



Seven Days' Expedition

What are the Seven Days' Battles?

The Seven Days' battles were a series of six major battles fought near Richmond, Virginia in 1862 during the American Civil War. In early 1862, Union General George B. McClellan's Army of the Potomac landed at Fort Monroe in Hampton, Virginia and began fighting their way up the Virginia Peninsula. By late June, his army of over 100,000 soldiers were on the outskirts of Richmond, the Confederate capital.

Why did these battles happen?

General McClellan believed if he captured Richmond, the war could end. He knew capturing the capital wasn't going to be easy because the city was being defended by the Confederate Army of Northern Virginia, led by General Joseph E. Johnston and later General Robert E. Lee.

What happened?

The two armies clashed in many places all around Richmond, including at Oak Grove, Beaver Dam Creek, Gaines' Mill, Savage's Station, Glendale, and eventually at Malvern Hill. Richmond was not captured and the Civil War was far from over.

What can I do to learn more?

Complete this packet with a variety of activities about the 1862 Seven Days' battles and visit the Richmond National Battlefield Park sites associated with them, which include Beaver Dam Creek, Gaines' Mill, and Malvern Hill.



Gaines' Mill battlefield. NPS photo.

Know Before You Go

Richmond National Battlefield Park asks that when out at the battlefields, please continue following the rules and regulations of the park and abide by the social distancing rules: keep six-feet from others, avoid touching public surfaces, and wash hands after going back inside. Please also be aware of safety hazards, including poison ivy, ticks, and other potential outdoor threats.

Addresses:

This packet asks participants to visit multiple battlefield locations.

Beaver Dam Creek: 7423 Cold Harbor Road
Mechanicsville, VA 23111

Gaines' Mill: 6283 Watt House Road
Mechanicsville, VA 23111

Malvern Hill: 9175 Willis Church Road
Richmond, VA 23231

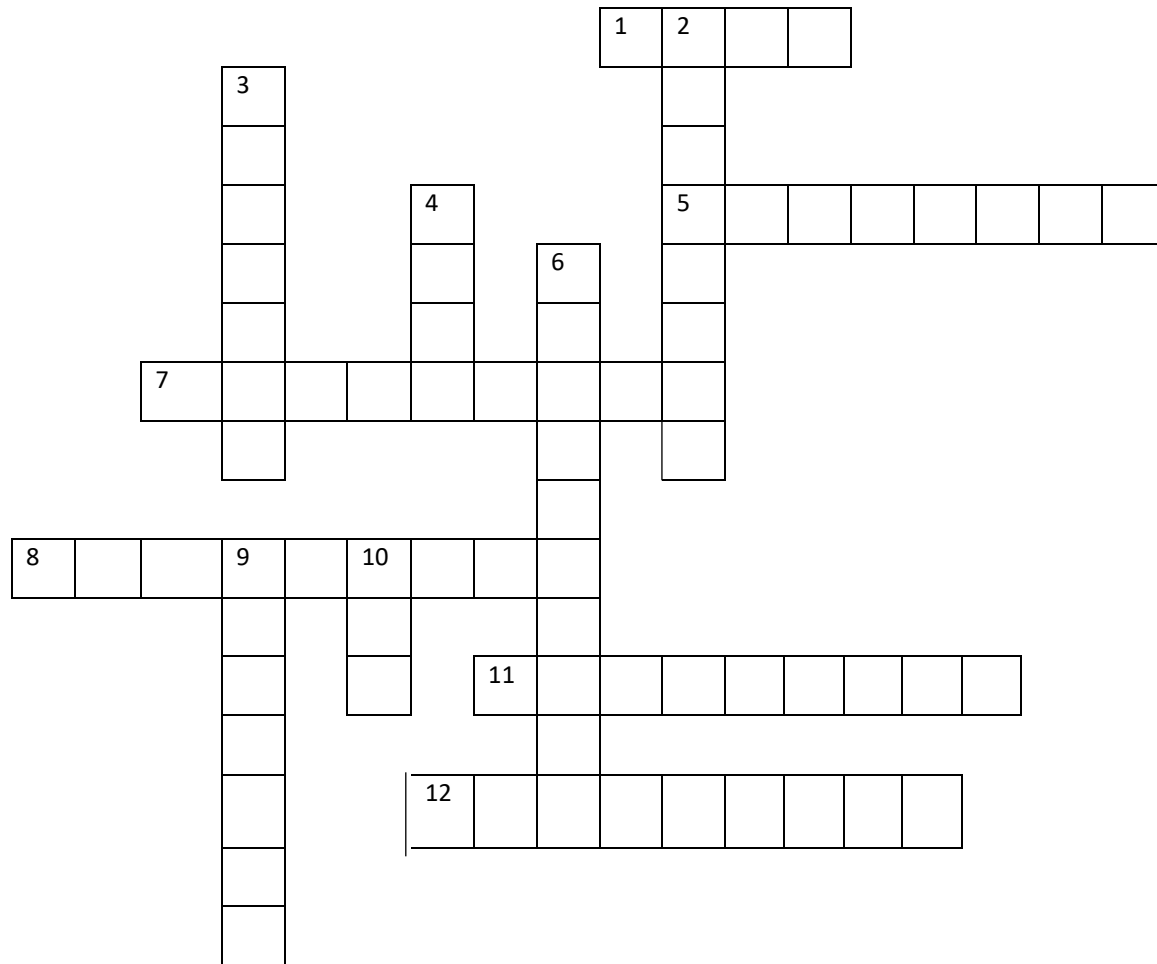
**Complete the activities
to the best of your
ability.**

**Take your time, and
HAVE A BLAST!**



Introduction Activity

Before learning about the specific battles during the Seven Days, let's first recall some basic Civil War facts! Fill in the blanks on what the Civil War was like in 1862 during the Seven Days Battles.



Across

1. Color of a Confederate uniform
5. A hard biscuit Union soldiers would eat
7. First name of the President of the Confederate States of America
8. Commander of the Union Army (remember: in 1862!)
11. The nick-name for Confederate General Jackson
12. Name of the campaign happening in Virginia March to July of 1862

Down

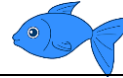
2. Capital of the Confederacy
3. An object that soldiers used to carry water
4. Color of a Union uniform
6. Capital of the Union
9. Last name of the President of the United States of America
10. Commander of the Confederate army


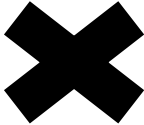
Beaver Dam Creek – June 26, 1862

On June 26, 1862, General Robert E. Lee launched the first of his attacks to drive the Union army away from Richmond. The result was known as the battle of Beaver Dam Creek or the battle of Mechanicsville. Confederate assaults were repulsed with heavy loss.

As you explore Beaver Dam Creek, try to find the items in the boxes and cross them off when you see them. The goal is to connect five objects horizontally, vertically, or diagonally.

Fun fact: You can fish at Beaver Dam Creek with a valid fishing license!



Another visitor	The old millrace location	Wild berry bushes	A list of park regulations	The creek
A park brochure		An oak tree	The Freeman Marker	A turtle
The original Cold Harbor road	The foot bridge		A Seven Days battle map	The date of the battle
Birds chirping	A perfect fishing spot	A National Park Service ranger	A sycamore tree leaf	A beaver's dam
The Confederate slope	A photo of Ellerson's Mill	A squirrel	A quote from General A.P. Hill	A flying bug

Gaines' Mill – June 27, 1862

The battle at Gaines' Mill lasted 5 hours on June 27, 1862. It resulted in General Robert E. Lee's first major victory of the Civil War. The battle took place on a plantation owned by Sarah Watt and her family for over 60 years. Mrs. Watt, her family, and her slaves were asked to leave the property and house just hours before the battle took place. Mrs. Watt never returned.

Go to the Gaines' Mill Battlefield and draw the Watt house to the best of your ability.



Read from the wayside exhibit that talks about the Watt House and list 3 facts about Mrs. Watt, the house, the farm, or her family.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Malvern Hill – July 1, 1862

The Battle of Malvern Hill on July 1, 1862 was the last engagement of the Seven Days Battles. Slightly more than 5,000 Confederate soldiers were killed and wounded as they ran up the hill toward 37 Union cannons firing back at them.

Though a devastating battle, Malvern Hill remains the best-preserved Civil War battlefield in central or southern Virginia. Visit the various waysides near the main parking lot to answer the following questions.

✓ **First things first...**

Use the bulletin board near the main parking lot to figure out what type of birds are flying around the interpretive shelter. The answer can be unscrambled from the letters below:

S S A B W R L N A O L W



Birds landing on a trail head at Malvern Hill.
NPS photo.

✓ **From the bulletin board...**

Move under the pavilion and play the audio clip by clicking the far-right button. Listen and read the accompanying wayside to answer the following questions:

- 1) How many soldiers were a part of the Union defense? _____
- 2) How many Union cannon were atop the hill? _____
- 3) Did any Southern soldier reach the Union line? _____
- 4) Confederate General D.H. Hill said, "It was not war...it was _____."
- 5) Where did the Union army end up the next day? _____
- 6) On what battlefield in Mechanicsville did these two armies clash again two years later?

Congratulations on completing the Seven Days' Expedition!



Completed packets can be sent via mail to:

ATTN: Seven Days Expedition
Richmond National Battlefield Park
3215 E. Broad St.
Richmond, VA 23223

**All submissions will receive a special
prize in the mail for completion!**