

Comparing and Contrasting the Union and Confederacy

Goals and Objectives: Students will be able to

1. Compare/contrast/analyze the strengths and weaknesses of the Union and Confederacy.
2. Compare/contrast the goals and strategies of the Union and Confederacy.
3. Evaluate major events of the Civil War.

Procedures:

Students will create charts showing two columns (one for Union, one for Confederacy) and four rows. Each row will present a different topic:

- 1) War Aims/Goals
- 2) War Strategies
- 3) Strengths
- 4) Weaknesses

Students will be separated into two groups -- Union or Confederacy -- and will research the four main topics above for their respective group. Students will then share their answers with each other. Students should keep their charts on hand as they learn about major events and key people of the Civil War to review.

After students have completed the material above:

1. Students will apply their knowledge of Union and Confederate War Strategies by evaluating the major events of the war.
2. Students will also analyze strengths and weaknesses that led to Union victory and Confederate defeat (also reflect on what effect that had on the length of the war).
3. Students will complete a worksheet
4. They will also write an essay describing two of the three strategies of the Union and also two of the Confederacy, providing examples of how the strategies were carried out, explaining their purpose (war aims/goals), and describing how their strengths and weaknesses affected the outcome of the war. A minimum of three days will be needed to complete the above.

Materials:

1. The American Republic to 1877 (Glencoe) textbook chapter 16.
2. Student charts and notes
3. Civil War handout comparing Union and Confederacy (attached)
4. Internet websites including glencoe.com, civilwar.com, and online encyclopedias.

Evaluation/Outcomes and Assessments:

1. Student notes must reflect the application of their knowledge of war strategies – labeling major events with the correct strategy.
2. Charts comparing Union and Confederacy must be neat, well-organized, and accurate.
3. Essays must be well-written using correct spelling, grammar and punctuation.
4. Essays must reflect an accurate understanding of the material.

Events. Match each event below with a Union or Confederate war strategy from the boxes. Some events coincide with more than one war strategy.

- _____ 1. First Battle of Bull Run
- _____ 2. Lincoln orders a blockade
- _____ 3. Battle of Shiloh
- _____ 4. Grant captures Forts Henry and Donelson
- _____ 5. Fall of New Orleans
- _____ 6. Peninsular Campaign
- _____ 7. Battle of Antietam
- _____ 8. Second Battle of Bull Run
- _____ 9. Battle of Fredericksburg
- _____ 10. Battle of Chancellorsville
- _____ 11. Battle of Gettysburg
- _____ 12. Vicksburg

Union War Strategies:

- U1: Blockade Southern ports
- U2: Gain control of Mississippi River
- U3: Capture Richmond, Virginia

Confederate War Strategies:

- C1: Outlast the North
- C2: Gain support from Britain and France
- C3: Move armies north

Strengths & Weaknesses. For each question, choose one strength or weakness then explain your choice.

13. Which of the Union's strengths led to their victory? _____

14. Which of the Confederate's weaknesses led to their defeat? _____

War Aims/Goals. For each question, write **North** or **South** next to their war aim.

15. Preserve slavery. _____
16. Gain independence. _____
17. End slavery. _____
18. Protect states' rights. _____
19. Bring Southern states back into the Union. _____