

4th GRADE LESSONS/ACTIVITIES: CIVIL WAR ON HATTERAS ISLAND

Civil War on Hatteras Island (Reading Level 4.9)

North Carolina Essential Standards, Fourth Grade Social Studies

4.H.1.3 Explain how people, events and developments brought about changes to communities in various regions of North Carolina.

4.H.1.4 Analyze North Carolina's role in major conflicts and wars from the Pre-Colonial period through Reconstruction.

4.C.1 Explain how the settlement of people from various cultures affected the development of regions in North Carolina (languages, foods and traditions).

4 H-1 Analyze the chronology of key historical events in North Carolina history.

4.G.1 Understand how human, environmental and technological factors affect the growth and development of North Carolina.

The Civil War on Hatteras Island

The Civil War came to the Outer Banks by water. On August 28, 1861, Union ships were seen off the coast. The Confederates already captured many northern ships. This was one of the reasons why the Union attacked the coast.

The crew on the ships first fired upon Fort Clark. The troops inside weren't ready for the battle. Some of their larger cannon were not working. When they fired back, their shells couldn't reach the ships.

Hundreds of shells hit Fort Clark. The Union took it over. The next day they fired on Fort Hatteras. After about four hours of firing, the white flag was waved. The Union had its first win of the Civil War. The attack against the forts was the first time the Union army and navy teamed up during the Civil War. It also was the first time a black gun crew fought the Confederacy.

It was a scary time for islanders. Strangers took over their island. Some soldiers robbed their homes. Wives and children hid in the woods because they were afraid. The islanders wrote to President Lincoln for help. They had promised to be loyal to the Union. They worried that they would be arrested as traitors if the Confederates took over the island again. Most of the local men on the island joined the Union military. This way they would be protected and have a job.

The soldiers thought the island wasn't healthy. It had poor drinking water and lots of biting insects. The troops were lonely. To help, they met with the local people. A soldier wrote about going to a candy making party. Locals also taught the Union soldiers how to fish.

Southern soldiers escaped the island when the forts fell. They went to Roanoke Island. They joined other troops. They trained to take over Hatteras Island. At first they met with success. But they soon had problems. They were unable to get troops ashore because of shallow water. The Union troops forced the Confederates to run north. They left the island once and for all.

It was important for the Union to be in charge of the inlet. It helped them be in control of the waterways. They also could take over more forts. They needed to stop ships from bringing supplies to the enemy farther north.

In January, 1862, Union General Ambrose E. Burnside led a large group of ships towards Hatteras. They got caught in a storm. More than 60 ships tried to sail through the inlet. Some got stuck on sand bars. They were smashed by the waves. Others crashed into the shore and each other. Men, horses, and cargo were lost. A number of ships made it through the inlet. Many inner waterways and southern forts came under their control. They sailed up the sound and captured Roanoke Island.

The Civil War on Hatteras Island was important. It wasn't a long battle with lots of soldiers. There weren't a lot of lives lost. But it upset the mood of the Confederate troops. They were unhappy about the Union taking over a lot of their home state. The win boosted the Union because up until the attack at Hatteras, they had been defeated.

Word spread about the victory. People running from slavery began arriving on Hatteras Island. By mid-February, over 40 African-American families were on the island. They looked to be free since the Union was now in charge.

A building was given to these families. It was named Hotel De' Afrique. The building was on the beach at the inlet. This was the first safe place for people running from slavery in North Carolina. Some of the men served in the Union army.

During March 1861, soldiers attacked some of the residents of the Hotel. They killed an older man. No one was arrested. In early 1862 a storm destroyed the Hotel. A new campsite was built on the sound side of the island.

In 2014, a stone marker was put up at the Graveyard of the Atlantic Museum in Hatteras. One side is in memory of Hotel De' Afrique. The other side is in memory of the black gun crew that fired on the Hatteras forts. The marker is part of the National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom Trail. (Source: Drew Pullen)

1. Where was the first Union-won battle in the Civil War fought?
2. Why were the Confederates at a disadvantage during the attack on Fort Clark?
3. Why was it necessary for the Union army to take control of a small, isolated island such as Hatteras?
4. How did the victory at Hatteras enable the Union to take over Roanoke Island?
5. During March 1861, some soldiers attacked residents of Hotel De' Afrique living on Union-controlled Hatteras Island. Why do you suppose none of the soldiers involved in this attack weren't court-martialed or disciplined?
6. Why would African-Americans living in slavery during the Civil War risk leaving their homes and migrate to Hatteras Island?
7. How would the influx of African-Americans affect the mostly white island culture?

8. What types of tools would be necessary to fulfill the wants and needs of people new to an island culture?
9. How did the victory affect the Union soldiers and the Confederate soldiers?

Activity

Civil War Drummers

Purpose: Gain an understanding of the job of young Civil War drummers.

Project: Research Civil War drummers to discover their purpose, general age, and the conditions under which they lived. Discuss their importance in the war effort and how war might affect someone who was not yet of adult age.

Listen to Civil War drum beats found at: <http://soundbible.com/tags-civil-wardrum-beats.html> . Craft a drum using a round plastic food container and decorate it to give it a sense of who you are and what you value. Put erasers on unsharpened end of pencils and use for drum sticks. Secure a length of twine under the lid and make it long enough to be placed over your head and hang at waist height for drumming purposes.

Materials: Unsharpened pencils and attachable pencil erasers, round plastic food containers with lids, twine, stickers, and permanent markers.