

Virginia

General Information and Field Trip Ideas

Central Virginia



Lee



Grant

"On to Richmond" was the battle cry of Northern politicians, military leaders and newspapermen as the war began. A quick, powerful thrust would cast aside Southern resistance, topple the Confederate capital and end the war. So went the promise.

Maps made it look easy. Only 100 miles or so separated the two warring capitals. But maps don't show the quality of the resistance. Maps don't show the ineptness and genius of leaders.

The most direct road to Richmond was straight south. Northern armies under Gens. McDowell, Burnside, Hooker and Meade tried that road and found it blocked, most times by determined Confederates under Robert E. Lee. Finally, in the spring of 1864, U.S. Grant took command and drove relentlessly south. His soldiers marched into Richmond nearly a year later.

The countryside west of the Tidewater and east of the Blue Ridge Mountains between Washington and Petersburg is the most blood-soaked in the country. Thousands died fighting at places no one had heard of before, places like Cold Harbor, Chancellorsville, Malvern Hill, Spotsylvania, Brandy Station and the North Anna River. More fell during encounters at places that had no name.

Their earthen fortifications, memorials to their deeds, and their graves still mark the landscape.



Field Trip Ideas

Between Two Capitals
Cold Harbor to Petersburg
Brandy Station Battlefield
Cedar Mountain
Fredericksburg
Chancellorsville & Guinea Station
Chancellorsville to Gettysburg
Spotsylvania to Appomattox
Battle of Ball's Bluff
Manassas to Ball's Bluff
The Gray Ghost - John Mosby
First and Second Manassas
Richmond – Battlefields
Richmond Life during the Civil War
In the Footsteps of Robert E. Lee
Follow Jackson's Trail

Do not limit your ideas to these call and we will discuss many options.

Call 1-888-681-5333

Tidewater Virginia

General Information and Field Trip Ideas

The Tidewater area of Virginia is defined by tidal rivers -- primarily the James, York and Potomac -- that flow from the Chesapeake Bay into the interior of the state.



McClellan

These rivers made the Confederate heartland, including Richmond, vulnerable to attack by water or water-supported land assault.

Most of the Civil War sites in this area are related to the 1862 Peninsula Campaign, which was an attempt by a Union army under Gen. George McClellan to march to Richmond using the "Peninsula" created by the York and James Rivers.



Field Trip Ideas

Battle of Williamsburg
Seven Days Campaign
Peninsula Campaign
Battle of the Ironclads

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Northern Virginia

General Information and Field Trip Ideas



The Stone House at Manassas

When Virginia seceded, the Federal government in Washington D.C. found itself virtually surrounded by a hostile foreign country. Abraham Lincoln moved swiftly to occupy a comfort zone around his capital.

Farther away from Washington, however, Union control was less certain. Confederate John Singleton Mosby was a feared raider of Union patrols and supply lines. Citizen loyalties were almost always in question.

Today, many of the forts built by Union engineers during the war still exist in parks. The bloody battlefields at Manassas have been preserved in a National Park, which is an oasis in a rapidly growing area of development. Farther west, the countryside remains much the same as Mosby might have found it.



Field Trip Ideas

Between Two Capitals

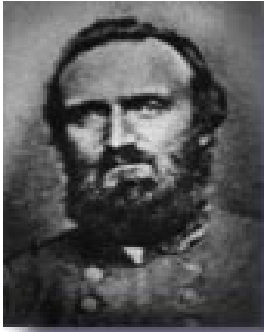
Manassas – First & Second

The Gray Ghost – John S. Mosby

Ball's Bluff

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Jackson

Shenandoah Valley

General Information and Field Trip Ideas

Bordered on the west by the Allegheny range and the east by the Blue Ridge Mountains, the Shenandoah Valley dramatically combines beautiful landscapes with extraordinary Civil War history.

The Valley is described often as an avenue of invasion directed to the head of the Federal government at Washington D.C. More importantly, it was a vital (and vulnerable) granary for the Confederacy and a worrisome flank for both sides during operations around Richmond.



Field Trip Ideas

In the Footsteps of Stonewall Jackson

Winchester

Battle of Cedar Creek

1862 Shenandoah Valley Campaign

1864 Shenandoah Valley Campaign

McDowell Battlefield

Battle of New Market

Belle Boyd to Front Royal

Battle of Front Royal

Fisher's Hill

Cross Keys

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Southside Virginia

General Information and Field Trip Ideas



Lee



Grant

The area of Virginia between the James River and the North Carolina border was virtually untouched by warring armies during most of the war but certainly was not unaffected by it. Important supply depots at Danville, Lynchburg and Petersburg kept the Confederate armies fed

and supplied. The behind-the-lines nature of this area made it a relatively safe place for hospitals and prisons.



McLean House at Appomattox

By the summer of 1864, however, things changed. A powerful Union army threatened Petersburg, and another made a stab at Lynchburg. Cavalry raids disturbed previously peaceful areas far from the war zones. Then, in April 1865, citizens of this area witnessed the final great drama of the war as Lee's army limped



Field Trip Ideas

Battle of Lynchburg
Siege of Petersburg
Retreat from Petersburg
Richmond to Danville
Appomattox

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