

Capstone: Civil War Museum Exhibit

Name: _____ Date: _____

LEARNING OBJECTIVE

Students will synthesize the quarter's study of westward expansion and the Civil War into a three-panel museum exhibit connecting causes, key events, and effects.

MATERIALS NEEDED

- trifold poster board or 3 separate poster sheets taped together
- all previous weeks' notes and worksheets
- markers or colored pencils
- ruler
- glue stick or tape
- index cards

HANDS-ON ACTIVITY

1. Gather your materials and notes from all 8 previous weeks (trails/Manifest Destiny, Indian Removal, Gold Rush, sectionalism, road to war timeline, battle map, soldier's kit, Emancipation Proclamation).
2. Label your three panels: Panel 1 - 'Causes' (westward expansion, sectionalism, road to war), Panel 2 - 'The War' (battles, soldier life), Panel 3 - 'Turning Points & Effects' (Emancipation Proclamation, outcomes).
3. For each panel, select and glue/tape at least 2 items from your previous weeks' work (index cards, map excerpts, timeline entries) that best represent that panel's theme.
4. Add a title and a 2-3 sentence summary caption to each panel explaining its main idea in your own words.
5. Present your exhibit aloud to a family member in 3-4 minutes, walking them through causes, the war itself, and its major turning points/effects.

QUESTIONS

1. **What two or three causes from Panel 1 do you think most directly led to the Civil War, and why?**

2. **How did westward expansion (Weeks 1-3) directly connect to the sectional conflict that led to war (Weeks 4-5)?**

3. What was the single most significant turning point of the war in your exhibit, and why?

4. Why is it important to study both the causes and the human experience (soldiers, civilians, enslaved people) of a historical conflict, rather than just the dates of battles?
