

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



Teacher's Guide
Student Activity 1: Read about the Battle of Tupelo

Directions: Read the *Summary of the Battle of Tupelo (July 14-15, 1864)* and answer the following questions.

1. How was General Sherman's overall strategy being affected by Confederate forces in Mississippi? *Answers should discuss the danger to the Union supply lines running from Tennessee to Georgia*
2. What did Sherman hope General Smith would accomplish when he marched into Mississippi? *Sherman hoped Smith would preoccupy the Confederate army and prevent them from moving against his rear area and destroy the Confederate army*
3. 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? *Some advantages were: the Union had more men, they defended high ground and had constructed breastworks. Some disadvantages were they were far away from their home base and operating in enemy territory.*
4. Why do you think the Confederates lost so many more men than the Union at the Battle of Tupelo? *Answers will vary but should include that they were outnumbered, forced to attack uphill, the Union had breastworks, etc.*
5. Do you agree that this battle was a Union victory? Why or why not? *Answers will vary but should include information reflecting an understanding of the Union objectives as stated in the reading.*