

**Lesson Topic:** Civil War Biographies – “Lest We Forget”

**Subject:** U.S. History to 1877  
Pre-AP and Regular

**Grade Level:** 10<sup>th</sup>

**Days for Completion:** 2

**Learner Outcomes (Objectives)**

*What will students know? What will students be able to do?*

Students should be able to compose a biography about a Civil War soldier from Cole County, Missouri

Students should be able to locate information from the provided websites and match this information to the categories on the Biographical Sketch sheet

Students should be able to sequence events in chronological order in their biographies (life before the war, actions during the war, life after the war)

Students should be able to describe one major battle or event that their assigned Civil War soldier participated in

**Assessments**

*How will you know what students know? How will you know what students can do?*

1. Questioning
2. Progress monitoring
3. Biographical Sketch Sheet – due Tuesday, April 5<sup>th</sup>
4. Biography – due Tuesday, April 5<sup>th</sup>

**Materials**

1. “Lest We Forget” CBS Sunday Morning video
2. Union and Confederate soldiers’ names – from Cole County, Missouri website
3. 1 day in the ORC (computer lab)
4. Pre-Approved Websites for student use – uploaded links to class website
5. Biographical Sketch sheets – 115 copies
6. *Pink & Say* by Patricia Polacco
7. Biography Rubric – 115 copies

**Alabama Course of Study**

10) Describe how the course, character, and effects of the Civil War influenced the United States

- Describing the impact of the division of the nation during the Civil War on resources, population, and transportation
- Explaining reasons for border states remaining in the Union
- Discussing nonmilitary events and life during the Civil War

**Instructional Strategies**

1. Research through technology
2. Composition – before, during, and after
3. Contextualization

**Tier of Instruction**

  X   1<sup>st</sup>             2<sup>nd</sup>             3<sup>rd</sup>

**Unit**

The American Civil War (1861-1865)

# Procedures

## DAY 1

1. Begin by showing students the CBS Sunday Morning video clip:

<http://www.cbsnews.com/video/watch/?id=6533049n>

- A. After the video clip, ask students why Mr. Vandoran thinks what he is doing for deceased veterans is a “privilege” not a “duty”? Ask, why does Mr. Vandoran speak their names aloud? Ask, how often do you speak aloud the name of your great-grandfather or great-great-grandmother?
- B. Discuss humans’ natural desire to be remembered and respected not only in life, but also death.

2. Tell students that today they will research the life of a Union or Confederate Civil War soldier and write a biography of that person.

- A. Discuss if students would care to have their “story” remembered or written down after their death.
- B. Tell students that all of the soldiers being researched today lived in Cole County, Missouri. Ask students why Missouri was a “unique” state during the war. Have students think back to previous class discussion about Missouri and the other Border States.
- C. Distribute the names of the Civil War soldiers.
- D. Hand out the Biographical Sketch sheets. Explain to students that some will be able to fill in ALL of the categories on the sheet, while others may be missing pieces of information. If they have searched on all of the approved sites and are still unable to locate a particular piece of information they should write “NOT AVAILABLE” in the blank space.

3. Have students go to the class website and scroll-down until they see the heading: Civil War Biographies. Have students click on the first web-link: <http://www.colecohistsoc.org/civilwar.html> Here there are two lists of Civil War soldiers from Cole County. The first list is Union soldiers, the second Confederate soldiers. Have students look through the lists and locate their assigned Civil War soldier. When they locate the name have them click on the link and begin researching their soldier.

- A. Walk around the lab and help students locate information and answer student questions. Tell students that once they have gathered all the information they can from the Cole County Historic Society website they can move on to any of the other seven websites linked to the class website. Remind students that while in the computer lab they CANNOT use Google or any other search engine.

4. Before the bell have students return to the class website. Read together the biography directions listed on the page. Clarify any questions. Remind students that they have the weekend and Monday to complete their biographies. Today was the only day we would meet in the ORC. If students need additional computer time they can do so at home, in the school library before school, or in the public library.

## DAY 2

1. Ask students how they are progressing on their biographies. Are there any questions? Re-discuss the guidelines for writing the biography and the necessary components.

2. Re-open discussion about Mr. Vandoran and the “Lest We Forget” video clip from CBS Sunday Morning.

- A. Ask, how does this video clip relate to our Civil War biography assignment? Discuss parallels.

3. Tell students that today we will read *Pink & Say* by Patricia Polacco. The book is about two boys in the Civil War. At the end of the story we will discuss how this book is related to our video clip and our biographies. Afterwards, ask both comprehension and evaluation questions. (Bloom’s Taxonomy)

4. Give students the last fifteen minutes of class to work on their biographies. Allow students to help each other. Monitor student progress and answer any questions. Remind students that their biographies are due at the beginning of class tomorrow.

## Day 3 – Due Date

1. Before students turn-in their biographies, have students speak aloud the name of their Civil War soldier. Start at one end of the classroom and work around the room. Discuss again Mr. Vandoran and *Pink & Say*. Allow students to discuss the merit of completing an assignment such as this one. Was it important, why or why not?

  X   Talking      X   Writing      X   Investigating      X   Reading      X   Listening