

Lesson provided by: Launa H. Williams, Westlake High School: Fulton County

“Sherman and the Chattahoochee”

Grade Level: 7 – 12

GPS Standards:

SSUSH9: The student will identify key events, issues, and individuals relating to the causes, course, and consequences of the Civil War.

C: Describe the role of Ulysses S. Grant, Robert E. Lee, “Stonewall Jackson”, William Tecumseh Sherman, and Jefferson Davis.

D: Explain the importance of Fort Sumter, Antietam, Vicksburg, Gettysburg, and the Battle for Atlanta.

Learning Goals:

- Students will evaluate the effectiveness of the Chattahoochee River Line in attempting to stop General Sherman as he marched toward Atlanta.
- Students will evaluate the strategies used by General Sherman as he moved his troops toward Atlanta.
- Students will identify key terms and people.

Essential Question:

How did the Battle of Atlanta and Sherman’s March to the Sea affect the outcome of the Civil War?

Teaching Strategies:

1. Divide the class into groups of 2, 3, or 4 students.
2. The students will read *The Chattahoochee River Line* article from *Georgia Backroads*, Autumn 2008 edition. Give each student a copy of the article to read and use for reference.
3. After reading the article, each group should answer the questions on the attached worksheet.

Vocabulary:

Fortification

General William T. Sherman

Flanking maneuver

General Joseph E. Johnston

“Minuet”

“Shoupades”

Bulwark

Earthworks

Bastions

Palisades

Trenches

Chattahoochee River Line (Johnston’s River Line)

Brigadier General Francis Ashbury Shoup

Worksheet Follows on Next Page

Worksheet, The Chattahoochee River Line

Period: _____

Group #: _____

Group Member Names: _____

Read the article, The Chattahoochee River Line, and answer the questions below.

1. What was the ultimate doom of the Chattahoochee River Line?
2. What advantage did Sherman have that allowed him to attack the Confederates from the side or rear?
3. Describe the Chattahoochee River Line and its purpose.
4. Who designed the Chattahoochee River Line and what were his qualifications?
5. What battle, lost by Sherman, caused him to go around the Chattahoochee River Line and attack Atlanta from undefended points south of the Chattahoochee River Line?
6. What one goal did the Chattahoochee River Line achieve?
7. What did Sherman's army do to diminish the effectiveness of the Chattahoochee River Line?

Complete One (1) of the Following Activities.

1. Read about the Maginot Line and develop a T-Chart to compare the Maginot Line to the Chattahoochee River Line.
2. Use a modern-day map of the Metro-Atlanta region and document the locations of the fortifications of the Chattahoochee River Line.
3. Using the information in the article, draw a diagram of the arrowhead-shaped bulwarks used in the Chattahoochee River Line. This should be done on poster-board.

Summarizing Activity:

List three possible outcomes of either the Battle of Atlanta, or the Civil War as a whole, that would have resulted from the Union forces being stopped by the Chattahoochee River Line.

Answers to the questions:

1. The Chattahoochee River Line was outflanked by mobile enemies.
2. His army outnumbered Johnston's 2 to 1.
3. The Chattahoochee River Line was a series of earthworks to prevent Sherman from taking Atlanta.
4. The Chattahoochee River Line was designed by Brigadier General Francis Asbury Shoup. He graduated from West Point and was educated in the design and use of military fortifications. He had been stationed in St. Augustine, Florida and had studied and explored the Castillo de San Marcus.
5. The Battle of Kennesaw Mountain
6. The Chattahoochee River Line protected Johnston's forces and gave them time to safely cross the Chattahoochee River and reassemble in Atlanta.
7. Sherman's army diminished the effectiveness of the Chattahoochee River Line by going around it.