

# Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Military Park



## TEACHERS GUIDE

### BATTLEFIELD EXPLORATION AND DESIGN AN EXHIBIT

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#### **THEME:**

A variety of people including soldiers, civilians and slaves experienced the Battle of Fredericksburg. Each person viewed and interpreted that experience differently. Importantly, every individual had to make important decisions over the course of time before, during, and after the battle. An investigation of these varied experiences and choices yields a more comprehensive understanding of the experience not only of the Battle of Fredericksburg, but also the collective lived experience of the American Civil War.

#### **OVERVIEW:**

##### *Not Your Average Walking Tour*

This program seeks to engage students with the resources available at the Fredericksburg Battlefield to help them better understand the Civil War experience. Students will accompany a Park Ranger on a battlefield exploration, investigating historic sites and structures to learn about the experience of soldiers, civilians, and slaves throughout the war. After exploring the Fredericksburg Battlefield and Fredericksburg National Cemetery, students will have the opportunity to examine reproduction artifacts. During this activity students will decide how they would tell and represent the stories they have learned about by creating their own mini exhibit for the Visitor Center.

#### **GOALS:**

- To provide students with an engaging, interactive educational experience
- To help students explore the varied experience of soldiers, civilians, and slaves during the Battle of Fredericksburg
- To investigate what these experiences at Fredericksburg can tell us about the national experience of Civil War
- To foster an understanding for the ways in which the Civil War is still relevant to and impacts our country today
- To encourage students to take ownership of their National Park and the history of their nation commemorated here

#### **OBJECTIVES:**

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

- Reflect on and synthesize what they have learned and present it to their class
- Remember important narratives and themes related to the Battle of Fredericksburg and the Civil War

- Identify significant places and spaces on the Fredericksburg Battlefield
- Understand, to a degree, the experience of and choices made by soldiers, civilians and slaves during the Battle of Fredericksburg

## **ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS:**

<b>LOCATION</b>	Fredericksburg Battlefield Visitor Center, the Sunken Road, and the Fredericksburg National Cemetery
<b>COST</b>	All programs & entrance to the park are <b>FREE</b>
<b>LENGTH</b>	Approximately 90 minutes
<b>AMENITIES</b>	2 picnic benches, restrooms, and a water fountain
<b>DISTANCE</b>	The Battlefield Exploration will cover approximately one half mile of ground. Walkways are both paved and gravel.
<b>WEATHER</b>	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 Fredericksburg Battlefield Visitor Center can be reached at: (540) 373-6122
<b>PRE AND POST VISIT ACTIVITIES</b>	Growth of our education offerings is ongoing. Please check back regularly for new additions to our website at: <a href="http://www.nps.gov/frsp/forteachers/index.htm">http://www.nps.gov/frsp/forteachers/index.htm</a>



## COMMON CORE STANDARDS

### **SPEAKING & LISTENING:**

**CCSS.ELA-Literacy.CCRA.SL.1** Prepare for and participate effectively in a range of conversations and collaborations with diverse partners, building on others' ideas and expressing their own clearly and persuasively.

**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.

## 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

**USI.9.a:** describing the cultural, economic, and constitutional issues that divided the nation

**USI.9.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.a:** evaluating the multiple causes of the Civil War, including both the role of the institution of slavery as a principal cause of the conflict

**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.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

