# Tennessee During the Civil War

Lesson plans for primary sources at the Tennessee State Library & Archives

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**Grade Level:** 8th grade

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**Introduction:** This lesson is designed to give students an interactive digital experience focusing on key battles throughout Tennessee. It relies heavily on use of the Tennessee Civil War GIS project, an interactive website that relies on geographical information allows students to explore Civil War battles and skirmishes in many map layers.

## Guiding Questions:

- What were some of the key Civil War battles in the state of Tennessee?
- How were some counties within the state divided among the issue of slavery and why?

## Learning Objectives: In the course of the lesson, students will

- Analyze the Tennessee Civil War GIS Project and key battles within the state
- Examine data about various counties within the state and make references about their loyalties during the war
- Write a short essay about which Tennessee battle they feel is most significant based on the data given through the Tennessee Civil War GIS project website

## Curriculum Standards:

**5.42** Describe the significance of the following Civil war events and battles on Tennessee: Siege of Ft. Donelson; Battle of Stones River; Battle of Franklin; Battle of Nashville; Battle of Shiloh

**8.62** Describe the outbreak of the Civil War and the resulting sectional differences, including: Economic, geographic, and technological advances; military strategies; roles of President Abraham Lincoln and Jefferson Davis; significance of Fort Sumter; Geographical divisions within states

## Materials Needed:

- Laptops, tablets, or some device with access to the internet
- Civil War GIS Worksheet (on following pages)

## Background:

**"Civil War"** **Author:** Larry H. Whiteaker

**Source Location:** Tennessee Encyclopedia of History & Culture

Tennessee Civil War National Heritage Area

## Lesson Activities:

**Introductory Activity**

The students will first be given the CGIS worksheet either on paper or as a digital copy. Once given the document, the students will be paired together. The paired students will work together in completing the worksheet. To do so they will need to access the Tennessee Civil War GIS Project via the website: http://tnmap.tn.gov/civilwar/ While they are completing the answers, the teacher will walk around the classroom and oversee the activities.

1) In the first section of the worksheet, the students are to analyze the county in which they reside and make some references based on the data about on which side the county would have most likely supported and why. The teacher will give the students approximately 10-15 minutes to complete this portion of the document and then they will come together and discuss the questions as a class.

2) In the second section of the worksheet the students are to analyze key battles throughout the state focusing on location and details of the battle. The students will again be given 10-15 minutes to complete this portion of the document and then come together to discuss the battles as a class.

3) In the last section of the worksheet, the students are to analyze other areas of the state in relation to the Civil War and slavery. After the students have completed the entire document, the teacher will summarize the lesson while stressing to the students the importance of the state of Tennessee and the battles within during the war.

**To close the lesson, instruct the students to individually write an answer the following question:**

Which battle in the state of Tennessee was the most and significant and why? (5 sentence minimum / Be sure to include evidence from the Tennessee Civil War GIS Project website)

# ***TN Civil War GIS Worksheet***

***Use the website at http://tnmap.tn.gov/civilwar/ to complete the following questions / activities:***

## *Click on the "County Data" Bar on the right and find your county.*

1. What was the total population of your county in 1860?
2. White persons?
3. Slaves?
4. Free Colored Persons?
5. What does this data say about your county in regards to secession and which side they would most likely support (Union or Confederacy)?
6. How many major engagements occurred within your county? (red dots)

***Using the "Zoom to Battlefield" tab on the right, find the following battles and answer the questions pertaining to each battle / engagement.***

## ***Ft. Donelson***

7. What county was Fort Donelson located in? (Zoom out)
8. Did the battle take place in one day or over a series of days?
9. How many separate engagements (red dots) are related to this battle? (Uncheck all layers except "Civil War Events" in the layers tab to make it easier)

## ***Shiloh***

10. What county did the Battle of Shiloh take place in? (Zoom out)
11. Did the battle take place in one day or over a series of days?
12. How many separate engagements (red dots) are related to this battle? (Uncheck all layers except "Civil War Events" in the layers tab to make it easier)

## ***Stones River***

13. What county was the Battle of Stones River located in? (Zoom out)
14. Did the battle take place in one day or over a series of days?
15. How many separate engagements (red dots) are related to this battle? (Uncheck all layers except "Civil War Events" in the layers tab to make it easier)

## ***Chattanooga / Lookout Mountain***

16. What county? (Zoom out)
17. Did the battle take place in one day or over a series of days?
18. How many separate engagements (red dots) are related to this battle? (Uncheck all layers except "Civil War Events" in the layers tab to make it easier)

## ***Franklin***

19. What county was the Battle of Franklin located in? (Zoom out)
20. Did the battle take place in one day or over a series of days?
21. How many separate engagements (red dots) are related to this battle? (Uncheck all layers except "Civil War Events" in the layers tab to make it easier)

**Go back to the main map *http://tnmap.tn.gov/civilwar/* and under the "layers" tab on the right uncheck every layer except "Civil War Events." In what regions did most Civil War events take place (Near what major cities)?**

22. Is there any county in TN that does not contain a Civil War Event? If so name it.
23. Name five counties that contain less than 1000 slaves and state in which region they are located (East, Middle or West).
24. What region appears to have the least slaves?