



Lesson Plan

Battle of Stones River

Subjects

Language Arts, Social Studies

Time allotted

30 minutes

Setting

Classroom

Group size

No limit

Skills

Silent reading using context clues with vocabulary words

Methods

Students will read silently using context clues within the story to gain an understanding of key facts about the Civil War and the Battle of Stones River.

Materials

Copy of the story "Battle of Stones River"

Keywords

Ammunition
Battle
Bayonet
Bragg
Brogans
Cannon
Cartridge
Confederate
Fort
Hardtack
Housewife
Knapsack
Rations
Rosecrans
Scout
Secession
Union
Volunteers

Objectives

At the end of the activity, students will be able to:

- *Identify and understand the vocabulary words in the Word Bank.*



BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Please refer to the background information on the Battle of Stones River at the beginning of the unit. Vocabulary words will have been looked up in a dictionary. Definitions are determined and checked within the class group.

ACTIVITY

Discuss vocabulary.

Hand out exercise. (This activity can be used toward the end of the unit being taught. It could be used as an assessment).

APPENDIX

Battle of Stones River

Instructions

Fill in the blanks with key words from the word bank.

Word Bank

ammunition
battle
bayonet
Bragg
brograms
cannon
cartridge
Confederate
fort
hardtack
housewife
knapsack
rations
Rosecrans
scout
secession
Union
volunteers

The Story

The Civil War began in 1861 as a war between the thirty-four states of the United States. The economy of the South was mostly agricultural and many of the large plantations used slave labor. Many people, especially in the Northern states, wanted to stop the spread of slavery in newly formed states, and to abolish it in the existing states.

_____ happened when the Southern states decided they no longer wanted to be part of the United States government. One after the other, more Southern states left and became known as the _____ States of America. The Northern states were known as the _____. Some men became _____ because they wanted to join the army. Others were drafted.

In December 1862, a _____ took place in Murfreesboro, Tennessee as the Northern army was ordered to attack. General _____ was in charge of the Northern army. General _____ was in charge of the Confederate army. The battle was named Stones River because it took place near the river in the woods and fields.

The armies issued certain items to soldiers of both sides. A _____ is similar to our backpacks for carrying personal supplies. The _____ they carried in a _____ box are called musketballs. Because the soldier had to take care of his own clothing he was issued a _____ which was a sewing kit. The soldiers' food called was _____. It included very hard bread called _____ which the soldiers were expected to eat. The soldiers wore thick leather shoes called _____. Near the end of the war some of the soldiers were barefoot as their shoes wore out.

Artillery was important in the Battle of Stones River. A foot soldier would have used a musket with a _____ or type of sword attached to the end of the gun. Before the actual fighting occurred a _____ would have been sent out to find the location of the other army. When the lines of battle were formed the _____ were rolled into place. Since they were big guns, they were mounted on a carriage and pulled by horses.

The Battle of Stones River was considered a tie, the Confederates retreated and the Union occupied Murfreesboro. Union soldiers built a depot on the railroad and made it a supply post for the army in other southeastern battles. A _____ was built from dirt to protect the supplies. It was called Fortress Rosecrans after the Union general.

The battlefield of Stones River is preserved as a National Park. Union soldiers are buried in a cemetery near the battlefield. Many of the Confederate soldiers are buried in Evergreen Cemetery in Murfreesboro.