

Evelyn Dewar
PSMS
Plymouth, MA
(508) 224-2725

LOCAL HISTORY- PLYMOUTH IN THE CIVIL WAR ERA LESSON PLAN

TITLE : “ Looking at the Civil War through the lens of local history.” Teaching American history : Civil War.

UNIT OF STUDY: The Civil War and the residents of Plymouth, Massachusetts

CONNECTION TO FRAMEWORKS:

(USI40) Provide examples of the various effects of the Civil War (H,E)

CONCEPTS AND SKILLS:

Students should be able to:

- ✓ Show connection between particular historical events and ideas and social, economic, and political developments
- ✓ Distinguish intended from unintended consequences
- ✓ Explain how the citizens of Plymouth acted on, and reacted to, the events of the Civil War in terms of:
 - ladies’ aid societies in Plymouth.
 - voluntary and conscripted soldiers from Plymouth.
 - how the Civil War affected the economy of Plymouth and its surrounding towns.
 - civilians’ knowledge of the realities of the war
 - fortifications and defense of the town and nearby areas.
 - involvement with the prisoners of war imprisoned at Fort Warren.
 - communication and ability to obtain news about the soldiers and the war.
 - how the Civil War affected the social life of Plymouthers.
 - childrens’ involvement and knowledge of the Civil War as it related directly to their families, friends, employment, recreation, and education.
- ✓ Explain the cost of involvement, in the Civil War, for the following groups of people in Plymouth:
 - free African-Americans
 - white women
 - white men
 - immigrants
 - children

MATERIALS:

CD s *The Civil War* soundtrack

BOOKS :

O'Connor, Thomas, Civil War Boston: Homefront and Battlefield

Donahue, John , An Island Far From Home (this is a fictitious story about the events that took place during the last months of the Civil War and the involvement of a Yankee child and a Confederate soldier)

Morrison, Samuel, The Ropemakers of Plymouth

Murphy, Jim, The Boy's War

Patenaude, Jean, Plymouth's Contribution to the War of Rebellion : this has detailed information about enlistments in Plymouth, and economic and social information.

PRIMARY SOURCES:

Annual town reports of Plymouth: including information about soldiers from Plymouth

Baker, James, Images of America: Plymouth : photographs of Plymouth in the 19th century.

Civil War monument: Plymouth, MA : interesting especially as all the names inscribed are Anglo-Saxon.

Diaz, Abby Morton , Anti - Slavery Times in Plymouth: information about the abolitionist movement in Plymouth. Written by a woman who was a teacher, abolitionist and feminist in Plymouth

Library of Congress website for America's memory site: look for Plymouth photographs and maps

Old Colony Memorial newspaper on microfilm : first published in 1822, source for local news and information about Plymouth residents.

Parting Ways Cemetery and New Guinea Settlement: information about abolitionist movement in Plymouth area. www.newguineasettlement.org

www.itd.nps.gov/cwss/ - database for soldiers, regiments can be used to look for local Plymouth soldiers.

STRATEGIES:

- ✓ Students will work cooperatively and collaboratively to research life in Plymouth during the Civil War period.
- ✓ Students will choose to study one aspect of life and the effects of the Civil War on Plymouthers.
- ✓ Students will write, illustrate, publish a mock *Old Colony Memorial*, front page, depicting Plymouth during the Civil War era.
Students will present what they learned about the people of their hometown and the Civil War to their classmates.

OBJECTIVES:

- ✓ Students will be able to identify the political, economic and social effects of the Civil War on the residents of Plymouth, Massachusetts.
- ✓ Students will be able to describe the contributions and involvement of the Plymouthers in the Civil War.
Students will gain insight into the consequences of war on civilians' lives.
- ✓ Students will be able to compare and contrast the effects of the Civil War and the current war in Iraq on Plymouth, Massachusetts citizens.

GRANT OBJECTIVES:

- ✓ Students will apply a variety of reading skills and strategies to examine print and electronic materials.
- ✓ Students will recognize that different people, with different motives and interests, have the ability to accomplish change through collaboration.
- ✓ Students will understand the use of historical events as lessons to help them shape current and future decisions.

PARTNERSHIP OBJECTIVES:

- ✓ Students will comprehend the meaning of primary source documents.
- ✓ Students will employ graphic organizers.
- ✓ Teachers will draw upon family, community and local historical resources to enhance/extend classroom instruction.
- ✓ Teachers will integrate new strategies and primary source documents into instructional practices.