Civil War Map Activity Lesson Plan: The Journeys of Lucy Higgs Nichols

Where Did Lucy’s Journeys Take Her?

Objective: The objective of this map activity is to accompany American Civil War units of study. The map highlights major battles during the War Between the States by following the amazing journey of Lucy Higgs Nichols. This lesson plan can be used to introduce students to content associated with the Lucy Higgs Nichols exhibit at the Carnegie Center for Art and History in New Albany, Indiana.

National Council for the Social Studies Curriculum Standards for Social Studies:

II: Time, Continuity, and Change; III: People, Places, and Environments; IV: Individual Development and Identity; X: Civic Ideals and Practices

Indiana Standards for Education:

4.1.7, 4.1.8, 4.3.2, 4.3.3, 4.3.4, 4.3.10, 4.3.11, 4.3.12, 5.3.3, 8.1.10, 8.1.16, 8.1.21, 8.1.25, 8.1.26, 8.3.2

Kentucky Core Content Standards:

SS-04-4.1.1, 4.1.2, 5.1.1; SS-05-5.1.1, 2.3.2, 5.2.4; SS-08-2.1.1, 2.3.1, 4.1.1, 4.2.3, 4.3.2, 5.1.1, 5.1.2, 5.2.4

Materials: 1.) LHN Map Activity Worksheet
2.) LHN Map Activity Answer Key
3.) Blank Civil War Map
4.) LHN Map Activity Discussion Questions
5.) Biography of LHN from Historic Marker at Veterans Plaza on East Market Street, between East Tenth and Eleventh Streets in New Albany.
6.) Other curriculum materials connected to the American Civil War (map of United States, map showing locations of major battles, etc.)
7.) Pencils; crayons or colored pencils (blue, gray, red, black, yellow)

Introduction:
This lesson plan serves multiple curricular disciplines as it details the life and movement of Lucy Nichols before, during and after the Civil War. It also provides a geographic representation of her movement based in the historic content of the Civil War. Finally, the evaluation questions allow for a quick assessment of student understanding of complex geography and history themes. After introducing the concept of the map activity to students, read the biography of Lucy Higgs Nichols from the historic marker located in downtown New Albany, Indiana to the class. Ask the following questions for discussion:
1.) Based on the information from the historical marker, how is the life of Lucy Higgs Nichols connected to what we are covering in Social Studies?
2.) Why is her story significant to us here in the Ohio River Valley?
3.) What special situations or activities did you notice about Lucy’s life that are unlike other slaves’ or African Americans’ during the same time period?

4.) What predictions can you make about Lucy’s life after the war? Explain.

 Procedures:

1.) Complete the introductory activity.

2.) Instruct students to find the map of the United States during the Civil War in their textbook (This will vary based upon type of book used.).

3.) Explain to the students that they will be completing an activity that will require them to fill in a blank map of the United States following specific directions on the map worksheet.

4.) Students will need to follow the directions on the map activity page, starting with number one and finishing with number ten. Be sure students follow the numerical order or they will color over areas that need to be labeled.

5.) If possible, create an overhead transparency or handout of the LHN map for students to refer to.

6.) Pass out the blank map activity page.

7.) Each student needs a red, black, gray, and yellow crayon. You may want to use baggies and have a set ready before each class.

8.) Give students time to complete the map. Walk around the room to monitor progress and answer any questions. Twenty minutes should be enough time for completion.

9.) Once students have completed the map, hand out the map activity follow up questions. You can either do this as a class in an open-discussion format or have each student individually answer each question in class or for a homework assignment. Either way, make sure the characteristics of the map are discussed. This will highlight the importance of Lucy’s journey throughout the Civil War.

 Evaluation:

1.) Administer the map activity follow up questions to assess student learning.

2.) The blank or completed map can be inserted into the unit test covering the Civil War with questions pertaining to battles or the impact of Lucy Higgs Nichols.
Label the blank map to follow the journey of Lucy through the American Civil War

1. **Label the following states on the map:** Indiana, Ohio, Kentucky, Tennessee, Pennsylvania, Washington, D.C., West Virginia, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, and Mississippi
2. **Label the following battles on the map:** The Battle of Gettysburg, The Battle of Vicksburg, The Battle at Shiloh, The Battle and Siege of Atlanta, The Surrender at Appomattox Courthouse
3. Label the site of Lucy’s birth, **Halifax County, North Carolina,** with a red star.
4. Label **New Albany, Indiana** with a black star.
5. Label **Bolivar, Tennessee,** where Lucy escaped from slavery and joined with the 23rd Indiana Regiment with a yellow star.
6. Using the map provided, trace the journey of Lucy Higgs Nichols with a red line.
7. Shade the **Union** states with a blue crayon.
8. Shade the **Confederate** states with a gray crayon.
9. **Kentucky** was a border state during the war maintaining neutrality as a slave state. Shade it with a yellow crayon.
10. Complete the map key using the words: **Battles, Confederate States, Union States, New Albany, Halifax County, Bolivar and Lucy’s Journey**
The American Civil War

Label the map to follow the journey of Lucy Higgs Nichols.

Map Key

- [ ]
- [ ]
- [ ]
- [ ]
- [ ]
- [ ]
The American Civil War

1. **Label the following states on the map:** Indiana, Ohio, Kentucky, Tennessee, Pennsylvania, Washington, D.C., West Virginia, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, and Mississippi

2. **Label the following battles on the map:** The Battle of Gettysburg, The Battle of Vicksburg, The Battle at Shiloh, The Battle and Siege of Atlanta, The Surrender at Appomattox Courthouse

3. Label the site of Lucy’s birth, **Halifax County, North Carolina,** with a red star.

4. Label **New Albany, Indiana** with a black star.

5. Label **Bolivar, Tennessee,** where Lucy escaped from slavery and joined with the 23rd Indiana Regiment with a yellow star.

6. Using the map provided, trace the journey of Lucy Higgs Nichols with a red line.

7. Shade the **Union** states with a blue crayon. *(IN, OH, WV, PA)*

8. Shade the **Confederate** states with a gray crayon. *(TN, VA, NC, SC, GA, AL, MS)*

9. **Kentucky** was a border state during the war maintaining neutrality as a slave state. Shade it with a yellow crayon.

10. Complete the map key using the words: Battles, Confederate States, Union States, New Albany, Halifax County, Bolivar and Lucy’s Journey

**Map Key**

- **Battles**
- **Halifax County**
- **New Albany**
- **Bolivar**
- **Lucy’s Journey**
- **Union States**
- **Confederate States**
Name__________________________________

Civil War Map Activity Follow-up Questions

1.) In which state was Lucy Higgs born?
_________________________________________________________________________________

2.) In which state did Lucy live the rest of her life after the Civil War ended?
_________________________________________________________________________________

3.) During the war, what was the main difference between the states of Indiana and Kentucky?
_________________________________________________________________________________

4.) Why do you think you shaded the Union states with a blue crayon?
_________________________________________________________________________________

5.) Why do you think you shaded the Confederate states with a gray crayon?
_________________________________________________________________________________

6.) In which state did the Battle of Gettysburg take place?
_________________________________________________________________________________

7.) Based on the location, why was the Battle of Gettysburg an important battle for the Union forces to win?
_________________________________________________________________________________

8.) In which state did the Battle of Vicksburg take place?
_________________________________________________________________________________

9.) What tragic event in the life of Lucy Higgs Nichols occurred near the site of the Battle of Vicksburg?
_________________________________________________________________________________

10.) In which state did Confederate commander Robert E. Lee surrender to Union commander Ulysses S. Grant ending the American Civil War?
_________________________________________________________________________________
Lucy, born a slave April 10, 1838, was owned by the Higgs family that by 1850 lived near Bolivar, Tennessee. She gained her freedom in 1862 by escaping to the 23rd Regiment. Indiana Volunteers camped nearby. She worked as a nurse for the soldiers as they fought in many major battles of the Civil War. She mustered out with them in Louisville in 1865.

(Continued on other side)

HISTORICAL MARKER (FRONT)
Veterans Plaza
East 10th and Market Street
Lucy Higgs Nichols
(Continued from other side)

Lucy came to New Albany with returning veterans of 23rd Regiment. She married John Nichols, 1870. Lucy applied for pension after Congress passed 1892 act for Civil War nurses; she was denied. In 1895, Lucy and 55 veterans of the 23rd petitioned Congress; in 1898, a Special Act of Congress awarded her pension. Lucy was an honorary member of the G.A.R. She died 1915.