The Civil War

Pre-Visit Lesson

Grades: 5th & 8th	Class Time Needed: 40 minutes

Big Idea

Students will understand the division that led to the Civil War as well as Maryland's role as a border state.

Maryland Curriculum Standards
Social Studies Framework

- Essential Question (5th grade): How did conflicts over slavery result in the Civil War?

- Essential Question (8th grade): How did regional tension challege national unity?

- Essential Question (8th grade): What factors lead a country to Civil War?

Materials Needed

- Civil War Map worksheet (see end of lesson plan)

- Writing & coloring utensils of your choice

- Internet access

- Projection screen

Teacher Resources

- Civil War Video Resource (https://youtu.be/VzAtJjDrL2M)

- Informational Resource for Kids on the Civil War

  (https://www.ducksters.com/history/civil_war.php)

Lesson Procedure

Introduction:

Begin the lesson by establishing any prior knowledge students have about the Civil War. If needed, supplement knowledge with the video in the "Teacher Resources" section to make sure students understand the causes and tensions leading to the Civil War.

Direct Instruction:

Complete the Civil War Map worksheet with students. This can be done by working together as a class with the teacher leading studnets through instructions or having studnets complete the map independently (or in pairs/groups). If students are working independently or in groups, come together as a calss to review the correct answers at the end of the lesson.

Conclusion:

Using the knowledge developed from the video and map activity, have students participate in the following discussion:

- Why was Maryland an important state during the time of the Civil War?

- Why do you think railroads were an important resource during the Civil War?

- What do we mean when we say Maryland was a "border state?"

- How does the succession of Southern states during the Civil War still affect our nation today?

Name:_____

Civil War and the Railroad Map

Use the railroad track map and the United States Civil War Map to label the items listed below on this map. Don't forget to make a key for your map!

Key:

Your map should include:

1. A line showing the divide between Union and Confederate states.
2. Color in the state of Maryland.
3. The railroad tracks in Maryland, West Virginia and Virginia.
4. The capital of both the Confederacy and the Union.

Southern and Border State Railroad Tracks of the Civil War

SOUTHEASTERN UNITED STATES, 1861

Legend
- 4'-8½" gauge
- 5' gauge
- 5' gauge built during war
- 5'-6" gauge

4'-8½ gauge connection was completed in 1864

ELEVATION IN FEET

SCALE OF MILES

Name: _____

Legend:
- Territory
- Slave state seceding after Fort Sumter, April 1861
- Slave state seceding before Fort Sumter, April 1861
- Union slave state (border states)
- Union free state

Boundary of Confederacy

WASH. TERR.

OREGON

CALIF.

NEV. TERR.

UTAH TERR.

NEW MEXICO TERRITORY

COLORADO TERRITORY

NEBRASKA TERRITORY

DAKOTA TERRITORY

MINN.

IOWA

WIS.

MICH.

KANS.

INDIAN TERR.

TEXAS

MEXICO

LA.

ARK.

MO.

ILL.

IND.

OHIO

PA.

N.Y.

VT.

N.H.

ME.

MASS.

R.I.

CONN.

N.J.

DEL.

MD.

Washington D.C.

Richmond

VA.

W. VA.

KY.

TENN.

N.C.

S.C.

GA.

ALA.

MISS.

FLA.

CANADA

0   400 mi
0   600 km