

This lesson is intended for a 6-8 grade Social Studies classroom. It will take approximately three-four class periods to allow for instruction, research and presentations.

Lesson: The Forgotten Role of Women in History

Objectives:

As a result of this lesson, students will be able to say:

- I can describe important activities of women during the Civil War.
- I can research and examine websites and summarize information.
- I can re-evaluate my previous understanding of the roles of women in history.

Common Core Standards:

- [CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RH.6-8.2](#)
Determine the central ideas or information of a primary or secondary source; provide an accurate summary of the source distinct from prior knowledge or opinions.
- [CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RH.6-8.4](#)
Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including vocabulary specific to domains related to 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.

Materials Needed:

- Computer access
- Fifteen note cards each with the name of one Civil War era woman (see below for list of names).
- Classroom screen that projects PowerPoint or Animoto productions.

Anticipatory Set:

Students will be instructed as follows:

“In two minutes, list the names of as many men as you can from the Civil War.” After two minutes, the teacher will call on students to come forward and record their responses on the board.

After the class is satisfied that the list is complete, students will be instructed, “Now in three minutes, list the names of as many women as you can from the Civil War.” After three minutes, the teacher will call on students to come forward and write these names on the board.

The teacher will say, “Look at how few women’s names we have in comparison to the men’s. Women make up half of our population. Why do you think that we know so few?” (Student responses will vary but they should be guided to include the following: Most history books are written by men; women were not allowed in the military; women generally only worked in their homes and it not considered noteworthy.)

The teacher will say, “Despite what we may think today about these attitudes, can you think of any instances where these attitudes might be useful in wartime? Tell you neighbor what you think. ”

After several minutes of discussion, the teacher will ask, “Did any groups think of spies? (A few hands may go up). Well if you didn’t think of it, you might be surprised to know that some Civil War women were useful spies because no one suspected that they were capable of it! Over the next few days, you are going to be working with a partner to research a woman who played a significant role in the Civil War. You will use your research to create a Powerpoint or Animoto and present it to the class.”

Instructional Input, Research & Presentation

Students will be assigned partners and each pair will randomly be given a note card that has the name of one of the following Civil War era women:

- Mary Edwards Walker
- Rose O'Neal Greenhow
- Emma Edmonds
- Mary Bowser
- Sally Tompkins
- Loreta Janeta Velazquez
- Elizabeth Van Lew
- Susie King Taylor
- Amy Clarke
- Frances Clayton
- Juliet Hopkins
- Clara Barton
- Antonia Ford Willard
- Belle Boyd
- Harriet Beecher Stowe

Students will use school approved websites to research their Civil War era woman. They will then use their research to create a PowerPoint or Animoto presentation.

As students present their findings, other students will be required to record the names and general facts of each Civil War woman.

Closure Activity

Students will complete the following reflection after the presentations:

“Explain in detail the most surprising thing you learned from this research:

After learning about these women, has your opinion of women's roles in history changed?

Do you think these women were unique in history or do you think that there stories are common but unknown?

Do you think that historians will include more information about women living today? Why?”