

Name _____

Date _____ Period _____

CIVIL WAR BATTLES: AN INVESTIGATION

Your assignment is to cover a battle of the Civil War from the perspective of a historian. You will be asked to share your information with the class after some research in the computer lab. You can do a PowerPoint, full-size exhibit board (NO small posters), or documentary to present the battle to the class.

Divide the work among members of your group. There should be no more than 3 people in a group. Have everything ready **before class**. This assignment is **worth 30 points**.

DUE DATE: _____

You may choose among the following battles:

- First Manassas (Bull Run)
- Battles of Seven Days
- Second Manassas (Bull Run)
- Antietam
- Fredericksburg
- Chancellorsville
- Gettysburg
- Vicksburg
- Shiloh
- Chickamauga
- Chattanooga
- Wilderness
- Spotsylvania Courthouse
- Cold Harbor
- Cedar Creek
- Assault on Petersburg

Use the Resource page or visit GaleNet's Biography Resource Center and Student Resource Center Gold, History Online, ABC-CLIO American History, Wilson's Biography Reference Bank, and ProQuest Historical Newspapers.

Your presentation must answer these questions:

- Why was this battle fought? Which campaign was it a part of? Who attacked first? What was the objective of the battle?
- What was the significance of this battle on the course of the War? What were the effects for both sides after the battle?

And your presentation must include

- Include at least one map of the battle that you will refer to often in order to explain the action to the class, or include a series of maps of the battle. This way people can "see" the battle take place. You should show starting troop positions, fortifications, physical features and landmarks, and troop movements in the battle. (The American Memory Collection hosts a Civil War Maps Collection.)
- A description of the **major** events of the battle in chronological order, including the date and time of day the events happened. (You do NOT need to list everything that happened, just the major events)
- The major generals and leaders of each army at the battle.
- The total casualties for Union and Confederate forces at that battle.
- At least two Civil War era photographs related to your battle or people involved in the battle (from Selected Civil War Photographs 1861-1865, an archive of photos from the Library of Congress)
- An eyewitness account, using a primary source such as a journal of a soldier or general, an official military report, newspaper report, etc.
- Sources of information must be cited for photographs and your information.

Best Websites (although there are many others)

For the upcoming project, one of the best resources is a new e-book we have, American Civil War Reference Library. At school it is under #7/Media/Online Resources/ **Reference Library**. If the students look at the .pdf version, they see the book page as published. It is also available from home by accessing Edline. Look in the right hand column – click on database link – it is under Virtual Reference Center.

The following National Park Service site is good for basic facts about the battle – casualties, campaign, etc.

<http://www.nps.gov/history/hps/ABPP/BATTLES/bystate.htm>

This National Park Service site gives you links to some of the battlegrounds that are now national parks, which then have more information.

<http://www.nps.gov/history/history/categrs/mili2.htm>

This site has most of the battles presented in Flash animations. It will show movements of troops and key events of the battle. It also has buttons you can click for other information about the battle.

<http://civilwaranimated.com/>

This site is good for finding primary sources, official military records, officers reports, etc.

<http://www.civilwarhome.com/records.htm>

The Library of Congress site is good for searching

<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/index.html>

or there are special collections of maps:

http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/collections/civil_war_maps/

and of photos:

<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/cwphhtml/cwphome.html>

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Criteria	Comments
○ A description of the major events of the battle in chronological order, including the date and time of day the events happened	
○ The generals and leaders of each army at the battle.	
○ At least two photographs	
○ Include at least one map of the battle to explain the action to the class. You should show starting troop positions, fortifications, physical features and landmarks, and troop movements in the battle.	
○ Why was this battle fought? Which campaign was it a part of? Who attacked first? What was the objective of the battle? ○ What was the significance of this battle on the course of the War?	
○ Be sure to include an eyewitness account, using a primary source such as a journal of a soldier or general, newspaper report, etc.	
○ Source of primary sources and historical information is cited in a bibliography	

Total Points _____/30