

LESSON PLAN



Mapping Tennessee and the Civil War

Grade 3

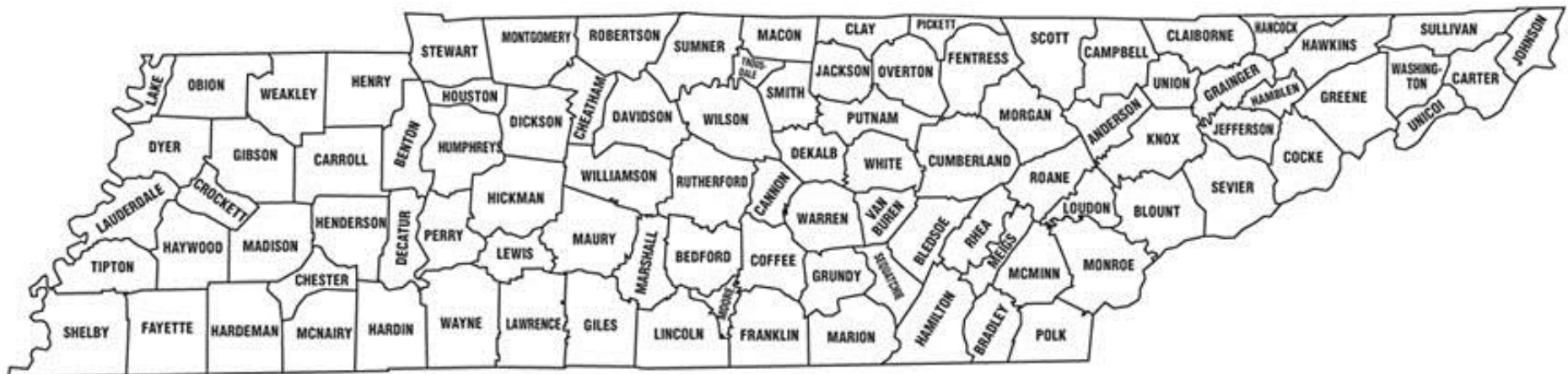
Objective: Students will be introduced to Tennessee locations and divisions in the context of the years leading to the American Civil War.

Time: 1 hour

Tennessee Social Studies Standards 2019-2020: 3rd grade: *United States and Tennessee Geography, 3.12; Social Studies Practices, SSP.06*

Materials for activities:

- Tennessee map with counties (accessed at https://www.tn.gov/content/dam/tn/environment/geology/images/geology_county_tn-county.jpg)
- Crayons/color stencils
- Star or circle stickers (optional – can be drawn)



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Places to Know: Three Grand Divisions, Memphis, Nashville, Knoxville, Chattanooga, Mississippi River, Cumberland River, Tennessee River, the Great Smoky Mountains

Anticipatory Set: Understanding Tennessee's geography is important to understanding the loyalty of those citizens who eventually participated in the Civil War. The state's flag features three stars, and those three stars represent the **Three Grand Divisions** of the state: West Tennessee, Middle Tennessee, and East Tennessee. The city of **Memphis** in West Tennessee, on the **Mississippi River**, was a key location in the cotton trade during the antebellum period. It was also a significant site for the slave trade. **Nashville**, the state's capital in Middle Tennessee, along with **Knoxville** and **Chattanooga** in East Tennessee eventually became sites of key Civil War battles within the state. Rivers such as the Mississippi, Cumberland, and Tennessee made the transport of goods throughout the state easier, and it eventually aided the movement of soldiers across the state, too. Mountain ranges like the **Great Smoky Mountains** contributed to the attitude of East Tennesseans towards the war; while those with the ability to vote in Middle and West Tennessee were more likely to support the Confederacy due to the large numbers of plantations and the enslaved within those areas, those in East Tennessee were more likely to support the Union. With mountainous land more common to fertile land suitable to cash crops, there were fewer plantations. Likewise, Tennesseans created an identity based on the Grand Division that they were from – for some in East Tennessee during the Civil War, there were concerns that Middle and West Tennessee held too much political power within the state. Likewise, there were legal divisions between the Three Grand Divisions from 1835 onward – the State Supreme Court held one separate session each year in each of the three divisions.

Discussion:

- 1.) Has anyone driven across the Three Grand Divisions of the state? Ask those students to describe the sites that they saw. How would they describe the features of the land?
- 2.) In a world without cars, how important would rivers be to traveling across the state? Would mountains slow or speed up travel, and why?

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Activities:

To be completed in the classroom

- 1.) Using a map of Tennessee, instruct your students to color in the three Three Grand Divisions of the state in three separate colors. Have them plot the location of Nashville with a star, and mark Memphis, Knoxville, and Chattanooga with circles. Draw in the Mississippi, Cumberland, and Tennessee Rivers with a blue line. Direct them to place black triangles for the location of the Great Smoky Mountains.
- 2.) Bring in soil that is representative of the land found within the Three Grand Divisions of the State. This is an opportunity for students to see the types of soil that might be used for farming. Ask students to hypothesize which types of soil that they believe would be best for growing food. If you have seeds available, you might attempt to grow seeds in three separate containers of representative soil and compare the results.