

Urbana - Champaign during the Civil War

Fellowship Lesson 2009

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Lesson 2: Understand the extent that Illinois was involved in the Civil War as well as what was happening in Central Illinois at this time.

Abstract: In this lesson student's will read local newspapers from the Civil War era to determine how the local people were affected by the war.

Essential Questions:

- What was going on in Champaign County during the Civil War?
- Where did the people in Champaign County get their news from?

Assessment: Students will be evaluated on their participation and on the short response at the end of the lesson.

Setting the Purpose: Students will read and discuss the events going on in Central Illinois at the time of the Civil War and how they impacted the people of Urbana. They will then move on to discuss how prisoner of war soldiers were treated at Illinois camps.

Procedure:

- Introduce lesson and expectations. Remind students that yesterday we learned how people in Illinois helped with the war effort. Today we are moving closer to home. The information we are reading today was printed in local papers. While the papers were local, the vast majority of the news came from big city papers, not local reporters.
- Break students into groups. (There are 5 different articles) Each group should get a copy of the original newspaper article and a typed copy. The group also has a group worksheet to fill out.
- Groups should read the article, discuss it, complete the attached worksheet and prepare a 3 to 5 minute presentation.
- Once all groups have completed their worksheets, each group will get up and present their article. A 2 minute question time should follow each group presentation.

Analysis of Primary Sources:

- June 6, 1881 – article from Champaign County Union “War News”.
- Jan 30, 1861 article in Champaign county Union “How Amos Kendall would treat the southern insurrectionists.”
- June 13, 1863 article from Champaign County Union “Three Year Volunteers.”
- June 13, 1863 article from Champaign County Union “Desperation of the Rebels.”

- January 30, 1861 article from the Illinois Gazette “Fighting Oppression in Mississippi.”
 - o Discussion questions – group work

Ties to National Primary source:

Articles come from national news feeds.

List of Materials and Resources:

- Packets of information for each group
 - Original article
 - Typed copy of article
 - Worksheet

Attachments:

- 5 articles
 - o Typed copy of newspaper article titled “How Amos Kendall would Treat the Southern Insurrectionists.” January 30, 1861 Champaign County Democrat.
 - o Copy of newspaper article titled “Frightful Oppression in Mississippi” from January 30, 1861 issue of the Illinois Gazette
 - o Copy of Newspaper article titled “ War News” from Champaign County Union – June 6, 1861
 - o Copy of newspaper article titled “Three year Volunteers” from June 13, 1863 edition of The Illinois Gazette.
- 5 typed copies of articles
- Worksheet – Primary source worksheet - Newspapers