

Midwest in the Civil War | Grades: 6th through 8th | Duration: 2 hours

Midwest in the Civil War is a two-hour program for students in 6th through 8th grade. The program explores the Midwest's role in the Civil War through a guided tour of the *Fiery Trial* gallery, a viewing of the Museum's 360° movie *Seeing the Elephant*, and focused small group exhibit exploration.

After the guided tour, students work in small groups to study an aspect of the Civil War as a social historian. Student groups are given an inquiry-based prompt and will use the Museum's exhibits, artifacts, and other resources to develop an argument that addresses the prompt. After research time in the exhibit gallery, students share their findings and answers with the larger group to verbally explain their new found expertise and opinions on a range of topics that concern the Civil War.

Program Goals:

- Students will understand the important role the Midwest played during the Civil War.
- Students will work collaboratively in small groups to make claims about the Civil War and support these claims using exhibit-based evidence.
- Students will start to think like historians to analyze the importance of the Midwest in the Civil War through a guided experience and independent structure learning opportunities

Learning Standards:

Wisconsin

- B.8.1 Interpret the past using a variety of sources, such as biographies, diaries, journals, artifacts, eyewitness interviews, and other primary source materials and evaluate the credibility of sources used.
- B.8.2 Employ cause and effect arguments to demonstrate how significant events have influenced the past and the present in United States and world history.
- B.8.4 Explain how and why events may be interpreted differently depending upon the perspective of participants, witnesses, reporters, and historians.

Illinois

- SS.IS.5.6-8.MdC Identify evidence from multiple sources to support claims, noting its limitations
- SS.IS.6.6-8.LC Construct arguments using claims and evidence from multiple sources while acknowledging their strengths and weaknesses.
- SS.H.1.6-8.MC Analyze connections among events and developments in broader historical contexts.
- SS.H.4.6-8.MC Compare the central historical arguments in secondary works across multiple media.