

West Virginia Studies Resource Development

Title of Lesson: The 7th West Virginia Infantry
Grade level: 8th Grade
Summary: Although West Virginia did not become a state until 1863, soldiers from the soon to be state served in both the Union and Confederate armies. One of the most notable regiments was the 7 th West Virginia Infantry Regiment. The 7 th West Virginia served in the Union army and was active throughout the entirety of the Civil War. Through this lesson, students will research the notable regiment and learn more about their role in various significant battles and engagements of the American Civil War.
WV CCR Social Studies Standards: SS.8.22: Demonstrate an understanding of the American Civil War including its causes, effects and the major events that led to West Virginia statehood. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Explain the effect of key events leading to western Virginia's separation from Virginia after secession (e.g., First and Second Wheeling Conventions and John Brown's Raid).• Describe the moral, ethical, and legal tensions that led to the creation of the new state of West Virginia and how these tensions were resolved (e.g., Virginia vs. West Virginia 1871).• Compare and contrast the military strategies of the North and South with regard to specific events and geographic locations in West Virginia (e.g., the Battle of Philippi, Rich Mountain, Droop Mountain, Battle of Scary Creek and Battle of Carnifex Ferry).• Identify significant contributions of men and women of West Virginia during the Civil War and identify the roles of ethnic and racial minorities.
Essential Question (content): <ul style="list-style-type: none">- When was the 7th West Virginia Infantry organized?- What notable battles did the 7th West Virginia Infantry participate in?- What was life like for a Civil War soldier?
Students will be able to do (skills): At the conclusion of this lesson, students will be able to describe the significance of the 7 th West Virginia infantry to the Union war effort. Students will become familiar with the numerous battles the regiment participated in. Students will also gain an understanding of what life was like for a Civil War soldier.
Materials & Resources: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Description of 7th WV Infantry Marker at Gettysburg http://gettysburg.stonesentinels.com/union-monuments/west-virginia/7th-west-virginia-infantry/- Soldier Life in the Civil War – Civil War in 4 from the American Battlefield Trust https://www.battlefields.org/learn/videos/soldier-life-during-civil-war- Timeline of the 7th WV Infantry http://civilwarintheeast.com/us-regiments-batteries/west-virginia/7th-west-virginia/- Mobile Computer Lab

Learning Plan:

1. Students will begin the lesson by viewing the images of the 7th West Virginia Infantry monument on the Gettysburg battlefield. Students will view the monument and discuss what they observe regarding the monument.
2. Students will then discuss the origins of the 7th West Virginia Infantry and learn about the various battles and engagements the unit participated in by exploring the timeline from <http://civilwarintheeast.com>.
3. Students will then choose a battle or skirmish to complete further research on. Students will utilize the mobile computer lab to research the engagement to uncover information related to the overall event itself as well as the role of the 7th WV Infantry in the event.
4. Students will then view the Civil War in 4 video on Soldier Life in the Civil War. This will allow students to understand what everyday life would be like for a Civil War soldiers, including writing letters home.
5. After this, students will use the information they gathered about the 7th WV Infantry and the battle/engagement they researched to write their own letters home. Students will describe soldier life, as well as the battle they chose in their letters.
6. The lesson will conclude with students sharing various examples of their letters with the class.

Checking for Understanding:

Students will demonstrate their comprehension of the 7th West Virginia Infantry, Civil War battles, and soldier life through the completion of the letter writing exercise. The letter will allow students to show what they understand and what they have learned from their independent research.

Accommodations:

Accommodations for this lesson may include assigning students a battle to research and providing guiding questions for the research rather than asking students to uncover all the details. Advanced learners could be asked to write a series of letters or complete a number of journal/diary entries to further their discussion of their battles and the experiences of the 7th West Virginia.