

Donna Carrier

## **The Battle of Gettysburg**

### **Introduction**

Students will learn about the Battle of Gettysburg as they read a Primary Source Documents, read information, and write a newspaper article. They will understand that the battle at Gettysburg was a three-day battle that was horrific for the residents of Gettysburg, fatal for many soldiers and the turning point of the war. This is planned for a fifth grade class, and will take 2 class periods.

### **Objectives**

Students will have a basic knowledge of the Battle of Gettysburg. They will be able to describe the general landscape, explain the main points, and understand the horrors that the residents went through.

### **Targeted MA Frameworks**

USI.39 Analyze the roles and policies of various Civil War leaders and describe the important Civil War battles and events. (H)

Battles

D. Gettysburg

### **Materials**

A copy of the excerpt from Tillie Pierce's *What a Girl Saw and Heard of the Battle* or it can be read on line at [www.eyewitnesstohistory.com/gtburg.htm](http://www.eyewitnesstohistory.com/gtburg.htm)

A copy of the informational handout *The Battle of Gettysburg* or they may read it on the web site <http://library.thinkquest.org/3055/graphics/experience/battles/gettysburg.html-7k>

A copy of the map *Civil War battles fought in Maryland and Virginia prior to the Battle of Gettysburg* found on web site

[www.cr.nps.gov/nr/twhp/wwwlps/lessons/44gettys/44locate1.htm-5k](http://www.cr.nps.gov/nr/twhp/wwwlps/lessons/44gettys/44locate1.htm-5k)

### **Motivational Strategies**

Students will read excerpts from *What a Girl Saw and Heard of the Battle*. Since the author was a 15-year-old girl, this should be of interest to them.

### **Instructions**

Read the handout *What a Girl Saw and Heard of the Battle* or read it on line at [www.eyewitnesstohistory.com/gtburg.htm](http://www.eyewitnesstohistory.com/gtburg.htm)

Discuss what the residents saw, heard, and felt.

Discuss Map 1: Civil War battles fought in Maryland and Virginia prior to the Battle of Gettysburg.

Note how close the two Capitals (Washington D.C. and Richmond) are.

Note the location of the battles of Antietam, Manassas, Chancellorville, Fredericksburg, and Seven Days. The students will be familiar with most of them through prior studies.

Discuss why so many battles take place around the Capitals. (At the time, many thought that armies should try to occupy the enemy's Capital City.)

Find Gettysburg and discuss how that was Lee's attempt to win a battle in the north hoping to lower the morale of the people in the north.

Read the handout on *The Battle of Gettysburg*, or they may read it on line at <http://library.thinkquest.org/3055/graphics/experience/battles/gettysburg.html-7k>

Discuss the information. This is a very simple version for fifth graders.

Optional, show the students Picket's Charge from the movie Gettysburg if time permits.

From the perspective of a reporter in Gettysburg during the battle, the students will write an article for the newspaper. Their article must include names of specific places. (roads, areas, farms, hills) The article should also include quotes from the observations of Tillie Pierce.

### **Guided Practice**

Students should begin writing the article in class so that you can be sure they all understand the expectations.

### **Independent Practice**

Students will complete the article as homework.