American Civil War

Grade: 9-10

Goal: Students gain a better understanding of the turning points during the American Civil war by following the road of the war from Lincoln’s election as president to the surrender at Appomattox Court House.

Objectives: Students will be split into groups, and they will have a better understanding of the events that led up to the American Civil war, the war itself, and the conclusion of the war. The Students will be asked to create a tour of the Civil war, and write a short description of each event that took place.

Materials Needed: Google Earth, textbook, other online resources.

Inquiry Question/Anticipatory Set: Students will be split into groups and asked to brainstorm how to events that took place during the Civil War shaped Reconstruction, and life after the war. Students will then be asked to share with the class the ideas that they came up with in their groups.

Instructional Sequence:

Day 1: -Divide students into groups of two, in order to research key elements of the Civil War, and create a tour on Google Earth from beginning to end of the war.

-Have students explore Google Earth so as to become acquainted with how it works, and the different features of it, especially the touring feature.

-Have students begin to explore Google Earth by using varying search terms such as, the White House, the Vatican, or by using Latitude and Longitude coordinates.

-At the end of class each student will turn in a short response over something they learned about using Google Earth.

-Time will be available to research the key turning points of the Civil War during class, but any further research should be done outside of class.

Day 2: -The Students will continue to work with their partners in order to complete their tour in Google Earth by the end of class.

-At the end of class each student will submit a short summary on how they used their class time in order to prepare for the completion of this project, as well as voice any of their concerns about the project.

Day 3: -Students must have completed and submitted the Google Earth Tour, and 1 page reflection of the assignment via email before the beginning of class.

NGS:

* How to apply geography to interpret the past #17 (Perceptions of Geographic Contexts #3)
* How the forces of cooperation and conflict among people influence the division and control of Earth’s surface #13 (Conflict #3)
* The processes, patterns, and functions of human settlement #12 (Functions of Settlements #2)

Evaluation: Student progress will be assessed based on the responses that they turn in after day 1 and day 2 of the lesson. The final evaluation will be based accumulatively on the two responses as well as the quality of the research, the one page reflection and the quality of the Google Earth tour.

Assessment: Groups will be given a unit exam over Civil War and Reconstruction, and this Google tour will be used as a supplemental learning tool. There will also be a few questions on the exam related to the student interaction with Google Earth and the places that were on the tours.

Additional Notes: I created a separate Google Earth Tour on the American Revolution based on the key turning points, in order to give an example to the students.