Technology in the Civil War

A PowerPoint presentation by:
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Teaching American History: Secession, Civil War & Reconstruction
Fitchburg State College, Fitchburg, Mass.

Objectives:

- Through a PowerPoint presentation students will be presented with an overview of selected technological advancements utilized in the American Civil War.

- Students will understand the impact that the “new technology” had on the war and those who fought it.

- Using US National Archives & Records Administration analysis worksheets, students will analyze photos, prints, posters and other primary source documents included in the slide show.

Connection to Frameworks:

USI.40 Provide examples of the various effects of the Civil War.
  A. Physical and economic destruction
  C. The greatest loss of life on a per capita basis of any US war before or since

Target audience:

This could be used with students in almost any grade studying the American Civil War. Ideally suited for students in grades 5 – 12.

Materials:

- Computer and projector
- Copy of the PowerPoint presentation Technology in the Civil War
- Optional pre-viewing activity sheet “Firsts in the Civil War”
- Optional color print of the “Call to Arms” Broadside
These three worksheets are attached to The People in the Civil War lesson
- Optional: Photo/Print/Drawing Analysis Worksheet
- Optional: Poster Analysis Worksheet
- Optional: Written Document Analysis Worksheet
Target audience:

This could be used with students in almost any grade studying the American Civil War. Ideally suited for students in grades 5 – 12.

Lesson:

This presentation could be used to give students an overview of the technology that supported the militaries involved in the fighting of the war. It could also be used in a discussion concerning the magnitude of the casualties suffered on both sides during the conflict. The handout “Firsts of the Civil War” would be an interesting worksheet to have the students complete prior to the viewing of the slides. Worksheets have also been included to allow the teacher to have students analyze photos, prints, posters or other slides from the presentation. We have provided copies of posters that could be reproduced for student use with these worksheets.

Bibliography:

See the bibliography that is attached to The People in the Civil War lesson.

Copy and paste a full-sized poster into a document for printing.

http://worlddmc.ohiolink.edu/OMP/PrintableImage?oid=590862&proxy=/Images/Bdg/Hist1MDS/d36/991404842138.OM20_001.jpg
Firsts in Warfare
in the American Civil War

Directions: Read each of the following statements and indicate whether it is true or false.

1. T or F - The first military railroads were developed in the Civil War.
2. T or F - Conscription was used for the first time in America during the Civil War.
3. T or F - The periscope was used for trench warfare for the first time in the Civil War.
4. T or F - A submarine was successfully used in battle for the first time in the Civil War.
5. T or F - The income tax was first levied in America during the Civil War.
6. T or F - Aerial reconnaissance was used for the first time during the Civil War.
7. T or F - Photography of battle was accomplished for the first time in the Civil War.
8. T or F - Telescopic sights were used for rifles for the first time in the Civil War.
9. T or F - Railroad artillery was used for the first time in the Civil War.
10. T or F - Repeating rifles were used for the first time in the Civil War.
11. T or F - Naval torpedoes were used for the first time in the Civil War.
12. T or F - The U.S. Secret Service was born during the Civil War.
13. T or F - Field trenches were first used on a large scale in the Civil War.
14. T or F - The first widespread use of land mines was in the Civil War.
15. T or F - The first use of portable telegraph units on the battlefield was in the Civil War.
16. T or F - The first ironclad ships engaged in combat in the Civil War.
17. T or F - The first organized use of Negro troops in combat was in the Civil War.
18. T or F - The first widespread use of rail for hospital trains was in the Civil War.
19. T or F - The first Medal of Honor was awarded to an American soldier in the Civil War.
20. T or F - The first visual signaling by flag and torch during combat was used in the Civil War.