



Unit Five

Unit Title: The Civil War

7th Grade

Unit Length and Description:

6 weeks

Students explore the Civil War beginning with its immediate causes from the preceding decade to the Confederate attack on Fort Sumter. Students learn that the Civil War was a major turning point in US history, in which the union was preserved and the institution of slavery took a fatal blow. In many ways, this was the culmination of decades of growing pains caused by years of expansion and conflict between the states. The result was the answer to the biggest question of American identity: free or slave? Would the United States live up to its founding promise that “all men are created equal”?

Standards:

Standard 1: Historical Thinking Skills

7.1.1	Produce clear and coherent writing for a range of tasks, purposes, and audiences by completing the following tasks: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Conducting historical research• Evaluating a broad variety of primary and secondary sources• Comparing and contrasting varied points of view• Determining the meaning of words and phrases from historical texts• Using technology to research, produce, or publish a written product
7.1.2	Explain patterns and recurring themes in United States history
7.1.3	Analyze the causes and effects of key events and ideas in the development of the United States
7.1.4	Interpret and construct timelines of key events, people and ideas
7.1.5	Analyze primary and secondary sources to answer questions related to United States history

Standard 3: The Expanding Nation

7.3.3	Examine the motivations and influence of major American reform movements during the 19th century
7.3.4	Compare and contrast the political, social, and economic development of the different regions of the United States
7.3.5	Explain reasons for the expansion of slavery in the South after 1800 and describe the life of enslaved African Americans, and their responses to slavery

Standard 4: War and Reconstruction

7.4.1	Identify and describe the role of the election of Abraham Lincoln and other key events, ideas, and people, which led to the Civil War
7.4.2	Analyze important turning points and major developments during the Civil War
Standard 5: Geography Skills	
7.5.3	Analyze historical maps, charts, and graphs of the United States from 1763–1877
Standard 10: Civic Literacy	
7.10.1	Describe the influences on and the development and expansion of individual rights and freedoms
7.10.2	Identify and describe ways in which citizens influence change in a democratic society
Standard 11: Resources, Interdependence, and Decision-Making	
7.11.1	Explain how the demand for resources and the development of technology influenced economic diversity in the United States
7.11.2	Explain how economic interdependence developed between regions of the United States and with foreign countries
7.11.3	Describe government policies that influenced the United States economy

Enduring Understandings- Compelling Question:	Essential Questions- Supporting Question:
How does conflict define a nation?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How does sectionalism lead to conflict in a nation? • How did the election of Abraham Lincoln and other key events, ideas, and people lead to conflict in the nation? • How did the Civil War shape the nation's identity?