

TODAY *in* GEORGIA HISTORY

December 22, 1864: Sherman In Savannah Daily Activity

Introduction:

The daily activities created for each of the *Today in Georgia History* segments are designed to meet the Georgia Performance Standards for Reading Across the Curriculum, and Grade Eight: Georgia Studies. For each date, educators can choose from three optional activities differentiated for various levels of student ability. Each activity focuses on engaging the student in context specific vocabulary and improving the student's ability to communicate about historical topics.

One suggestion is to use the *Today in Georgia History* video segments and daily activities as a "bell ringer" at the beginning of each class period. Using the same activity daily provides consistency and structure for the students and may help teachers utilize the first 15-20 minutes of class more effectively.

Optional Activities:

Level 1: Provide the students with the vocabulary list and have them use their textbook, a dictionary, or other teacher provided materials to define each term. After watching the video, have the students write a complete sentence for each of the vocabulary terms. Student created sentences should reflect the meaning of the word based on the context of the video segment. Have students share a sampling of sentences as a way to check for understanding.

Level 2: Provide the students with the vocabulary list for that day's segment before watching the video and have them guess the meaning of each word based on their previous knowledge. The teacher may choose to let the students work alone or in groups. After watching the video, have the students revise their definitions to better reflect the meaning of the words based on the context of the video. As a final step, have the students compare and contrast their definitions to their textbook, dictionary or other teacher provided materials definitions.

Level 3: Provide the students with the vocabulary list and have them use their textbook, a dictionary, or other teacher provided materials to define each term. After watching the video, have the students write a five sentence paragraph based on the provided writing prompts.

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Vocabulary/Writing Prompts:

Vocabulary Terms

Ammunition
Captured
Unprecedented
Devastated
Demoralized
Destitute
Emancipation
Confiscate
Redistribution
Restitution

Writing Prompts

1. In a five-sentence paragraph explain the significance of Savannah’s March to the Sea that ended on this day in Georgia history.
2. In a five-sentence paragraph list and describe two consequences of Sherman’s March to the Sea.
3. Why do you think Sherman presented Savannah to Lincoln as a “Christmas present?” In a five-sentence paragraph explain some of the reasons why Sherman may have spared Savannah from the devastation the march left in other cities? In your answer be sure to think about both the practical strategic reasons, and any symbolic reason Sherman may have had.

Related Georgia Performance Standards:

Reading Across the Curriculum (Grades 6-12)

SSRC1 Students will enhance reading in all curriculum areas by:

- c. Building vocabulary knowledge
 - Demonstrate an understanding of contextual vocabulary in various subjects.
 - Use content vocabulary in writing and speaking.
 - Explore understanding of new words found in subject area texts.
- d. Establishing context
 - Explore life experiences related to subject area content.
 - Discuss in both writing and speaking how certain words are subject area related.
 - Determine strategies for finding content and contextual meaning for unknown words.

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Grade 8 Georgia Studies

SS8H6 The student will analyze the impact of the Civil War and Reconstruction on Georgia.

- a. Explain the importance of key issues and events that led to the Civil War; include slavery, states' rights, nullification, Missouri Compromise, Compromise of 1850 and the Georgia Platform, Kansas-Nebraska Act, Dred Scott case, election of 1860, the debate over secession in Georgia, and the role of Alexander Stephens.
- b. State the importance of key events of the Civil War; include Antietam, the Emancipation Proclamation, Gettysburg, Chickamauga, the Union blockade of Georgia's coast, Sherman's Atlanta Campaign, Sherman's March to the Sea, and Andersonville.
- c. Analyze the impact of Reconstruction on Georgia and other southern states, emphasizing Freedmen's Bureau; sharecropping and tenant farming; Reconstruction plans; 13th, 14th, and 15th amendments to the constitution; Henry McNeal Turner and black legislators; and the Ku Klux Klan.

United States History, 9-12

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

- a. Explain the Kansas-Nebraska Act, the failure of popular sovereignty, Dred Scott case, and John Brown's Raid.
- b. Describe President Lincoln's efforts to preserve the Union as seen in his second inaugural address and the Gettysburg speech and in his use of emergency powers, such as his decision to suspend habeas corpus.
- c. Describe the roles of Ulysses Grant, Robert E. Lee, "Stonewall" Jackson, William T. Sherman, and Jefferson Davis.
- d. Explain the importance of Fort Sumter, Antietam, Vicksburg, Gettysburg, and the Battle for Atlanta and the impact of geography on these battles.
- e. Describe the significance of the Emancipation Proclamation.
- f. Explain the importance of the growing economic disparity between the North and the South through an examination of population, functioning railroads, and industrial output.

SSUSH10 The student will identify legal, political, and social dimensions of Reconstruction.

- a. Compare and contrast Presidential Reconstruction with Radical Republican Reconstruction.
- b. Explain efforts to redistribute land in the South among the former slaves and provide advanced education (Morehouse College) and describe the role of the Freedmen's Bureau.

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- c. Describe the significance of the 13th, 14th, and 15th amendments.
- d. Explain Black Codes, the Ku Klux Klan, and other forms of resistance to racial equality during Reconstruction.
- e. Explain the impeachment of Andrew Johnson in relationship to Reconstruction.
- f. Analyze how the presidential election of 1876 and the subsequent compromise of 1877 marked the end of Reconstruction.

Grade Five United States History after 1860

SS5H1 The student will explain the causes, major events, and consequences of the Civil War.

- a. Identify Uncle Tom’s Cabin and John Brown’s raid on Harper’s Ferry, and explain how each of these events was related to the Civil War.
- b. Discuss how the issues of states’ rights and slavery increased tensions between the North and South.
- c. Identify major battles and campaigns: Fort Sumter, Gettysburg, the Atlanta Campaign, Sherman’s March to the Sea, and Appomattox Court House.
- d. Describe the roles of Abraham Lincoln, Robert E. Lee, Ulysses S. Grant, Jefferson Davis, and Thomas “Stonewall” Jackson.
- e. Describe the effects of war on the North and South.