

The American Civil War

Lesson Map: <http://esriaustralia.com.au/education/SpatialActivity10>

Engage

Who fought in the Civil War?

- Click on the lesson map link above to commence the lesson.
- Click on the 'legend' button. On the map, click on the highlighted areas to answer the following questions.
- ? How were American states classified during 1860? [*Union, Confederacy, or border states*]
- ? Which states allowed slavery? [*Confederacy and Border states*]
- ? Succession refers to an American State which has withdrawn from the Union of the United States. Did all seceded States allow slavery? [*Border states and the Western Territory were not seceded but still allowed slavery*]
- Click on each State to observe the population of that State in 1860, including the percentage of residents who were enslaved at that time. Compare a variety of States.

Explore

How close were the capital cities?

- Click on the 'content' button, and tick the checkbox to turn on the layer 'Civil War Cities.'
- Open 'bookmarks' and select 'capitals.'
- ? Where was the Union's capital? [*Washington, D.C.*]
- ? Where was the Confederacy's capital? [*Richmond, Virginia*]
- ? Use the 'measure' tool, to measure the distance in kilometers between these two cities. What is the distance between Washington and Richmond? [*~160km*]

Time

15 minutes

Activity

Explore the division of America during the Civil War, including major battles leading to Confederate surrender.

Learning Outcome

Students will be able to:

- Investigate the spatial distribution of Union and Confederate States
- Understand the tactics which resulted in Confederate surrender

ACARA Curriculum Links

Senior secondary Curriculum – Unit 2: Movements for Change in the 20th Century

[ACHMH084](#) | [ACHM048](#) | [ACHMH047](#)

Acknowledgements:

This lesson map uses data sourced from an Esri GeoInquiry.

Accompanying lesson material has been amended to align with the Australian National Curriculum.

Teacher Feedback:

To share your feedback on this, or any Spatial Activity, please contact education@esriaustralia.com.au

- ? Why was this proximity significant during the Civil War? *[The capitals were close together, and attacking and depending their capitals]*

Explain

Where did the armies fight?

- Tick the checkbox to turn on both layers titled 'Civil War Battles'. In the 'bookmarks' tab, select 'Civil War battles'. Press play on the time slider to observe battle locations from 1861 to 1865.
- ? What patterns did you notice around battle locations? *[They were close to capital cities, many occurred in Virginia, and mostly along rivers or coast lines.]*
- ? What patterns did you notice in Georgia? *[Battles in Georgia form a linear pattern showing General Sherman and the Union's 'March to the Sea']*

Extend

How did the Union gain control of the Confederacy?

- Tick the checkbox to turn on the two layers titled 'Union control' and 'Union blockage'. Open the 'legend.'
- The Union blockade was a naval strategy designed to prevent the Confederacy from trading resources.
- ? In which year did the Union gain complete control of the Mississippi River and New Orleans? *[1863]*
- ? In what year was the Confederacy split, when the Union gained control of Georgia? *[1864]*
- ? In what year did the Union gain complete control of Confederate states? *[1865]*

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