

Tracing the Civil War
The American Civil War along the Natchez Trace: Mississippi



Student Activity 1: Read about the Battle of Brices Crossroads

Directions: Read the *Summary of the Battle of Brices Crossroads (June 10, 1864)* and answer the following questions.

1. How was General Sherman's overall strategy being affected by Forrest's cavalry? Why was it important that he should be engaged in Mississippi?
2. What are some of the advantages that the Union forces had over the Confederates at the battle? What kind of disadvantages did the Union forces have?
3. Explain how Forrest decided to use the weather and the terrain to his advantage at Brices Crossroads.
4. Why do you think this Confederate victory had little impact on the overall Union strategy?
5. Imagine you were a Union soldier that fought at Brices Crossroads. Write a letter home describing how you felt after the battle. Describe the conditions and write a brief summary of the battle.