Battles of Antietam & Fredericksburg 1862
The Uphill Battle
Lesson Plan by Tabitha M. Richards
Topographic Map

**Datum**: a point of reference.

The concept of a topographic map:

- **Contour lines** - lines of equal elevation above or below a reference datum (look in the key).

- To visualize what a contour line represents, picture a mountain and imagine slicing through it with a perfectly flat, horizontal piece of glass.

- The intersection of the mountain with the glass is a line of constant elevation on the surface of the mountain and could be put on a map as a contour line for the elevation of the slice above a reference datum.
You will find the elevations of the Confederate Line: east of the Dunker Church (slide 4), the Bloody Lane (slide 5) and at the Richardson/Eshleman Line to the West of the Burnside Bridge (slide 6) (red stars).

Union Line: the East Woods at 13 P R or Pennsylvania Regiment (slide 4), Roulette Farm (slide 5) and Burnside Bridge (slide 6) (blue stars).
Note that the Contour interval between the contour lines is 10 feet. Also note the closer the lines appear the steeper then incline.
Find the elevation of the hill top to the east of the Dunkard Church.

Find the elevation of the 13 P.R. (13 Pennsylvania Regiment) in The East Woods.

Does either side hold the high ground?

Is either side entrenched?
Find the elevation of the Bloody Lane.

Find the elevation of the Roulette Farm.

Does either side hold the high ground? Is either side entrenched?
Find the elevation at the Richardson/Eshleman Line to the West of the Burnside Bridge.

Find the elevation at the Burnside Bridge.

Does either side hold the high ground?

Is either side entrenched?
Antietam: The Bloodiest Day

Students will now read the informational document regarding the events leading up to, the day of, and what happened immediately following the Battle of Antietam.
Knowledge Check

- Was there a clear winner at Antietam?

- If you had been in General McClellan’s (Union) position what would you have done differently? Cite specific passages from the text.

- If you had been in General Lee’s (Confederacy) position what would you have done differently? Cite specific passages from the text.
You will find the elevations of the Confederate Line: Marye’s Heights (slide 9), Lee’s Hill (slide 10) and Lee’s Headquarters (slide 11) (red stars). Union Line: Stafford Heights (slide 9), Shannon Flying Field (modern site) (slide 10) and The Slaughter Pen (slide 11) (blue stars).
Note that the Contour interval between the contour lines is 10 feet. Also note the closer the lines appear the steeper then incline.
Find the elevation of Marye’s Heights (position of the Confederates).

Find the elevation of Stafford Heights (position of the Union).

Did either side hold the high ground?

Extension: Look up to discover if either side was entrenched.
Find the elevation of Lee’s Hill (position of the Confederates).

Find the elevation of east side of Shannon Flying Field (position of the Union).

Did either side hold the high ground?

Extension: Look up to discover if either side was entrenched.
Find the elevation of Lee’s Headquarters (position of the Confederates).

Find the elevation of The Slaughter Pen (position of the Union).

Did either side hold the high ground?

Extension: Look up to discover if either side was entrenched.
Battle of Fredericksburg

Students will now read the informational document regarding the events leading up to, the day of, and what happened immediately following the Battle of Fredericksburg.
Knowledge Check

- Was there a clear winner at Fredericksburg?
- If you had been in General Burnside’s (Union) position what would you have done differently? Cite specific passages from the text.
- If you had been in General Lee’s (Confederacy) position what would you have done differently? Cite specific passages from the text.
Sources


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