



## Field Trip Preparation and Reflection



A visit to Andersonville provides a unique opportunity to study the American Civil War. The National Park Service has developed a series of lesson plans and on-site programs designed to help students from fifth through twelfth grade understand how the Camp Sumter military prison, commonly called Andersonville, fits into the larger story of the American Civil War. As a visit to the park is a supplement to regular classroom instruction, this document suggests curriculum-based activities before and after your visit to better prepare your students to get the most from their visit to Andersonville.

### Pre-Visit Activities

1. Have students use the internet, library, or their textbook to conduct basic research into the Civil War. The purpose of this is to provide students with a basic understanding of why the Civil War was being fought, who were some of the key figures, and what were some of the key events. This will help students understand the context of who was at the prison and why they were there.
  - Have students identify the important causes of the Civil War (Slavery, States' Rights, Sectionalism). These are important for understanding why soldiers were at Andersonville especially the issue of slavery, as the role of African Americans in the war was an important cause for the breakdown of the prisoner exchange system
  - Have students complete the graphic organizer "Key Figures of the Civil War." This will help students when they visit as many of these people appear in our museum and within our park programs.
  - Have students complete the "Timeline of the Civil War." The purpose of this activity is to give students a basic framework of what events were going on prior to, during, and after the operation of Andersonville Prison.
2. Have the students make a KWL Chart about what they know about the Civil War and more specifically about Andersonville Prison.
3. Have students watch a video on Andersonville.
  - Public School Teachers in Georgia have access to United Streaming at [www.gpb.org/education](http://www.gpb.org/education). Find the one named "Georgia Studies 109: The First Century of Statehood." This contains a short video about Andersonville Prison.
  - Have students watch the film *Andersonville*, directed by John Frankenheimer and produced by TNT in 1996. See the teacher's companion to the film *Andersonville* for historical notes and comprehension questions for students.

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## On-Site Activities and Field Trip Planning

Teachers bring their students to the park for self-guided and/or ranger-presented programs. Ranger-guided programs are thirty minutes in length and can accommodate up to *50 students at a time*. There should be one adult chaperone for every 10 students.

Advanced registration *at least two weeks in advance* is required for all programs. Please allow at least a week for your field trip request to be processed. All ranger-guided programs are also subject to staff availability. All educational programs are free of charge.

All field trips are required to be booked by reservation following the forms and guidance provided on the park website. We do not accept phone reservation requests.

Ranger-led programs are only available for groups of less than 50 students. Presently we cannot accommodate large groups by splitting. For groups larger than 50, a variety of self-guided activities are available which allow you to get the most of your visit.

See our Field Trip Planner for a full listing of Andersonville National Historic Site's programming for visiting groups:

<http://www.nps.gov/ande/forteachers/planafieldtrip.htm>

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## Post-Visit Activities

1. Have students complete the remaining portion of the KWL chart that they began before the visit.
2. Ask them to write a diary entry or letter home from the perspective of a Union Prisoner at Andersonville. Topics could include, but are not limited to, the weather, food, disease, treatment by the guards, or how prisoners attempted escape.
3. Review the Curriculum Materials available on [www.nps.gov/ande](http://www.nps.gov/ande). There are numerous activities for students emphasizing various aspects of the prisoner of war experience at Andersonville Prison.