

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



Teacher's Guide

Student Activity Sheet: Read and Write About the Battle of Okolona

Directions: Read the Summary of the Battle of Okolona and answer the following questions.

1. What was the purpose of General Sherman's march to Meridian? Was he able to accomplish his mission? Why or why not? *He intended to destroy the railroads and supplies at Meridian then push into Alabama and destroy the arsenal at Selma. He only partially completed his mission. Smith's failure to show up caused him to turn back.*
2. Why do you think General Smith turned back at West Point instead of continuing to Meridian? *Answers will vary and students should draw their own conclusions that are reasonable such as he was afraid of a trap or he might have heard Sherman had already left.*
3. The battle was fought all day and over many miles of ground. Take the position of a soldier on either side and write a paragraph describing how you think you would if you had participated in the fight and survived at the end of the day. *Answers will vary but should include information inferred from the text about fatigue, hunger, fear, etc.*
4. General Forrest lost his brother during the battle. Pretend you are a Confederate soldier who was present when the General discovered his brother was dead. Write a letter home describing the scene. *Answers will vary but students should draw inference from the text concerning his reactions.*