

Topics U.S. Civil War, Time, Graphing in One Dimension

Materials List

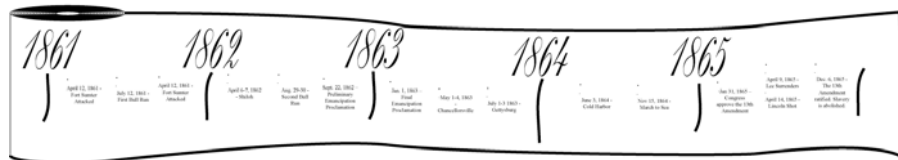
- ✓ Paper register tape
- ✓ Ruler
- ✓ Pens, markers, crayons, and/or colored pencils

This activity can be used to teach:

- U.S. Civil War (CA Social Science Standards, Grade 8, 8.10, Grade 11, 11.1.4)
- Timelines (CA Social Science Standards: Grades 6-8, Chronology and Spatial Thinking, 1 & 2)

U.S. Civil War Timeline

Charting the Events of the “War between the States”



Nine million soldiers fought in the U.S. Civil War and over 620,000 died - many from disease. Students will deepen their understanding this major period in U.S. history by creating a graphic representation of the events of the Civil War.

To Do and Notice

1. Measure and label a Civil War timeline tape with a scale that works out well for a 5 year period. (If scale = 1 year/foot or 1 year/24 cm, each inch or 2 cm segment represents a month.) Begin with the year 1861 and continue to December 1865. (Option: Use a scale of 1 cm or ½ inch per month to create shorter, more manageable, timelines. If appropriate, students may choose their timeline scales.)
2. Label the timeline with important Civil War events including the title and dates.
3. Add details to the timeline as desired: color code Union and Confederacy victories, paste in pictures or draw specific events at the appropriate location on the tape relative to the year markings.

Important Civil War Events

- April 12, 1861 - Fort Sumter Attacked
- July 21, 1861 - First Bull Run
- April 6 - 7, 1862 - Shiloh
- August 29 - 30, 1862 - Second Bull Run
- September 17, 1862 - Antietam
- September 22, 1862 - Preliminary Emancipation Proclamation
- December 13, 1862 - Fredericksburg
- January 1, 1863 - Final Emancipation Proclamation
- May 1-4, 1863 - Chancellorsville
- July 1-3 1863 - Gettysburg
- July 4, 1864 - Confederates surrender Vicksburg
- June 3, 1864 - Cold Harbor
- November 15 - December 21, 1864 - March to Sea
- January 31, 1865 - Congress approves the 13th Amendment
- April 9, 1865 - Lee Surrenders
- April 14, 1865 - Lincoln Shot
- December 6, 1865 - The 13th Amendment ratified. Slavery is abolished.

The Content Behind the Activity

How data is presented visually can make a great impact on how people understand and interpret events. A simple graphic chart can reach people who would not be able to make connections between items on a written list in words. In fact, many people rely on graphics rather than reading the words at all, and many find it easier to interpret historical data represented in a timeline format.

Web Resources (Visit www.raft.net/more for how-to videos and more ideas!)

- Civil War Sites - <http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/cwphtml/tl1861.html> & <http://www.civilwar.si.edu/> & <http://www.pbs.org/civilwar>