students through this exercise as well as add your own suggestions, especially for “taste”. [Soldiers might be able to taste sweat, blood, grime or smoke, for example.]

A few suggestions are provided:

Sight:

Setting of evening sun; darkness
Flashes of light
Blood on self and others
Stacks of dead and wounded men
Smoke
Horrible wounds; horrible violence

Touch:

Wounds/ pain
Cold in evening; freezing at night
Sticky blood
Grime

Smell:

Gunpowder
Smoke
Blood

Sound:

Artillery & musket fire (crashing”, “booming”, “popping”, etc.)
Artillery and musket projectiles (“whizzing”, “whistling”, thuds, splintering, etc.)
Screaming
Battle cries
Moaning
Officers’ orders

Taste:

Blood
Sweat
Grime
Smoke