

Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Military Park



CHANCELLORSVILLE BATTLEFIELD EXPLORATION TEACHER'S GUIDE

THEME:

At the Battle of Chancellorsville, the soldiers experienced a new kind of fighting determined in large part by the landscape. While the landscape impacted the soldiers' experience, the battle likewise drastically altered the land itself. Today, evidence of that experience and change is still evident throughout the park.

OVERVIEW:

This program seeks to enable students to engage more directly in the history of this place and its landscape while also exploring the effects of the Civil War on various groups of people. During this program students will learn how the environment shaped and was shaped by major events of the Civil War. Additionally, they will visit multiple locations on the battlefield that illuminate the experience of soldiers and noncombatants alike. This program encourages students to utilize critical thinking and observation skills to learn more about a place and the natural environment. Importantly, because much of the Chancellorsville Battlefield is not accessible by walking from the Visitor Center, students will be transported to other locations in the park rather than confined to the immediate area. If you choose to do so, a worksheet is also available to help facilitate students' exploration of the Chancellorsville Visitor Center Exhibits. This activity works in conjunction with the Battlefield Exploration and is available for download at www.nps.gov/frsp/forteachers.

GOALS:

- To explore the Chancellorsville Battlefield and learn what the landscape can tell us about the experiences of soldiers and civilians before, during and after the battle
- To provide students with an engaging, educational and interactive experience
- To equip students to use powers of observation like sight and sound to learn more about the history of a place
- To encourage students to take ownership of their National Park and better understand the significance of what happened in and around the Chancellorsville (Spotsylvania County) area

OBJECTIVES:

AT THE END OF THE PROGRAM STUDENTS WILL BE ABLE TO:

- Identify important geographic features on the Chancellorsville Battlefield and explain their significance
- Remember important themes and narratives related to the Battle of Chancellorsville
- Recognize changes in the landscape related to important historical events and explain their significance

ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS:

LOCATION	Chancellorsville Battlefield. Meet at the Chancellorsville Visitor Center.
COST	All programs are free . Entrance to the park is also free .
LENGTH	Approximately two hours
AMENITIES	Large picnic area near Visitor Center, restrooms, and water fountains
DISTANCE	Some of the sites in this tour will be accessed by vehicle. However, the tour does include at least a half mile of walking on uneven ground.
PREPARATION	Though there are water fountains available at the Visitor Center, we suggest that you encourage your students to bring along their own water bottles as well. Outlying sites on the battlefield are not equipped with water fountains and weather conditions can become extremely warm.
TRANSPORTATION	To fully experience this program, students will need to travel to various parts of the battlefield by motor vehicle. We ask that you prepare your bus driver in advance and request that he or she stay on site to assist with transportation from each location. A Ranger will board the bus with you at your first stop to help navigate.
WEATHER	Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Military Park offers outdoor programs rain or shine. In the case of unsafe weather conditions, such as thunder and lightning, outdoor programs will be canceled. If you would like to cancel a program because of weather, please call in advance and we will be happy to reschedule. The Chancellorsville Battlefield Visitor Center can be reached at: (540) 373-6122
PRE AND POST VISIT ACTIVITIES	Growth of our education offerings is ongoing. Please check back regularly for new additions to our website at: http://www.nps.gov/frsp/forteachers/index.htm
ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS	Please contact the park's education coordinator with any additional questions or concerns at: peter_maugle@nps.gov or (540) 373-5498

VIRGINIA STANDARDS OF LEARNING

UNITED STATES HISTORY TO 1865

USI.1.b: make connections between past and present

USI.1.i: identify the costs and benefits of specific choices made, including consequences, both intended and unintended, of the decisions and how people and nations responded to positive and negative incentives

USI9.f: describing the effects of war from the perspectives of Union and Confederate soldiers (including African American soldiers), women, and enslaved African Americans

VIRGINIA AND UNITED STATES HISTORY

VUS.1.i: identify the costs and benefits of specific choices made, including consequences, both intended and unintended, of the decisions and how people and nations responded to positive and negative incentives

VUS.7.e: examining the social impact of the war on African Americans, the common soldier, and the home front, with emphasis on Virginia

VIRGINIA STUDIES

VS.1.a: identify and interpret artifacts and primary and secondary source documents to understand events in history

VS.1.b: determine cause and effect relationships

VS.1.e: make connections between past and present

VS.7.b: describing Virginia's role in the war, including identifying major battles that took place in Virginia

VS.7.c: describing the roles played by whites, enslaved African Americans, free African Americans, and American Indians

VS.8.a: identifying the effects of Reconstruction on life in Virginia

COMMON CORE STANDARDS

ANCHOR STANDARDS

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.SL.2 Integrate and evaluate information presented in diverse media and formats, including visually, quantitatively, and orally.

SPEAKING & LISTENING:

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.CCRA.SL.2 Integrate and evaluate information presented in diverse media and formats, including visually, quantitatively, and orally.

HISTORY/SOCIAL STUDIES:

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RH.6-8.7 Integrate visual information (e.g., in charts, graphs, photographs, videos, or maps) with other information in print and digital texts.