

Barren River and the Civil War

Grade Level: 4 – 6

Time to Complete: 1 day

Standard(s) Covered:

2.19 Students recognize and understand the relationship between people and geography and apply their knowledge in real-life situations.

SS-4-G-U-1 Students will understand that the use of geographic tools (e.g. maps, globes, charts, graphs) and mental maps help interpret information, understand and analyze patterns, spatial data and geographic issues.

2.20 Students understand, analyze, and interpret historical events, conditions, trends, and issues to develop historical perspective.

S.S.-04-5.11 Students will use a variety of primary and secondary sources (e.g. artifacts, diaries, timelines) to describe significant events in the history of Kentucky and interpret different perspectives.

SS-4-HP-U-2 Students will understand that the history of Kentucky can be analyzed by examining the connected events shaped by multiple cause-effect relationships, tying past to present.

Major Objective(s):

- Understand the importance of the Barren River during the Union and Confederate occupation of Bowling Green, during the Civil War.

Major Point(s) to Teach:

- War divided the citizenry.
- The Barren River could be relied upon to move men and supplies quickly and efficiently.
- The Barren River was a major contributing factor to making Bowling Green a strategic location for both armies.
- The Barren River offered a plentiful supply of fresh water for the troops.

Teaching Strategies:

1. Have students study maps of Bowling Green and Warren County, during the Civil War, and identify the locations of the Civil War forts in Bowling Green. Discuss how the location of the forts was significant and why it was important to guard the river.
2. Ask students to name the goods and services the armies controlled when they governed the river.
3. Assign the students to pretend they are teenagers during the Civil War. Have them keep a diary over the duration of this lesson which illustrates their thoughts, observations,

emotions, and beliefs about the war. Students may decide to be fictional characters, if they prefer.