

The Battle of Horseshoe Bend

Lesson plans for primary sources at the Tennessee State Library & Archives

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Grade Level: 8th grade

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Introduction: Students will examine the course of events and significance of the Battle of Horseshoe Bend, an important battle during the course of the War of 1812.

Guiding Questions:

- Why is the Battle of Horseshoe Bend important to the study of the War of 1812?
- What were General Andrew Jackson's advantages during the battle?
- Why are General Jackson's troops fighting the Creek Indians?

Learning Objectives: In the course of the lesson, students will

- identify the advantages of General Andrew Jackson's troops during the battle
- interpret why the battle was called "Horseshoe Bend"
- evaluate the motives of Native Americans who sided with Jackson and those who fled from battle

Curriculum Standards:

8.43- Explain the causes, course and consequences of the War of 1812, including the major battles, leaders, events, and role of Tennessee.

Materials Needed:

- [Primary Source Horseshoe Bend Map found on the TSLA website](#)
- Horseshoe Bend article found at <http://www.nps.gov/nr/twhp/wwwlps/lessons/54horseshoe/54facts3.htm>
- Smart Board

Background:

[“War of 1812”](#) Author: Dr. Thomas Kanon

Source Location: [Tennessee Encyclopedia of History & Culture](#)

[“Answering the Call: Tennesseans in the War of 1812”](#)

Source Location: Tennessee State Library & Archives

Lesson Activities:

Introductory Activity

1. Students will be placed into groups of four to five people. Each group will start out by examining the map and trying to determine what it was or what it was used for.
2. After approximately 5 minutes, the groups will discuss their answers with the class and the teacher will disclose the true meaning and significance of the map while examining the map on the smartboard.
3. Students will then silently and individually read the Horseshoe Bend Article. After everyone is finished, they are to get back in their assigned groups and re-examine the map. As a group and using the map, they are to answer the following questions:

A. What was one of Jackson’s advantages?

B. Why is the battle known as the Battle of Horseshoe Bend?

C. What was one thing the Creek Indians could have done that may have made them victorious?

The teacher will then listen to each group as they present their answers. After the discussion is over, the teacher will further explain how the Battle of Horseshoe Bend ties in to conflicts with all Native American groups as well as the War of 1812.

After the presentation, the students will be required to write a short letter taking on the role of a Native American. They will have the choice to write either as a Native American siding with Jackson or as a Native American who fled from the battle. They will use the reading and the map as a resource to explain why they fought with or against Jackson as well as their battle strategy.

Assessments:

Map analysis

Native American letter

Unit Test