



Civil War Battles in Western Virginia

Objective: Students will compare and contrast the military strategies of the North and South with regard to specific events and geographic locations in West Virginia.

GRADE LEVEL

Eighth Grade

TIME REQUIRED

Three days

GUIDING QUESTIONS

1. What were the results of each battle?
2. Where did the battles occur?
3. Why was each side able to achieve victory in battle?
4. How did the outcome of the battles allow West Virginia to become a state?

STRATEGIC VOCABULARY

battle

union

confederacy

statehood

secession

abolitionism

LESSON ACTIVITIES

Day 1

1. Begin the lesson by posting and reviewing the guiding questions and strategic vocabulary. Each student should have a laptop or be in a computer lab.
2. For background information, play the video at <http://www.brainpop.com/socialstudies/freemovies/>. (This is a paid site, but the Civil War video is free.) As a class, take the review quiz at the end of the video.
3. Next, explain that the students are going to be creating a “Civil War in West Virginia Portfolio.”



4. Have a list of these battles posted:
 - Battle of Philippi
 - Battle of Rich Mountain
 - Battle of Droop Mountain
 - Battle of Scary Creek
 - Battle of Carnifex Ferry
5. Pass out a copy of the “Battles in West Virginia Timeline” to each student.
6. Instruct the students that they are to search for each battle on <http://www.wvencyclopedia.org/> to determine when each battle occurred, what happened during each battle and the result of each battle.
7. Students are to draw a picture in the boxes provided in the timeline to show what happened and the result of each battle. (Students may use stick-figures, conversation among the figures, and labeling to complete this part of the assignment).
8. Once students finish, have them keep the timeline to import into the portfolio later.

Day 2

1. Begin the lesson by reviewing the guiding questions and strategic vocabulary. Each student should have a laptop or be in a computer lab.
2. Students are to begin the lesson by filling out a Venn diagram determining the similarities and differences in the Union and Confederacy.
3. They are to access <http://www.wvencyclopedia.org/> to determine both the similarities and differences, using names, places, and events. (You may have to model this for some students).
4. Once students complete their Venn diagram, use the template provided to create an acrostic poem for “Civil War.” Students are to use the articles they have read, plus other sources from <http://www.wvencyclopedia.org/> to complete the acrostic poem.
5. Once they complete the poem, have them either print it out or email it to you to add to their portfolio.

Day 3

1. Begin the lesson by reviewing the guiding questions and strategic vocabulary. Each student should have a laptop or be in a computer lab.
2. Pass out a blank map of West Virginia. Have students access <http://www.wvencyclopedia.org/> to search and label where the battles occurred in West Virginia.
3. Once they have completed all of the assignments, have them create a cover page for their portfolio, staple it, and turn it in.

WEST VIRGINIA NEXT GENERATION CONTENT STANDARDS AND OBJECTIVES

SOCIAL STUDIES

- 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.
- 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.

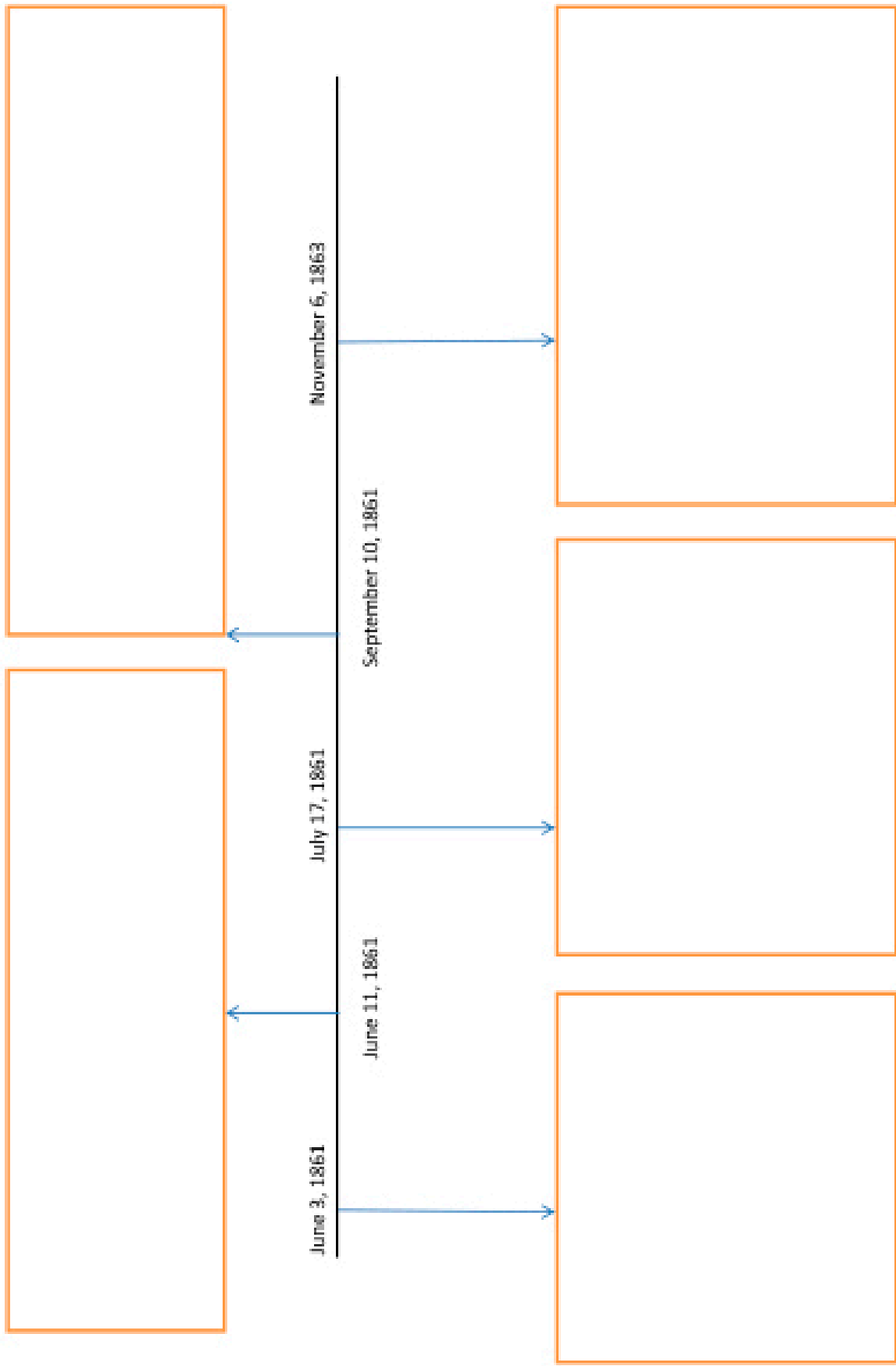
SS.8.1: Demonstrate patriotism through the planning, participation and observance of important anniversaries and remembrances (e.g., Pearl Harbor, Veterans' Day, Constitution Day and Patriots Day).

SS.8.13: Label the four major physical geographic regions, major rivers, landforms, natural/manmade borders, points of interest and bordering states on selected maps

Lesson plan created by Chris Lewis, Hamilton Middle School, cmlewis@access.k12.wv.us.

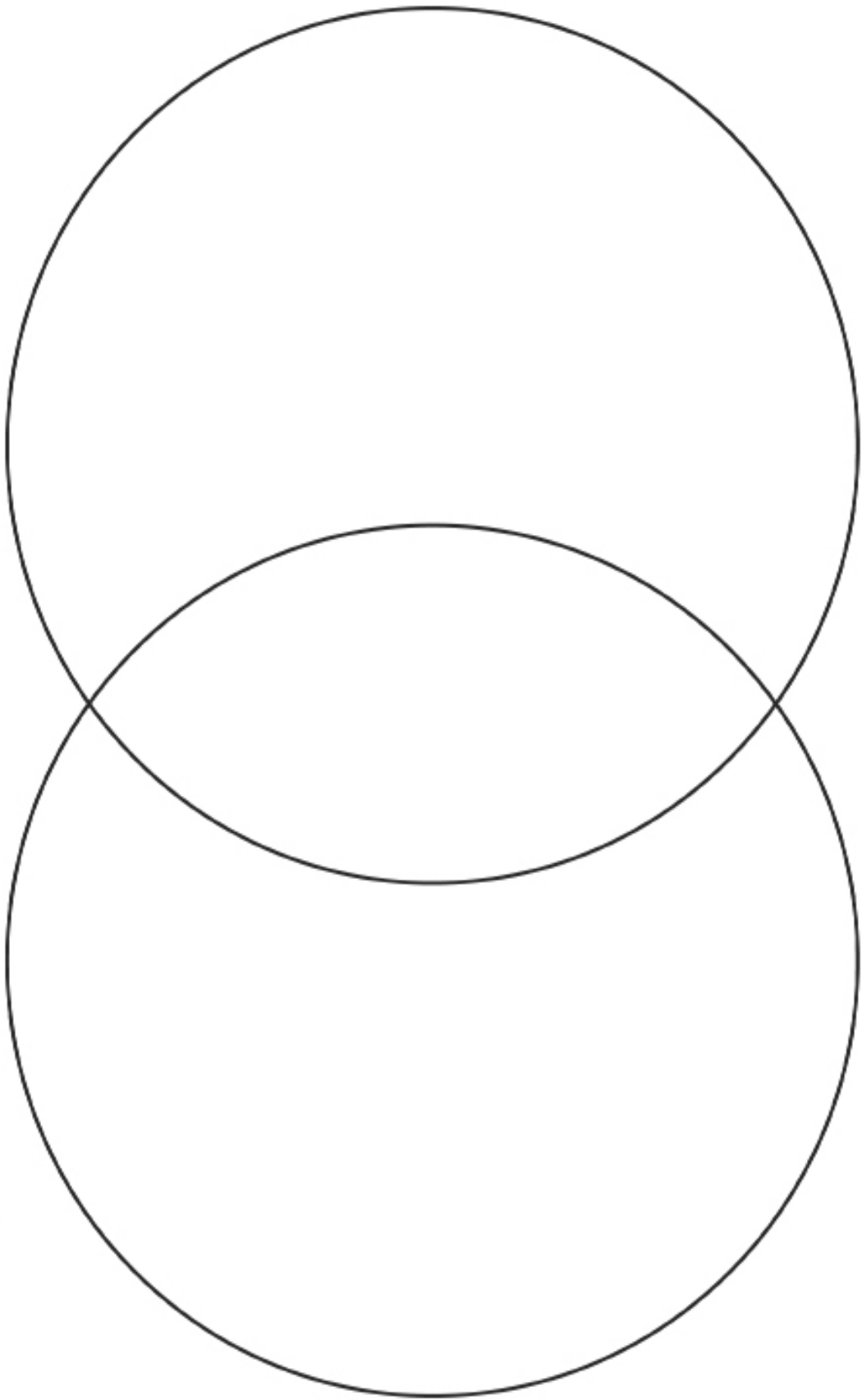


Battles in West Virginia Timeline



CONFEDERACY

UNION



CIVIL WAR

Use information from articles you have read at *e-WV* and other resources to write an Acrostic Poem about the Civil War in West Virginia. Each line of your poem must begin with the letter to the left of the line.

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