



Lesson Plan

Antietam Then and Now

23,000 soldiers were killed, wounded or missing after twelve hours of savage combat on September 17, 1862. The Battle of Antietam ended the Confederate Army of Northern Virginia's first invasion into the North and led to President Abraham Lincoln's issuance of the preliminary Emancipation Proclamation.

Introduction-

Level: 3rd-4th Grade

Length of Lesson: One class period.

Skills: Reading, writing, utilization and analysis of primary sources, group discussion.

Essential Question: How has the Antietam Battlefield changed and stayed the same over the years.

Procedure-

Students will study and evaluate primary and secondary resources and then complete a worksheet based on what they learned about the battlefield.

Students will study historic photographs, sketches, and paintings of the battle and then compare them to modern photographs of the battlefield. They will then complete a worksheet that compares the battlefield then and now.

Note: It is helpful if the teacher can print copies of the primary sources before the



Alexander Gardner, Antietam, Maryland. Burnside bridge across the Antietam. Southwest view. September 1862, Library of Congress.

lesson, if not the pictures and photographs can be viewed online.

After completing the worksheets, students will participate in a discussion based on the following questions:

What is the same about the battlefield in 1862 compared to today?

What was different about the battlefield in 1862 compared to today?

What are some ways that being a soldier in 1862 was different than being a soldier today?

Why do you think the National Park Service has tried to take care of Antietam National Battlefield?

If you were a park ranger, what would you try to preserve on the battlefield, what would you change?

If you visit a historic site, what can you do to help preserve it for future generations?

Extension Activities-

Use the park website to show the students some photographs of monuments, <http://www.nps.gov/anti/historyculture/monuments.htm>. Have the students work in small groups to design their own monument and then present their monument to the class.

Use the picture of President Lincoln and General McClellan meeting after the battle and compare it to a modern picture of the president meeting with one of his generals. Have the students compare and contrast then and now. Have students imagine and write a dialogue between Lincoln and McClellan.

Learning Objectives-

Students will be able to:

Distinguish between past, present, and future time.

Explain change and continuity over time.

Draw upon the visual data presented in photographs, paintings, and drawings.

Analyze illustrations in historical stories.

National Education Standards-

National Center for History in the Schools, UCLA, History Standards, Standards for Grades K-4. **Standard 1: Chronological Thinking, Standard 2: Historical Comprehension, Standard 3: Historical Analysis and Interpretation.**
<http://www.nchs.ucla.edu/Standards/standards-for-grades-k-4/historical-thinking-standards>

Assessment Tools-

Completed worksheets and responses to discussion questions.

Resources

Primary Sources-

Library of Congress. Alexander Gardener, Photograph. *Antietam, Md. Burnside's Bridge.*
<http://www.loc.gov/pictures/item/cwp2003000130/PP/>

Library of Congress. Alexander Gardener, Photograph. Antietam, Maryland. *A lone grave.*
<http://www.loc.gov/pictures/item/cwp2003005542/PP/>

Library of Congress. Alexander Gardener, Photograph. *Dunker Church, battle-field of Antietam, Maryland.*
<http://www.loc.gov/pictures/item/2006685374/>

Library of Congress. Alexander Gardener, Photograph. *Antietam, Maryland. Graves of Federal soldiers at Burnside bridge.*
<http://www.loc.gov/pictures/item/cwp2003006094/PP/>

Library of Congress. Alexander Gardener, Photograph. *Antietam, Maryland. Ruins of Mumma's house on the battlefield.*
<http://www.loc.gov/pictures/item/cwp2003005922/PP/>

Library of Congress. Alexander Gardener, Photograph. *The President and General McClellan on the Battle-field of Antietam.*
<http://www.loc.gov/pictures/item/2010645740/>

National Park Service. Antietam National Battlefield. *Hope Paintings.*
<http://www.nps.gov/anti/photosmultimedia/hopepaintings.htm>

National Park Service. Antietam National Battlefield. *Historic Newspaper Sketches.*
<http://www.nps.gov/ncr/photosmultimedia/photogallery.htm?id=284C47BB-1DD8-B71C-07D058892698FE8D>

National Park Service. Antietam National Battlefield. *Current Photographs of Antietam National Battlefield.*
<http://www.nps.gov/ncr/photosmultimedia/photogallery.htm?id=25A2A4DC-1DD8-B71C-0757F5A35B21F925>

Additional Teacher Resources-

Civil War Trust, *Antietam.*
<http://www.civilwar.org/battlefields/antietam.html>

National Park Service. Antietam National Battlefield. *Two page history of the battle.*
<http://www.nps.gov/anti/historyculture/upload/Battle%20history.pdf> (pdf, 325 kb).

National Park Service. Antietam National Battlefield. *Antietam National Battlefield web page.*
<http://www.nps.gov/anti/>

