

CIVIL WAR PRE-VISIT ACTIVITIES

It is not necessary that the students know the answers to these questions, but to have them think about these questions before they arrive and participate in the program. While we are supplying answers to many of these questions, they are not necessarily the only answers or definitions.

1. **Where is Drayton Hall located?**

It is located on the Ashley River.

2. **Can you find Drayton Hall on a map? Can you find Charleston, SC, on a map?**

3. **How far is Drayton Hall from Charleston?**

It is approximately 13 miles upriver from Charleston.

4. **Why was Drayton Hall located on the Ashley River?**

The river was the main source of travel for people and goods when Drayton Hall was built.

5. **What is a plantation?**

A plantation is a farm where a cash crop is grown and the workforce lives on site.

6. **What were the main cash crops that were grown in Charleston and at Drayton Hall?**

The main cash crops were rice and indigo in the 18th century and rice and cotton in the 19th century.

7. **What was the main workforce that worked on plantations before the Civil War?**

Enslaved Africans and African-Americans were the major workforce on plantations before the Civil War.

8. **Which state was the first to secede from the Union?**

South Carolina was the first state to secede from the Union in December, 1860.

9. **Did any member of the Drayton family sign the Ordinance of Secession?**

By the time mid nineteenth century, the Drayton family was no longer actively involved in politics; therefore, no Drayton signed the Ordinance of Secession.

10. **Who was fighting during the Civil War?**

The Union (the North) was fighting the Confederacy (the South).

11. Did all southerners support the Confederacy?

No. What is especially sad about the Civil War is that the war divided many families, including the Drayton family. Two brothers who were cousins of the Draytons of Drayton Hall fought on different sides during the war. Brigadier General Thomas Fenwick Drayton commanded the Confederate forces at Port Royall, South Carolina. His brother, Commander Percival Drayton, United States Navy, defeated the Confederate forces at the Battle of Port Royall. Further, every state in the Confederacy, with the exception of South Carolina, sent troops to fight for the Union.

12. Were there any battles in South Carolina during the Civil War?

Yes. The first shots of the war were fired by the Confederates from Fort Johnson on James Island at Fort Sumter in Charleston Harbor. The city of Charleston was also under siege by the Union from July 1863 until the city surrendered in February 1865. Union General Sherman marched through South Carolina in 1865, destroying Columbia and other towns, plantations, crops, and homes; however, Sherman did not actually march to Charleston, but he did order other commanders to destroy plantations along the Ashley River.

13. What was the most common occupation of the soldiers during the Civil War?

Nearly 50% of the soldiers were farmers. Less than 5% of the soldiers were professional men.

14. How did the economies in the North and the South differ?

The Northern economy was more industrial while the Southern economy was more agricultural.

15. Were most of the soldiers who died during the Civil War killed in action?

1 in 48 soldiers were killed in action, while 1 in 38 died of injuries suffered in battle. More soldiers died of disease – 1 in 13.

16. What was the total number of casualties in the Civil War?

The number of casualties for the Civil War is staggering. The United States lost more than 2% of the total male population. Many towns did not survive after the war because they had lost too many men.

More than 375,000 Union soldiers died in the war. Approximately 400,000 Union soldiers were wounded during the war. The total number of Union casualties is more than 775,000.

The Confederate records are less complete. It is estimated that more than 289,000 confederate soldiers died in the war and more than 375,000 were wounded. The total number of Confederate casualties is more than 664,000.

The total number of casualties for both the North and the South is nearly 1.5 million.

More Americans died in the Civil War than in all other American wars combined. Why? Both sides were American.

19. **What roles did women play during the Civil War?**

During the war, women's roles, especially in the South, expanded well beyond the traditional domestic sphere to include actually working and managing farms and plantations, working in offices, providing nursing services in hospitals, and even acting as military spies. There are also documented instances of women fighting on the front lines disguised as men.

Activity using the Internet

Have the students develop a Civil War timeline and then compare it to the timeline at <http://www.historyplace.com/civilwar/index.html>. You may also want to discuss South Carolina's involvement and participation in the war.