

Urbana - Champaign during the Civil War

Fellowship Lesson 2009

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Lesson 3: Students will learn how to read and interpret data from US Census Records, memorial tributes and photographs

Abstract: Information can be gleaned from many different sources. Students will use this lesson to find out the information available from sources that historians use.

Essential Question:

- What information is valuable to historians and where can it be found?
- How can you look at historical documents to find valuable information?

Assessment: Students will work in teams to evaluate specific documents. They will have a worksheet to fill out showing they could find specific information on each document.

Setting and Purpose: Students are familiar with looking for information in dictionaries, resource books and the Internet. This class will revolve around using different types of primary sources to find information useful to historians.

Procedure:

- The class will start with the teacher using the overhead projector to show three different types of primary sources: A census sheet, a photograph and a memorial tribute. Discussion will follow each slide about the kind of information that can be found on each of the sources.
- Students will be broken into groups of 3 or 4. Stations will be set up around the room. Each station will have one primary source available for students. Students will be given a worksheet that asks specific questions about each primary source.
- Students should be given 3 – 4 minutes at each station to find the information they need. A signal will let students know when it is time to change stations.
- Once everyone has had a chance to go to each station, students will return to their seats and a class discussion will start about the information found.
- Wrap up the class by letting the students know that tomorrow's class will start as the bell rings because they need as much time as they can get to work on their project. Remind them to bring the rubrics from the first lesson, a notebook and writing utensil.

Analysis of Primary sources: Students will be analyzing photographs, census information, obituaries and newspaper articles from Champaign County during the time of the Civil War.

Attachments:

- Questionnaire
- Copies of overheads to be made of the following:
 - o 1880 Census Record
 - o 1910 census record
 - o Photograph 1
 - o Photograph 2
 - o Photograph 3
 - o Photograph 4