

Lesson provided by: Sidney Dixon, Riverview Middle School: Dawson County

“Civil War and Ballads”

Grade: 8th

Georgia Performance Standard:

SS8H6 Significant events of the Civil War and Reconstruction

Description: Student assignment – Students will analyze and discuss selected Civil War songs.

Assignment: Day #1

Students will work in groups of four (with one student being designated as group leader and recorder) to analyze and discuss possible frustrations, anxieties, fears, or patriotic views (i.e. heart-felt meanings) from selected Civil War songs. The group leader will articulate the group responses and the teacher will compile the list and be part of the discussion series.

Assignment: Day #2 & 3

The teacher will show the movie “Glory”.

Assignment: Day #4

Students return to their designated groups to add any additional information gathered from the movie “Glory”. Each group leader will articulate any additional information gathered from the movie.

Assignment: Day #5

The students will go to the computer lab and find the lyrics of popular songs of the “80’s”, “90’s, & recent times (supervised by the teacher). Each group will compile the lyrics of several songs and return to class.

Assignment: Day #6

The students will compare the lyrics of Civil War songs to the lyrics of modern day songs.

Questions #1 - How are the lyrics of Civil War songs and modern day songs similar?

Questions #2 - How are the lyrics of Civil War songs and modern day songs different?

Question #3 - Are there songs of today that show the frustrations, anxieties, fears, or patriotic views of our society?

Assignment: Day #7

Follow-up assignment – Using information gathered from the movie “Glory” and the lyrics of Civil War songs, write an essay describing the life of an individual involved with the Civil War living during 1860-1864.

Materials needed:

- Selected lyrics of Civil War songs or ballads
- *Glory*