

Gettysburg Virtual Field Trip Lesson Plan

GRADE LEVELS: All

APPROXIMATE LENGTH OF TIME

2-3 hours, depending on how many supplemental materials you incorporate

GOAL

To virtually explore the history of Gettysburg via video, primary and secondary sources and classroom discussion.

OBJECTIVES

Upon completion of this lesson, the students will be able to:

1. Knowledge
 - a. Students will be able to identify important locations and phases of the Battle of Gettysburg.
 - b. Students will be able to discuss the town and battlefield's role during the Civil War.
2. Comprehension / Application / Analysis
 - a. Read primary source documents.
 - b. Summarize findings by writing an original creative piece.
3. Evaluation
 - a. Evaluate and discuss some of the various moments of the Battle of Gettysburg and the before and after effects on the town.

INSTRUCTIONS

Before class, look through the supplemental videos, articles and lesson plans to decide which you want to utilize alongside the Virtual Field Trip. Show students the Virtual Field Trip Video and have them answer the multiple-choice question worksheet while viewing the video. Utilize the discussion questions after watching the video.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Have you ever visited this town or any of its historic sites?
- Which site would you like to visit and why?
- What role do you think the town (battle?) played in the Civil War?
- What was your favorite site the videos visited and why?
- Is there a site or subject from the video you'd like to know more about?
- Was there something you didn't understand about the video? What was that?
- What do monuments tell us about how events are remembered?

ACTIVITIES

1. Watch some or all the Gettysburg Virtual Tour video.
2. Conduct a group discussion utilizing the discussion questions.
3. Have the students complete the Video Question Quiz Worksheet. (Students can do this while watching the video if it would be helpful for engagement.)
 - a. If the entire Virtual Tour video was watched, have the students complete all of it.
 - b. If only some of the Virtual Tour video was viewed, have the students complete the relevant sections.
4. Have the students complete one of the following exercises utilizing primary and secondary sources to influence a creative piece. In the piece, they should provide an accurate summary of the sources.
 - a. Have students watch [Civil War Medicine](#) and read this [primary source](#) or this [primary source](#) or this [primary source](#). Have students write a letter to a loved one from the perspective of a Union or Confederate soldier that is recuperating at the Seminary Ridge field hospital.
 - b. Have students watch [The Tree at Devil's Den that Existed During the Battle of Gettysburg](#) or [A Tree that Witnessed Gettysburg: Cemetery Ridge](#) or [Culp's Hill Rock that Witnessed Gettysburg](#) and read this [primary source](#) or this [primary source](#). Have the students imagine what a witness tree or rock might say or write if it could. Instruct them to write 5 sentences about their experience during the Battle of Gettysburg in 1863 as well as 5 sentences about their experience in present-day Gettysburg.
5. Complete an optional exercise.

STANDARDS

Please visit the Lesson Plan Page and select the “Common Core and NCSS Standards for Social Studies” to view the details.

RESOURCES

Visit the Lesson Plan Page to find all resources in one convenient place. You'll find everything mentioned or linked in this Lesson Plan along with additional videos, articles, primary sources, maps, and biographies.

Quick Links

- [Gettysburg Virtual Tour \(Video\)](#)
- [Video Question Quiz Worksheet](#)

OPTIONAL EXERCISES / HOMEWORK / ASSESSMENT / ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES:

OPTION #1: Break students into small groups and assign one or two chapters of the video for each group to watch. Have the groups only watch their assigned sections. After viewing, have the small groups present what they learned to the class.

OPTION #2: Have students research one aspect of the video that piqued their interest. They can prepare a 500-word paper or present their findings to the class in the form of an in-person or video presentation.

OPTION #3: Have students read this [article from American Battlefield Trust](#). Have students search for a monument at Gettysburg Battlefield at [Monuments and Markers Database](#). Once they have chosen a monument at Gettysburg, instruct them to sketch it and write a brief description of it.

OPTION #4: Have your students choose a biography on the Lesson Plan Page. Instruct them to write a paragraph about what this person did and why they inspire the student.

Teacher Preparation – If you’re watching the Virtual Tour, then visiting Gettysburg Battlefield in-person:

Visiting Gettysburg will be a memorable experience for you and your class. We want it to be memorable for the right reasons...not logistical headaches! Here are a few helpful tips as you prepare to use this lesson plan and begin your battlefield explorations.

TEACHING TIPS

1. Download the American Battlefield Trust’s FREE [Gettysburg App](#)
2. Check out the [Gettysburg Field Trip Itinerary](#) for more ideas.
3. Print any resources that you will want on paper – like the battlefield maps or photographs.
4. Pre-watch any videos that you don’t want to pre-download for the battlefield day (See “Limited Internet Coverage”)

LIMITED PHONE AND INTERNET COVERAGE

Please be aware that cellphone service at Gettysburg National Battlefield can be patchy in some areas. It may be challenging to download battlefield apps or stream videos while on the battlefield. We suggest that you download any resources that you want to view on the field ahead of your arrival.

MAPS

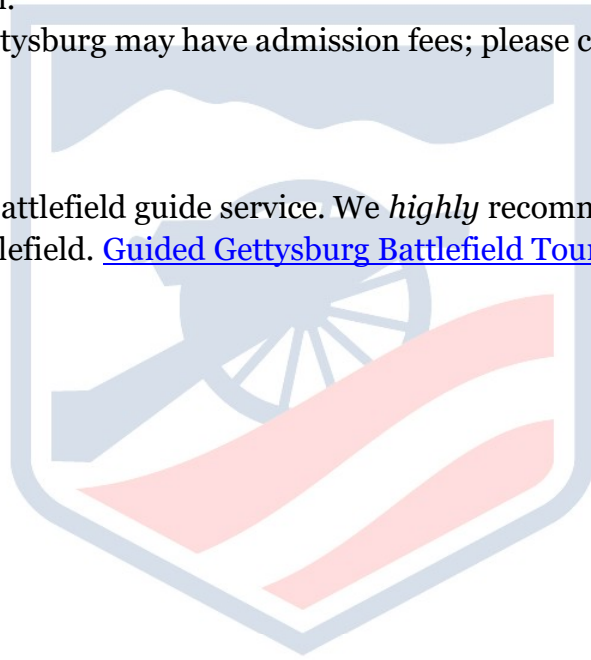
- This is the FREE map available at the Visitor Center or [print](#) it out ahead of time (Official Park Brochure). You will need this map to help you navigate the driving tour and arrive at your chosen stops.
- The American Battlefield Trust has many maps for the Battle of Gettysburg [on our website](#) (free) or [bound in a book](#) (available for purchase).

NATIONAL PARK & GETTYSBURG FOUNDATION

- There is no fee to visit Gettysburg National Military Park. However, we recommend calling ahead if bringing a bus to see what the rangers recommend.
- There is a fee to access certain exhibits in the Gettysburg Foundation's Visitor Center, visit [here](#) for further information.
- Other museums in Gettysburg may have admission fees; please call or check their websites for group rates.

BATTLEFIELD GUIDES

Gettysburg offers a licensed battlefield guide service. We *highly* recommend hiring a guide to take you and your class across the battlefield. [Guided Gettysburg Battlefield Tours](#).



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