

2026-2027 EDUCATION PROGRAMS



POPULAR PROGRAMS

Artifact Investigation

What can objects tell us about the past? Using artifact reproductions, this hands-on program invites students to interpret information sources and develop questions to investigate the past. Through objects and documents, students will explore the experiences of soldiers, women, and free and enslaved people of color.

Length: 30-45 minutes

Standards: VS.7, USI.9, VUS.9



Medicine in the Civil War

Why did more soldiers die from disease than in battle? Explore how the Civil War changed medical practices through this inquiry-based interactive program. Students will learn about the critical advancements made by doctors and nurses during the war as well as the diseases that caused the high death toll.

Length: 30 minutes | Standards: VS.7, USI.9, VUS.9



Reconstruction

The Reconstruction Amendments established unprecedented rights for Black Americans. This program allows students to analyze and interpret primary sources to consider the ways these rights were exercised and limited during and after Reconstruction. Students examine documents and photos about Freedmen's schools, sharecropping, Black political leaders, segregation, and more. Students will understand how Reconstruction set the stage for the "Jim Crow" South and future civil rights movements.

Length: 60 minutes

Standards: VS.8, USII.2, VUS.9



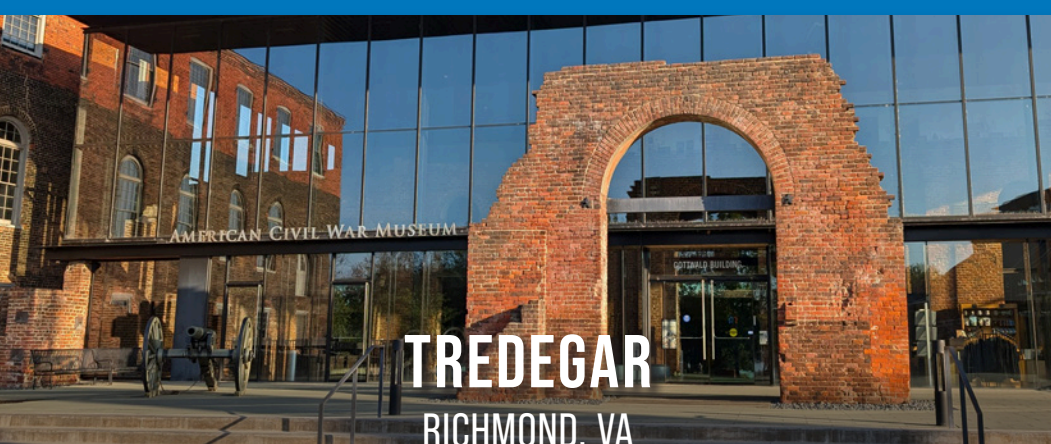
	Artifact Investigation	Common Soldier Experience	Medicine in the Civil War	Reconstruction
TREDEGAR	✓	✓	✓	
APPOMATTOX	✓	✓	✓	
VIRTUAL	✓			✓
AT YOUR SCHOOL	✓		✓	✓

Let us come to you!

Have an ACWM educator lead a program in your classroom.



AT THE MUSEUM



Gallery Tour

With a guide or on their own, students will tour our permanent exhibit, *A People's Contest*. This chronological narrative of the Civil War touches on significant battles, events, and texts from the origins of secession to Reconstruction. Students will discover artifacts that deepen their understanding of how key military and political leaders shaped the course of the war while also engaging with the varying perspectives of Union and Confederate soldiers, women, Indigenous people, and free and enslaved Black Americans. Includes the overview film, "Civil War & Emancipation".

Length: 45 minutes | Standards: VS.7, VS.8, USI.9, USII.2, VUS.9

The Impending Crisis Exhibit Tour

What caused Americans to take up arms against each other in 1861? Using maps, artifacts, and documents, students will learn about how differing views on slavery and its expansion divided Americans. Students will develop an understanding of the perspectives of proslavery advocates, the contributions of abolitionists, and the motivations behind secession.

Length: 45 minutes | Standards: USI.9a, VUS.7h, VUS.8

Richmond Home Front Tour

This walking tour uses Brown's Island as a centerpiece for telling the story of Civil War Richmond by highlighting Tredegar Iron Works, the James River boatmen, the Confederate States Laboratory, Belle Isle as a prisoner of war camp, and the capture of Richmond.

Length: 45 minutes | Standards: VS.7, USI.9, VUS.9

Guided Tour

Take your students back in time with a guided tour of this restored historic home. Explore stories of Jefferson Davis and his family, Abraham Lincoln's visit to Richmond, and the resistance and resilience of enslaved and free Black servants like Mary Richards (Bowser). Guides will weave together discussions of the Virginia home front with the timeline of key military and political events. Students will leave considering the impact and effects of the war from various perspectives.

Length: 45 minutes | Standards: VS.7, USI.9, VUS.9

Historic Court End Neighborhood Collaboration

Experience a multi-site field trip with the White House of the Confederacy and the John Marshall House in the Historic Court End Neighborhood.

VIRTUAL PROGRAMS

Artifact Investigation

(Description above)

Length: 45 minutes | Standards: VS.7, USI.9, VUS.9

Reconstruction

(Description above)

Length: 60 minutes | Standards: VS.8, USII.2, VUS.9

Seizing Freedom

What does it mean to be free? This dialogic program introduces students to terminology used to discuss slavery and emancipation. Engage in discussions on the conditionality of freedom through documents from the ACWM's own collection.

Length: 45 minutes | Standards: VS.7, USI.9, VUS.8, VUS.9



Gallery Tour

With a guide, students will explore our museum's permanent exhibit to learn about the causes, course, and consequences of the Civil War. Using over 400 artifacts, photographs, and documents, this exhibit tells the overlapping stories of the end of the war and the reunification of a nation.

Length: 45 minutes | Standards: VS.7, VS.8, USI.9, USII.2, VUS.9

Scavenger Hunt

Independently, students will explore our museum's permanent exhibit with a map and scavenger hunt that leads them through over 400 artifacts, photographs, and documents. Let your students become history detectives as they follow the clues and answer questions to learn more about the end of the Civil War and the reunification of a nation.

Length: 45 minutes | Standards: VS.7, VS.8, USI.9, USII.2, VUS.9

Civil War Homelife in Rural Virginia

Through our 19th century cabin, learn about daily life and economics in mid-19th century rural Virginia. What can foodstuffs, tools, and objects tell us about life during and shortly after the Civil War?

Length: 30 minutes | Standards: VS.7, USI.9, VUS.9

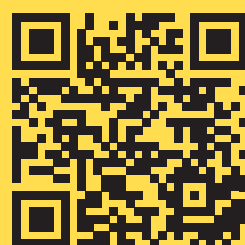


National Park Service Collaboration

Experience a multi-site field trip with ACWM-Appomattox and Appomattox Court House National Historical Park.

Contact ACWM for more information
and to schedule a program.

youthprograms@acwm.org
804.649.1861 x112



Educator Resources

ACWM.org



Thanks to generous support from the Commonwealth of Virginia, all Virginia public school teachers and students will receive free admission and programming at all three sites. Discounted group rates apply for all other students, educators, and group chaperones. Ask about our field trip transportation scholarship for Title 1 schools.





April '61
First shots of the war
at Ft. Sumter, SC



July '61
First Battle of Bull Run
at Manassas, VA



March '62
First battle between ironclad
ships at Hampton Roads, VA




THE
AMERICAN CIVIL WAR
MUSEUM
**EDUCATION
PROGRAMS**



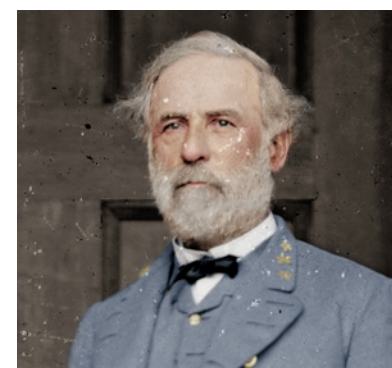
January '63
President Lincoln issues the
Emancipation Proclamation



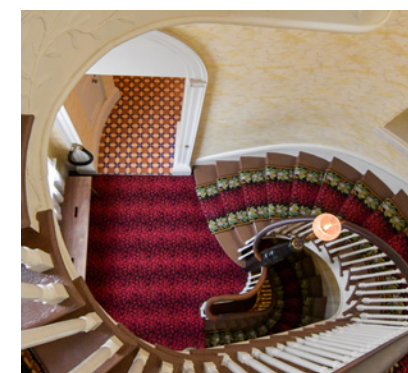
November '64
U.S. Gen. Sherman's "March to
the Sea" begins from Atlanta, GA



July '63
Union victories at Vicksburg, MS,
and Gettysburg, PA



April '65
C.S. Gen. Lee surrenders to
U.S. Gen. Grant at Appomattox, VA



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