

“OH, COULD THEY BUT SPEAK...”

The history and importance of Michigan’s Civil War Battle Flags

Lesson Nine:

Capture the Flag: The Battle of Knowledge Gap

Overview/Objectives:

As a culminating activity, the student will prepare and participate in a battle reenactment using knowledge instead of weaponry.

Procedure:

Day One:

1. Break the class into two groups. These groups will be the two opposing regiments.
2. Instruct the students on preparing good quality questions that are challenging and realistic.
3. Students in their large groups need to go through their homework questions and pick and re-write the best ones. They should end up with 21 prepared questions and answers.
4. Students will write their questions and answers on index cards, one Q&A per card. These are the questions they will use in battle.
5. Have students make small battle flags (for example, Popsicle sticks with felt). Each regiment needs nine flags, three per company.

Day Two:

1. Each regiment will divide into 3 companies. Each company will have seven questions that they take into each battle. Two companies will meet at a “battle site” and the questions will be read.
2. Three battle sites will be used. You may want to have other adults help to oversee each battle.
3. The 3 companies in the first regiment will be labeled A, B, C. The 3 companies in the second regiment will be 1, 2, 3. At the first battle site, A will battle #1. At the second site, B will battle #2. At the third site, C will battle #3.
4. All battles happen simultaneously. Each company asks 5 of the 7 questions that they have prepared. The company with the most correct answers wins one of the opponent's flags.
5. If there is a tie, the remaining two questions may be used. If it is still a draw, each company keeps their flags and moves to the next battle.
6. Rotate the companies so that all groups battle each other once.
7. At the end of the war, if neither regiment is victorious the teacher may ask a series of “sudden death” questions, that she/he has prepared, to determine the winner.
8. Ceremoniously march the troops with their flags through the halls and back to the classroom for a community celebration.