

CRISIS, CIVIL WAR, AND RECONSTRUCTION
Enrichment: Build a Model

The Battle of Gettysburg

The Battle of Gettysburg took place over three days, from July 1 to July 3, 1863, at Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. The southern army had about 75,000 men, and the northern army numbered nearly 100,000. When the fighting ended, there were more than 50,000 casualties—soldiers killed, injured, or missing. Although the battle had begun almost accidentally, it turned the tide of the war for the Union. Gettysburg remains one of the best-known conflicts of the Civil War. Pickett’s Charge, a failed attempt by the southern army to break through the northern line on the third day, is still discussed at length by historians. Three months after the battle, Lincoln gave his famous Gettysburg Address, paying tribute to the dead and dedicating the nation to government “of the people, by the people, and for the people.”

Your Assignment: Separate into two groups, one for the Union and one for the Confederacy. Work as a group to research your army’s movements during the Battle of Gettysburg and to create components for a model of the battle. As a class, build a model and reenact the Battle of Gettysburg. Be prepared to write a short description of the best and worst aspects of your army’s strategy.

Suggested Procedure:

1. Research your army’s movements—attacks, retreats, skirmishes—for each of the three days of the Battle of Gettysburg. Use reliable educational or government Web sites, as well as books and maps from the library. Many published primary sources are available.
2. Keep track of the information you find in a graphic organizer like the one shown. Use the information in your organizer and the maps you have found to determine the sequence of events for each day of the battle.

Day 1—Events	Day 2—Events	Day 3—Events

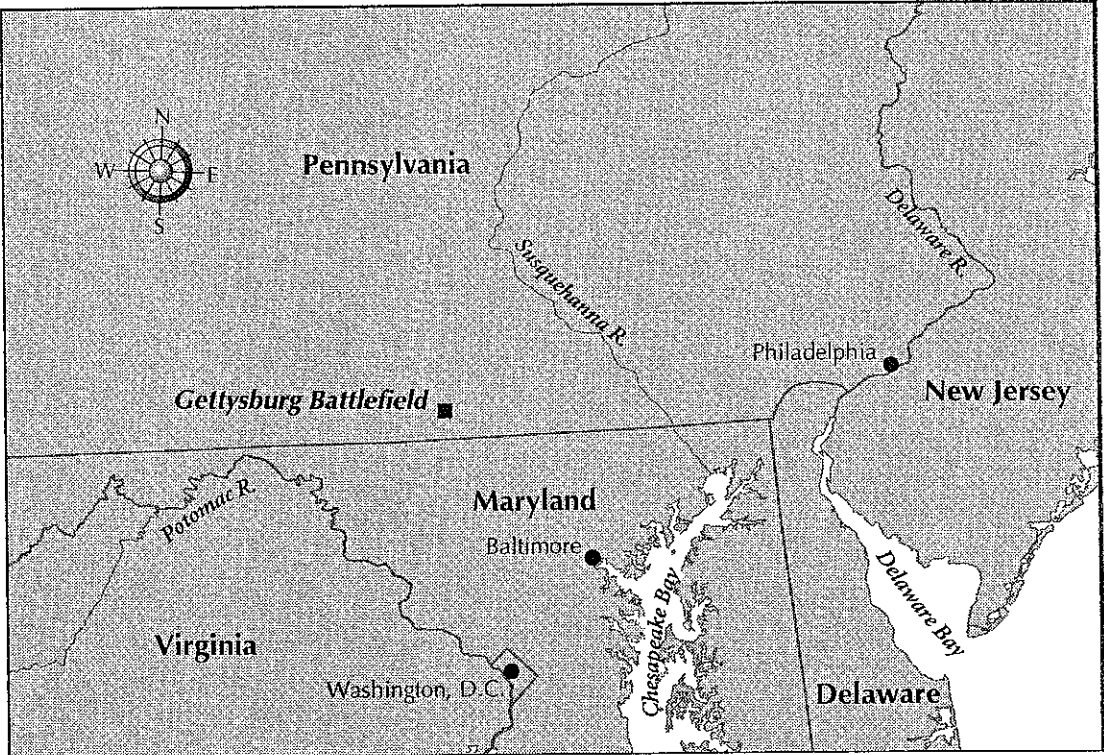
3. Draw a rough map for each day, with the events and times noted in the appropriate locations.
4. Create movable military units by writing the numbers of troops and the names of their companies on small index cards.

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Suggested Procedure, continued:

5. Meet with the other group and combine your information into one large model of the battlefield on a table or on the floor. Use classroom objects, such as books, to represent various landscape features.
6. Using the model, restage the battle. Watch the other group's movements to understand how the overall strategy and events of the multiday conflict worked.
7. After you have staged the battle, discuss what you learned. Then write a short description of the best and worst aspects of your side's strategy.



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