

AT WHAT COST VICTORY?



TEACHER'S PACKET

150 Year Anniversary Edition

ADAPTABLE TO ANY GRADE LEVEL

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THE BATTLE OF WILSON'S CREEK

To help commemorate the 150th Anniversary of the Battle of Wilson's Creek, this new teacher's packet has been developed for use during the anniversary year and years to come. This packet has been designed to give teachers a brief overview of the events surrounding August 10, 1861, and ideas for pre and post visit activities.

Audience:

Can be adapted to any grade level at the teacher's discretion.

Goals:

1. Students will understand how the Battle of Wilson's Creek was part of the overall picture of the Civil War in the Trans Mississippi.
2. Students will be able to explain the impact on the civilian and slave populations in Missouri.

Objectives:

1. Students will relate the battle at Wilson's Creek to the larger role that the Trans Mississippi played in the Civil War
2. Student will be able to explain the effect of war on the civilian population, especially as it relates to the farm families in the Wilson's Creek area.
3. Students will be able to show understanding of the complicated issue of slavery in Missouri.

Overview:

In the early morning light of August 10, 1861, the second major battle of the American Civil War would begin above Wilson's Creek near the little southwest Missouri town of Springfield. That day would see temperatures reach near 108 degrees, over 500 soldiers die, more than 1,500 wounded and the lives of those living in the Wilson's Creek area changed forever.

Although almost forgotten in the massive battles to come, the importance of Wilson's Creek and the war in the Trans Mississippi's cannot be overlooked. The Battle of Wilson's Creek was one of the few battles in which the Confederates outnumbered the Union more than 2 to 1. Although considered a Confederate victory, they were unable to follow up that victory allowing the Federal troops to retreat back to Springfield and on toward Rolla and the railhead. This battle would see Nathaniel Lyon the first Union general killed in

the Civil War. It would also see the civilian population devastated by loss of crops, animals, food stores and personal items. The slave population would also be drawn in with their owners.

The Civil War, which began on April 12, 1861, was expected by both sides to be a short war. Men hurried to sign up so as not to miss the fight. Lincoln had called for 75,000 volunteers for 90 days. However, most of these men had seen little or no action since enlisting and their enlistments were soon to be up. Regular Army troops from the Western forts were being called to the East because most considered this the most likely place for the battles to take place. However, many under the commands of General Nathaniel Lyon would see action long before they crossed the Mississippi.

Missouri, a slave state, wanted only to be left alone. This was not to happen. The state, rich in natural resources, especially lead, would become the third most fought over state following Virginia and Tennessee. Thus, the importance of the Trans Mississippi cannot be overstated.

The Ray family, being loyal to the Union, was none-the-less slave holding illustrating the complicated status of Missouri. The Missouri Compromise had allowed the state to enter the Union as a slave state. However, most of Missouri had never supported a large slave economy as did the states further south. Most slave holders in southwest Missouri were small famers owning only a few slaves and frequently working alongside them in the fields. This was contrary to traditional owner/slave relations in the South.

As with civilian populations in past wars, those near Wilson's Creek had a front row seat to the battle. The families in the community, among them the John Ray family, had seen the Confederate and Missouri State Guard camped near the river for the past few days. These troops had already used much of the ripening crops to feed approximately 12,000 soldiers and their horses. Before it was over, all of the Ray family's animals would be taken as well.

Shortly after the 6 hour battle began, the Ray's home became a Confederate field hospital and would have wounded soldiers in and around it for the next days and weeks, with at least one soldier remaining for 6 weeks. Roxanna Ray and the family slave, Aunt Rhoda, would act as nurses assisting the surgeons. Their children would also be pressed into service bringing buckets of water to the doctors and the wounded. About mid-day, in the midst of this scene, General Lyon's body was recovered from Bloody Hill and brought to the Ray house. It was placed on John and Roxanna's bed to be cleaned and examined before being escorted to Springfield to await the arrival of his nephews to be taken home to Connecticut for burial.

At the end of the day, the defeated Federal Army pulled back from Springfield toward St. Louis and the victorious State Guard and Confederate Armies pulled back to Arkansas leaving the civilian population to cope as best they could. When the armies were gone, so were most of the crops and animals that had belonged to the farmers along Wilson's Creek. The Ray family, who had awakened relatively prosperous that hot August morning, went to bed that night with little left and would never be compensated for their losses.

“A MIGHTY MEAN FOWT FIGHT”

In the hot and steamy early morning hours of August 10, 1861, life would change forever for families of the Wilson’s Creek area and the armies that would bring about that change. Lives would be lost, animals killed for food and taken for transportation, crops foraged for food and trampled under the feet of the soldiers and their horses. Temperatures would soar to over 100 degrees and bleeding and dying men would beg for water to quench their thirst.

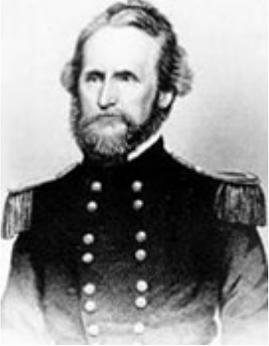
Beginning in late July, skirmishes between the Federal Army of General Nathaniel Lyon and the combined Missouri State Guard led by former Governor, General Sterling Price and General Ben McCulloch’s Confederate troops, would take place almost daily. Generals McCulloch and Price, with their superior numbers, had planned to attack the much smaller Federal force in Springfield. Camped along Wilson’s Creek, the Confederates were delayed because of rain which would render their gunpowder useless. General Lyon, seeing his opportunity for surprise, left Springfield just after midnight. He split his force sending Colonel Franz Sigel to attack from the south while he would be moving to the west.

As the first shots were fired, farmer John Ray sent his wife, Roxanna, their 9 children, their slave Aunt Rhoda and her four daughters, and, the hired hand, Julius Short, to the cellar where they huddled as the 6 hours of battle raged above them. Mr. Ray sat on his front porch watching the battle taking place around him. Within the first hours, wounded and dying men began walking or were escorted to the Ray house for treatment. About mid-morning, after a cannon ball hit the Ray’s chicken house, a yellow flag was placed on the house designating it as a Confederate field hospital.

Across the valley, on what would come to be known as Bloody Hill, fighting was fierce. Somewhere around 9:30 AM, after already being wounded twice, General Lyon was shot through the heart, becoming the first Union general killed in the Civil War. Command was transferred to Major Samuel Sturgis who, like Lyon, was expecting Colonel Sigel to reinforce him. However, Sigel who had mistaken a Louisiana unit for grey clad lowans was routed and already on his way back to Springfield. The fighting was fierce and communication was confusing. By noon, Major Sturgis had ordered his exhausted troops to retreat. The Confederates, equally exhausted, failed to follow up, losing the opportunity to finish off the Federals.

Those in Charge at Wilson's Creek:

Union:



General Nathaniel Lyon

Nathaniel Lyon was born in Ashford, Connecticut, graduated 11th out of 52 from the United States Military Academy in 1841 and fought in the Seminole War and the Mexican War. After the war, he served in posts in California and Fort Riley, Kansas. While in California, he participated in several Native American massacres. At Fort Riley he began to develop strong abolitionist leanings as the political climate caused Kansas to become known as "Bleeding Kansas". Known for his temper, harsh punishments for even minor offences and fiery red hair, he was not a popular leader.

As Southern states began to secede from the Union, Lyon was sent to Missouri to command the Union arsenal in St. Louis. Lyon and his forces faced an increasingly hostile secessionist governor, Claiborne Jackson, who refused to send volunteers to fight for the Union and began training in order to join the Confederate militia.

Lyon was promoted to brigadier general and given command of Union troops in Missouri. He then began to pursue the Missouri State Guard under the command of Sterling Price. Price joined forces with Confederate General Benjamin McCulloch and would meet General Lyon at Wilson's Creek on August 10, 1861, where Lyon would be killed becoming the first Union general to be killed during the war.



Colonel Franz Sigel

Franz Sigel was born in Baden, Germany, and earned his education and rank from Karlsruhe Military Academy in 1843. After participating in the 1848 Revolution, Sigel fled to New York. He moved to St. Louis where he taught school and then became the director of education for St. Louis.

When the Civil War broke out, he was commissioned Colonel of the 3rd Missouri, and was soon promoted to Brigadier General. He led his German emigrant troops and fought under General Lyon across southern Missouri. At Wilson's Creek his command, which had been split from Lyon's main forces in an attempt to surprise Confederate troops, was routed early in the battle and left the field. The main army on Bloody Hill was unaware of this which played a big factor in the Federal loss at Wilson's Creek.

Sigel went on to fight in many other battles of the Civil War. After being defeated at the Battle of New Market, Virginia, he resigned his commission and spent the rest of his life in Baltimore and New York in the journalism and publishing industries.

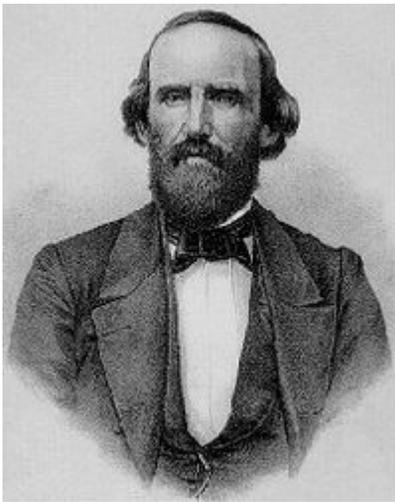


Major Samuel Sturgis

Samuel Sturgis graduated from West Point in 1842 and served in the dragoons during the Mexican War. In 1861, Sturgis was in command of the 1st Cavalry in Fort Smith, Arkansas. Many in his command left the army to join the Confederate Army. He and many in his command escaped with their equipment to Fort

Leavenworth. He was promoted to major and joined General Lyon. At Wilson's Creek, Sturgis took command of the Federal forces when Lyon was killed. When he realized that Colonel Sigel was not going to reinforce him, he withdrew to Springfield. He was promoted to brigadier general and served most of the rest of the war in the Eastern theatre. Although Sturgis would be a career soldier, his Civil War time ended in June of 1864 with his defeat at Brice's Crossroads, Mississippi by Nathan Bedford Forrest.

Confederate:



General Benjamin McCulloch

Benjamin McCulloch was born in Tennessee and went to Texas with Davy Crockett in 1835. Because of being delayed by the measles, he was not with Crockett at the Alamo but did join Sam Houston and fought at the battle of San Jacinto where he was promoted to first lieutenant.

He left the army and became a surveyor, a Texas Ranger, an Indian fighter, a member of the Republic of Texas House of Representatives and, in 1842, was elected to the first legislature of the new state of Texas. He then served in the Mexican War. When Texas seceded from the Union in 1861, McCulloch was made a brigadier general.

In the summer of 1861, McCulloch joined his Confederate army with the Missouri State Guard and jointly led the troops to victory at the Battle of Wilson's Creek. However, he was unable to follow up the victory and pulled his forces back into Arkansas, where he was killed at the Battle of Pea Ridge in March of 1862.

Missouri State Guard:

General Sterling Price



Sterling Price was born in Virginia then moved with his family to Missouri in 1830. He served in both the Missouri state legislature and the United States Congress until the outbreak of the Mexican War. He resigned his seat in Congress and became a colonel of the Second Missouri and became military governor of New Mexico. After returning from the Mexican War he was elected governor of Missouri in 1853. As the Civil War loomed, Price was opposed to secession, but, because of disagreements with Unionists, he accepted command of the Missouri State Guard.

Joining forces with General McCulloch in the summer of 1861, he was with him at the Battle of Wilson's Creek. After the battle, his forces were added to the Confederate Army of the West and he was promoted to major general. Spending the next two years in the Trans Mississippi theatre of operation, he was defeated in the battles of Westport and Mine Creek in 1864. He and his army fled to Texas, then to Mexico, where they stayed until the end of the War.

Constructed Response Activities:

1. After viewing the film, **A Mighty Mean Fowl Fight**, either at school before coming to the Park or in the Visitor Center, give either a written or oral synopsis of the battle, the involvement of the Ray family, and the Ray's slave, Aunt Rhoda.
2. After visiting the Ray House, tell students that they have been transported back in time to August 9th, 10th and 11th, 1861. They are to create visual or written pictures of life for the Ray family just before and just after the battle. Describe what differences they might encounter from one day to the next. Show or tell what it looked like both before and after. How did the lives of the family change forever on that August day?
3. Imagine yourself as Aunt Rhoda or some other slave in the Wilson's Creek area. Knowing that the lives of slaves were somewhat different in Southwest Missouri than in other part of the South, and, even other parts of Missouri, describe what you would have been doing that day.
4. What was Aunt Rhoda's role in the Ray family and how might the battle have affected her and her daughters? How do you think her attitude might have changed with what she witnessed on that hot August day?
5. Pretend that you were one of the Ray children. What would you have been thinking and feeling during that morning in the cellar and then when you came up around noon? What duties would you have had that afternoon?
6. You are a journalist for the *St. Louis Democrat* and have been assigned to interview one of the commanders at the Battle of Wilson's Creek. Read the brief biographies, then, choose one to research. Form questions to ask the commander you have chosen and write your interview to be posted in the newspaper.
7. The morning on Bloody Hill has been the most horrible scene you have ever been a part of. You were wounded early in the battle but continued to fight on until your strength gave out. You are now at the Confederate field hospital at the Ray farm. Write a letter home to your family telling them of the scenes you are witnessing and the treatment you have received for your wound.

Map Activity:

The countryside around the Wilson's Creek National Battlefield has changed in the past 150 years, but, much is still the same. Although no longer farmland, the Ray's, their neighbors, and, even the soldiers would probably still recognize much of it even though much of it has been overgrown with brush and trees that weren't here in 1861.

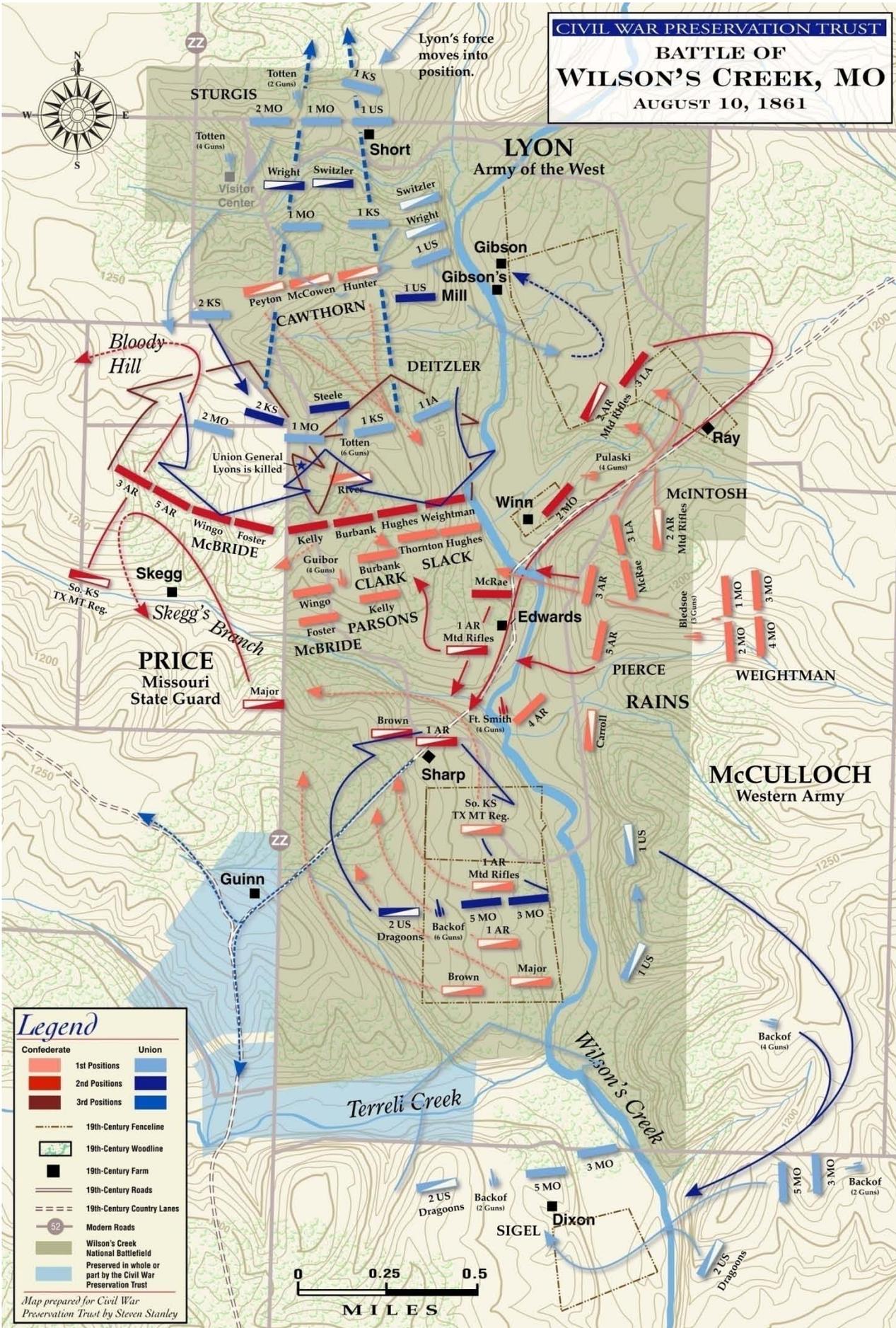
The attached map, which is courtesy of **Civil War Preservation Trust**, shows the battlefield as it was on August 10, 1861. It will help you to better understand the various aspects of the battle.

This map can be used while you are at the battlefield or as a classroom activity.

1. Name four things that the map legend tells you.
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.
 - d.
2. Name three of the Confederate commanders who held the 1st positions.
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.
3. From which directions did General Lyon's army move? _____
4. Behind which line, Federal or Confederate, did the Ray House lie? _____
5. Besides Wilson's Creek, what other creek or branch runs through the battlefield? _____
6. What structure on the battlefield was not a house? _____
7. From which direction did Colonel Sigel enter the battle? _____
8. Using the scale, approximately how far from the Ray house was Bloody Hill? _____
9. Between what two batteries was General Lyon was killed. _____
10. How many guns total did Totten have on the battlefield? _____
11. How many farms were located on the battlefield the day of battle? _____
12. How many guns each did Guibor and Pulaski have? _____

CIVIL WAR PRESERVATION TRUST
**BATTLE OF
 WILSON'S CREEK, MO**
 AUGUST 10, 1861

Lyon's force
 moves into
 position.



Legend

Confederate	Union
█ 1st Positions	█ 1st Positions
█ 2nd Positions	█ 2nd Positions
█ 3rd Positions	█ 3rd Positions
 19th-Century Fenceline	
 19th-Century Woodline	
 19th-Century Farm	
 19th-Century Roads	
 19th-Century Country Lanes	
52 Modern Roads	
 Wilson's Creek National Battlefield Preserved in whole or part by the Civil War Preservation Trust	

Map prepared for Civil War Preservation Trust by Steven Stanley



Battle of Wilson's Creek Timeline:

Place the following 10 events in the order they took place:

- ___ Missouri State Guard and Confederate troops put back into camp along Wilson's Creek
- ___ Maj. Samuel Sturgis takes command of Gen. Lyon's troops
- ___ The Ray House becomes a Confederate field hospital
- ___ The Federal Army retreats to Springfield
- ___ Two of the Ray children are told by a soldier to get back to the house quickly
- ___ Gen. Lyon's body is brought to the Ray house
- ___ Col. Sigel is routed from the battlefield
- ___ John Ray spots a line of soldiers in Blue along the ridgeline
- ___ Roxanna Ray, Aunt Rhoda and all of the children go to the cellar
- ___ General Nathaniel Lyon is killed

Civil War Math:

<p>The date the Civil War began.</p> <p>717512+386844+5,485,662+1,653,704÷2</p> <p style="text-align: right;">!</p>	<p>The total number of casualties at Wilson’s Creek.</p> <p>17400-14861</p> <p style="text-align: right;">O</p>	<p>The number of slaves the Ray’s owned.</p> <p>2(25x3) +50÷3-95</p> <p style="text-align: right;">N</p>	<p>The number of children that John and Roxanna Ray had between the two.</p> <p>5.5x10÷5</p> <p style="text-align: right;">C</p>
<p>The approximate number of miles Gen. Lyon marched his troops to Wilson’s Creek.</p> <p>(96x10)÷80</p> <p style="text-align: right;">N</p>	<p>The date of the battle of Wilson’s Creek.</p> <p>10,000,000-4,000,039-98,100+2,200,000</p> <p style="text-align: right;">A</p>	<p>The year Wilson’s Creek became a National Battlefield.</p> <p>250x4(9.754.25)+1450÷11</p> <p style="text-align: right;">P</p>	<p>The estimated time of day Gen. Lyon was killed.</p> <p>18.6x2÷4</p> <p style="text-align: right;">T</p>
<p>The temperature reached near____on the day of the battle.</p> <p>(293+71)÷2-74</p> <p style="text-align: right;">U</p>	<p>The number of states that left the Union.</p> <p>(310x6)-(924.5x2)</p> <p style="text-align: right;">E</p>	<p>Gen. Lyon’s age when he was killed.</p> <p>1/3 of 258÷2</p> <p style="text-align: right;">E</p>	<p>The total number of soldier who fought at the Battle of Wilson’s Creek.</p> <p>(696x5)x5</p> <p style="text-align: right;">R</p>

Work the problems then match the letter in each box to the answers below.

What item did Roxanna Ray loan to wrap General Lyon’s body in for transport to Springfield?

-
-
-
-
-
-
-
-
-
-
-
-

- 11
- 2539
- 108
- 19
- 9:30
- 11
- 17,400
- 1960
- 8,10,1861
- 5
- 43
- 4,12,1861

How Do Prices Compare?

An item that cost \$1.00 in 1861 would cost approximately \$24.82 in 2011. Using that rate of exchange calculate how much in today's dollars you would either earn or spend.

1. In 1856 John Ray sold his slave Wiley to Samuel Fulbright for \$827.00. How much would Wiley be worth today?
2. In the 1860 census, the total value of the Ray land, farm implements and live stock was \$8000. If the Rays sold the entire property today, how much would they be paid?
3. According to the 1860 Agricultural Report 272 bushels of wheat @\$1.25 a bushel, 1000 bushels of Indian corn @ \$.25 a bushel, 300 bushels of oats @ \$.60 a bushel, 50 bushels of Irish potatoes @\$.23 a bushel and 25 bushels of sweet potatoes @ \$2.00 a bushel were harvested from the Ray farm. What is the total amount earned from the produce in 1860 dollars? In 2010 dollars?
4. All told how much would the Ray family be worth in today's dollars?
5. What conclusions can you draw about the Ray's social status in 1861?
6. Consider that most of the Ray's wealth was in land and goods, also keeping in mind the number of family member including Aunt Rhoda and her children. With the cash they had on hand, what kinds of items might they have purchased?

Continue to use the conversion rate to figure the following questions keeping in mind that these are general prices since location, season and scarcity would affect prices.

7. The combined force of Generals McCulloch and Price was 12,000. In order to provide rations for that many men daily, use the chart below to determine how much the food would cost in 2011 dollars. (Other items such as soap, matches and candles would have also been included in the rations.

Beef, Corn meal	13,000 pounds @ \$.05 per lb.
Pork, Bacon, Hams, etc.	8000 pounds @\$.20 per lb.
Flour and Soft Bread	14, 200 pounds @ \$.05 per lb.
Beans, Peas, Sugar (combined)	2,000 pounds @ \$.12 per lb.
Rice and Hominy	1500 pounds @ \$.10 per lb.
Roasted Coffee	900 pounds @ \$.20 per lb.
Tea	200 pounds @ \$.75 per lb.
Vinegar	150 gallons @ \$.07 per gal.
Salt	425 pounds @ \$.25 per sack
Pepper	50 pounds @ \$.15 per lb.
Potatoes	3500 pounds @ \$.23 per bushel
Molasses	75 gallons @ \$.50 per gal.

Total:

Teachers Key

Mapping Activity:

1. Any Four
2. Brown, Bledsoe, Hunter, Major, Peyton, Burbank, Carroll, McCowen, Wingo, Foster, Kelly, Hughes
3. North
4. Confederate
5. Terrell and Skeggs
6. Gibson's Mill
7. South
8. One mile
9. Totten and Guibor
10. 12
11. 6
12. 4

Battle of Wilson's Creek Timeline:

Place the following 10 events in the order they took place:

- 9 Missouri State Guard and Confederate troops put back into camp along Wilson's Creek
- 7 Major Samuel Sturgis takes command of Gen. Lyon's troops
- 4 The Ray House becomes a Confederate field hospital
- 8 The Federal Army retreats to Springfield
- 1 Two of the Ray children are told by a soldier to get back to the house quickly
- 10 General Lyon's body is brought to the Ray house
- 6 Colonel Sigel is routed from the battlefield
- 2 John Ray spots a line of soldiers in Blue along the ridgeline
- 3 Roxanna Ray, Aunt Rhoda and all of the children go to the cellar
- 5 General Nathaniel Lyon is killed

Civil War Math:

<p>The date the Civil War began.</p> <p>4121861</p> <p style="text-align: right;">!</p>	<p>The total number of casualties at Wilson's Creek.</p> <p>2539</p> <p style="text-align: right;">O</p>	<p>The number of slaves the Ray's owned.</p> <p>5</p> <p style="text-align: right;">N</p>	<p>The number of children that John and Roxanna Ray had between the two.</p> <p>11</p> <p style="text-align: right;">C</p>
<p>The approximate number of miles Gen. Lyon marched his troops to Wilson's Creek.</p> <p>12</p> <p style="text-align: right;">N</p>	<p>The date of the battle of Wilson's Creek.</p> <p>8101861</p> <p style="text-align: right;">A</p>	<p>The year Wilson's Creek became a National Battlefield.</p> <p>1960</p> <p style="text-align: right;">P</p>	<p>The estimated time of day Gen. Lyon was killed.</p> <p>9:30</p> <p style="text-align: right;">T</p>
<p>The temperature reached near ___ on the day of the battle.</p> <p>108</p> <p style="text-align: right;">U</p>	<p>The number of states that left the Union.</p> <p>11</p> <p style="text-align: right;">E</p>	<p>Gen. Lyon's age when he was killed.</p> <p>43</p> <p style="text-align: right;">E</p>	<p>The total number of soldier who fought at the Battle of Wilson's Creek.</p> <p>17,400</p> <p style="text-align: right;">R</p>

Work the problems then match the letter in each box to the answers below.

What item did Roxanna Ray loan to wrap General Lyon's body in for transport to Springfield?

COUNTERPANE!

How Do Prices Compare?

An item that cost \$1.00 in 1861 would cost \$24.82 in 2011. Using that rate of exchange calculate how much in today's dollars you would either earn or spend.

1. In 1856 John Ray sold his slave Wiley to Samuel Fulbright for \$827.00. How much would Wiley be worth today? (\$20, 526.14)
2. In the 1860 census, the total value of the Ray land, farm implements and live stock was \$8000. If the Rays sold the entire property today, how much would they be paid? (\$198,560)
3. According to the 1860 Agricultural Report 272 bushels of wheat @\$1.25 a bushel, 1000 bushels of Indian corn @ \$.25 a bushel, 300 bushels of oats @ \$.60 a bushel, 50 bushels of Irish potatoes @\$.23 a bushel and 25 bushels of sweet potatoes @ \$2.00 a bushel were harvested from the Ray farm. What is the total amount earned from the produce in 1860? (\$669.50) In 2010 dollars? (\$14,439.03)
4. All told how much would the Ray family be worth in today's dollars? (\$233,525.17)
5. What conclusions can you draw about the Ray's social status in 1861?
6. Consider that most of the Ray's wealth was in land and goods, also keeping in mind the number of family member including Aunt Rhoda and her children. With the cash they had on hand, what kinds of items might they have purchased?

Continue to use the conversion rate to figure the following questions keeping in mind that these are general prices since location, season and scarcity would affect prices.

7. The combined force of Generals McCulloch and Price was 12,000. In order to provide rations for that many men daily, use the chart below to determine how much the food would cost in 2011 dollars. (Other items such as soap, matches and candles would have also been included in the rations.

Beef, Corn meal	13,000 pounds @ \$.05 per lb.	(\$650)	\$16,133
Pork, Bacon, Hams, etc.	8000 pounds @\$.20 per lb.	(1600)	\$39,712
Flour and Soft Bread	14, 200 pounds @ \$.05 per lb.	(\$710)	\$17,622.20
Beans, Peas, Sugar (combined)	2,000 pounds @ \$.12 per lb.	(\$240)	\$5,956.80
Rice and Hominy	1500 pounds @ \$.10 per lb.	(\$150)	\$3723
Roasted Coffee	900 pounds @ \$.20 per lb.	(\$180)	\$4467.76
Tea	200 pounds @ \$.75 per lb.	(\$150)	\$3723
Vinegar	150 gallons @ \$.07 per gal.	(10.50)	\$2606.10
Salt	425 pounds @ \$.25 per sack	(\$106.25)	\$2697.12
Pepper	50 pounds @ \$.15 per lb.	(\$7.50)	\$186.15
Potatoes	3500 pounds @ \$.23 per bushel	(\$805)	\$19,980
Molasses	75 gallons @ \$.50 per gal.	<u>(\$37.20)</u>	<u>\$930.75</u>
		Total: (\$4646.75)	\$117,677.88

