

Civil War (4th Grade)

Objective: Students will research people and places in the Upcountry that were significant to the Civil War and will create an historical marker for that person or place.

Essential Question: *Who and what were some of the Upcountry participants and places during the Civil War?*

SC Social Studies Standards

- 4-6.6 Explain the impact of the Civil War on the nation, including its effect on the physical environment and on the people – soldiers, women, African Americans, and the civilian population.

Background Information

From the Museum:

High Hopes for the Southern Cause

South Carolina seceded from the Union on December 20, 1860, yet many in the Upcountry retained Unionist sentiments, seeing the War as a fight to save the Lowcountry aristocratic way of Life. Nevertheless, the Upcountry rallied behind the Confederacy and many area men entered military service. The 1st Regiment Rifles, known as Orr's Rifles, was organized at Sandy Springs in July 1861 with members from Abbeville, Pickens, Anderson and Marion Counties. In 1861, General Samuel McGowan addressed volunteer from his county, Abbeville, in Charleston. Abbeville called itself the birthplace of the Confederacy, after a meeting there launched South Carolina's secession.

On the Homefront

In Upcountry towns, the war years started with a burst of prosperity, but ended with years of pain and deprivation. Early in the War, some Upcountry businesses experienced an upswing in revenue, boosted by the production of textiles, wagons, and other items for the Confederate war effort. The Gower, Cox and Gower carriage factory manufactured wagons for the Confederacy, and by 1865 the company had supplied \$140,000 worth of products for the war effort. T. C. Gower joined the Hampton Legion of the Confederate forces in 1861, leaving his wife and daughter in charge of the carriage factory. Batesville Mill provided shirting for the soldiers. The railroad connected the area to the outside world. Refugees from the coast arrived in Upcountry towns, and populations grew. Depots became gathering places to wait for news from the front or claim coffins bearing casualties of the War. Women organized Soldier's Aid Societies, which raised money to send Bibles, food, clothing, and medicines to men fighting on the front lines. In September of 1861, the ladies of Spartanburg presented a volunteer concert which raised nearly \$150. As the War continued, daily life in the Upcountry became more difficult. For long periods of time there were no open stores and no available currency.

The Yankees Are Coming!

As the War wound to a close, Union soldiers pursued Jefferson Davis as he made a dash through the southern states. No fighting took place in the Upcountry until after Lee's surrender at Appomattox on April 9, 1865. The Union Cavalry, under the command of General George Stoneman, raided Spartanburg, Anderson and Greenville in pursuit of Confederate President Jefferson Davis. With Stoneman's Raiders on the way, Davis conducted the Confederacy's last cabinet meeting in Abbeville. In the home of Confederate Major Armistead Burt, Davis reluctantly agreed to give up the fight and dissolve the government.

Other detailed background information about these topics can be found in:

Scott Foresman, Social Studies, Building of a Nation (4th grade text)
Chapters 14 and 15

The History of South Carolina in the Building of the Nation by Archie Vernon Huff, Jr
Chapters 18 and 19

Greenville The History of the City and County in the South Carolina Piedmont by Archie Vernon Huff pp. 135-144

Traditions and History of Anderson County by Louise Ayer Vandiver, pps. 223-248

The South Carolina Encyclopedia

Various books in the South Carolina Room at the Greenville Library and The Civil War Museum

Primary Activity: Civil War Marker

There are many Civil War markers in the Upcountry pertaining to the Civil War. However, many people and places go unrecognized today. Research your county's monuments and markers to determine who or what has and has not been recognized to date. In Greenville County the following monuments or markers exist: Unknown Confederate Dead marker, Ordinance of Secession marker, Confederate Monument, Soldier's Rest, Robert E. Lee and the Confederate Armory.

Materials

- Printout of blank historical marker (attached)
- List of Greenville County people and places of the Civil War (attached)
- Copy of Ordinance of Secession historical marker, Confederate Amory marker, Robert E. Lee marker and the Confederate Monument (examples)

Procedure

1. Print out the blank historical marker sheet (one per student)

2. Print out the list of Greenville County people and places of the Civil War (one per student) and the photo copies of markers for a class example.
3. Have students research one item on the list.
4. Have students fill in the blank historical marker sheet answering the questions Who, What, When, Where and Why. Use the photo copies of markers as an example to follow when writing text. The markers contain one title line and 17 lines of text. Write the text in black marker, then color over the marker in light grey.

Assessment

A rubric can be used to assess this project:

Student engages in research – 5 points

Student fills in the historical marker sheet correctly answering the 5 W questions -5 points

Cross-Curricular Activities

Social Studies

- * Research South Carolina flags of the Civil War. Draw a picture of one from the Upcountry and write a paragraph detailing information about it.
- * Civil war era children did not have computer games or television to entertain them. Instead they played games like Duck, Duck Goose, Hide and Seek, and Ring Around the Roses. They played with toys like jacks, blocks, trains, pull toys and dolls. Research these toys and games to see if they are still played or available today. An extension of this would be to make a replica of a civil war toy.
- * Divide the classroom into groups. Each group will form its own regiment and come up with a name, a flag, a motto, and future battle plans.

Research & Language Arts

- * Research a local regiment or unit from your county and write up its history. Where was it first established? What did its flag look like? What train station did it depart from? Where did the regiment go? Write the battlefield that your regiment fought at to inquire about their fate and any markers that may have been placed there recognizing their efforts.

Art

- * Quilting is an art form. Research quilt square patterns from the civil war era and from the Underground Railroad Era and reproduce the pattern on paper or fabric.
- * Look up pictures of Civil War era clothing and uniforms. Make paper dolls sporting the style of the day.

List of Greenville County people and places of the Civil War

Orr's Rifles
Greenville Guard
Butler Guard
Hampton Legion
Soldiers Aid Society
Stoneman's Raid
Gower and Cox Factory
Goodlett House Hospital
Batesville Mill
Railroad Depot on Vardry Street
Mrs. Perry E. Duncan
Duncan's Chapel
Eliza Powell
Caroline H. Gillman

*other names and places will be added for other counties, until then these are the type of ideas that can be researched for any county.