

On Hallowed Ground

Construction Threatens Civil War Sites



Leigh Haeger

Map of Civil War battlefields.

In July 1863, the U.S. Civil War came to the tiny southern Pennsylvania town of Gettysburg. For weeks, Confederate troops under the command of General Robert E. Lee had marched north from Virginia, hoping to battle the Union army on its home soil.

At Gettysburg, Lee got his wish. There, Confederate and Union forces fought a bloody three-day battle that turned the tide of the war. On the second day of fighting, Confederate troops rushed to a rocky hill called Little Round Top and were slaughtered by Union guns. The fighting was so intense at Devil's Den that the area was littered with corpses. When the battle was over, more than 51,000 lay dead or were wounded, missing, or captured.

"This is the last you may ever hear from me," one dying Confederate soldier said in a letter to his mother. "I have time to tell you that I died like a man. This letter is stained with my blood."

By 2010, a different battle was fought at Gettysburg and other Civil War sites. The National Trust for Historic Preservation said that developers laid siege to battlefields in Pennsylvania, Maryland, and Virginia.

Specifically, preservationists say a 175-mile swath of land in the region lost more than 150,000 acres to development between 1990 and 2010. In 2005, the trust placed this region on its annual list of America's 11 Most Endangered Historic Places. The corridor follows U.S. Route 15 in Virginia, Maryland, and Pennsylvania.



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Painting of the battle of Antietam

"This is where the Civil War was fought," Richard Moe, president of the trust, told *The Washington Post*. "It just reeks of history."

Losing Ground?

Builders have gobbled up land in places such as Chantilly, Virginia. There, a mall sits near the battlefield where Lee pushed Northern troops out of Virginia in 1862.

In Spotsylvania, Virginia, the parking lot of a 7-Eleven store lies next to a Confederate cemetery. At Chancellorsville, Virginia, the site of Lee's most important victory, developers wanted to build homes where thousands died. And in Gettysburg, a business group hoped to open a casino.

Development Needed?

Some say the increase in development would help communities and, in many instances, not affect the historic sites. For example, supporters of the Gettysburg casino said the business would create 800 full-time jobs and wouldn't tarnish the historical significance of the battlefield.

Striking a Balance

The Journey Through Hallowed Ground Coalition, an association of more than 100 conservation groups, wants to strike a balance between development and preservation.

The group asked the federal government to name Route 15 as a National Scenic Byway. In 2009, the federal government gave this designation to part of Route 15 which helps protect the area. Preservationists ask Congress for money to preserve historic areas.

"We must be careful not to desecrate [dishonor] the sacrifice of those who fell, by building condos and golf courses and amusement parks in a way that is inappropriate," historian James Fuller told *Senior Edition*. "Yet, we have to change as new demands reflect the needs of society."

Major Battles of the Civil War

Second Bull Run (1862)

For the second time in the Civil War, the Confederate army won an important battle at Manassas, Virginia. Fighting began on August 28. During the battle, Confederate General Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson became a hero.

Antietam (1862)

The Confederate army launched its first invasion of the North by crossing into Maryland. The battle at Antietam Creek on September 17 claimed more than 26,000 casualties—the bloodiest day in U.S. history.

Chancellorsville (1863)

In May, Confederate General Robert E. Lee led the Army of Northern Virginia to a decisive victory in this Virginia town. Afterward, Lee decided that the time was right to invade the North again. His army marched to Pennsylvania.

Gettysburg (1863)

Under General George Meade, Union forces turned back Lee's invasion at Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. Lee's army was so devastated by the fighting that the South would not invade the North again during the war.

Name: _____ Date: _____

1. What is a meaning of the word **devastate**?

- A. support
- B. supply
- C. destroy

2. What is another meaning of the word **devastate**?

- A. give
- B. share
- C. wreck

Please use each answer choice only once. Choose the one word that best completes the sentence.

3. She was _____ by the news.

- A. devastate
- B. devastated

4. Tornadoes can _____ an entire region.

- A. devastate
- B. devastated

5. Please write your own sentence using the word **devastate**.

6. What would you like to remember about the meaning of the word **devastate** so that you can use it when you write or speak?

Name: _____ Date: _____

1. According to the passage, developers have already used some of the historic lands to build

- A. a museum
- B. a mall
- C. a mansion
- D. a casino

2. Read these two sentences from the passage:

"The National Trust for Historic Preservation said that developers laid siege to battlefields in Pennsylvania, Maryland, and Virginia."

"Some say the increase in development would help communities and, in many instances, not affect the historic sites."

Which of the following describes the relationship between these two sentences?

- A. The sentences describe two steps in a process.
- B. The first sentence explains a reason for the second.
- C. The sentences show the two sides of the debate.
- D. The first sentence states a solution, the second states a problem.

3. According to the passage, an association of conservation groups would like to strike a balance between both sides: the developers and the preservation groups. Which of the following statements would reflect a balance between both sides?

- A. The developers should be able to build stores, casinos, malls, supermarkets, and parking lots.
- B. Some land should be protected, and some should be developed in an appropriate way.
- C. All of the land should be protected and preserved as a historic area and not developed.
- D. Some land should be protected, and developers should be able to build whatever they want.

4. Read this sentence from the passage:

"The battle at Antietam Creek on September 17 claimed more than 26,000 casualties—the bloodiest day in U.S. history."

In this sentence, what does the word **casualties** mean?

- A. people who were killed, wounded, or missing in action
- B. people who became heroes by rescuing others
- C. people who were scared and did not try to help others
- D. people who were trapped underground in a tunnel

5. The primary purpose of this passage is to describe

- A. a few solutions to a problem about how historic land should be developed
- B. the views of both sides in a debate about how historic land might be used
- C. several places in Pennsylvania, Maryland, and Virginia where developers want to build
- D. the major battles of the Civil War and the sites where they were fought

6. According to the passage, how would the building of a casino in Gettysburg have helped the community?

7. What might be one way to handle the debate between the preservationists and the developers?

8. The question below is an incomplete sentence. Choose the word that best completes the sentence.

Major Civil War battles were fought near Gettysburg; _____, a different kind of battle was fought by 2010.

- A. finally
- B. before
- C. however
- D. otherwise

9. **Vocabulary Word:** tarnish: to make or become dull, dim, or discolored.

Use the vocabulary word in a sentence:

Decimals

This problem gives you the chance to:
• show understanding of decimal numbers

1. Write each of this set of numbers in the correct box.
The box on the left is for numbers smaller than 5.5.
The box on the right is for numbers bigger than 5.5.

5.7 5.35 5.025 5.9 5.24 5.473

The first one has been done for you.

Numbers smaller than 5.5

Numbers bigger than 5.5

5.7

2. Which number is nearest to 5.5?
Explain how you figured this out.

3. Write down a number of your own that is bigger than 5.24 and smaller than 5.35.

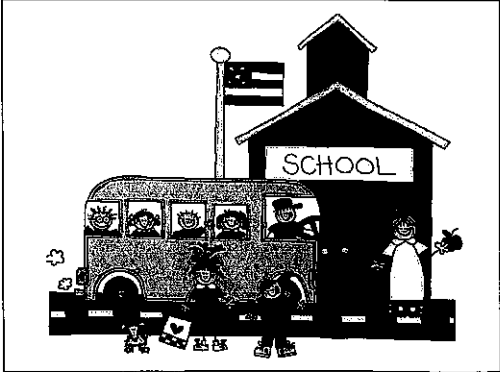
4. Write the numbers in order from smallest to largest.

Explain how you decided which was the smallest number.

NTID SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES

NOVEMBER 26, MARCH 25, SNOW DAY 1, 2, 3

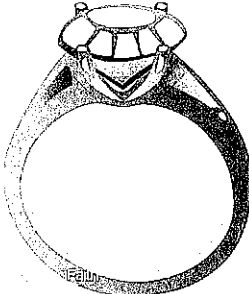
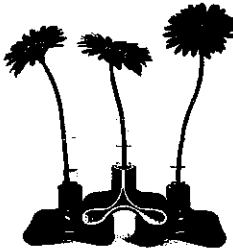
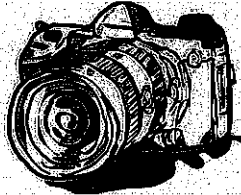
Elementary ART



Draw your favorite things or how you spent your day...

[Large empty rectangular box for drawing]

Explore your home and see how many different art forms that you use in a single day.
Did you play a video game, take a photograph, watch a movie, or notice colorful designs on your clothes or around your home?



NTID Suggested Activities

November 26, March 25, Snow Days 1, 2, 3



Elementary Music

Sing your favorite song or listen to a different type of music.

REFLECT: **Draw** a picture about how it made you feel.

Write about how the music made you feel.

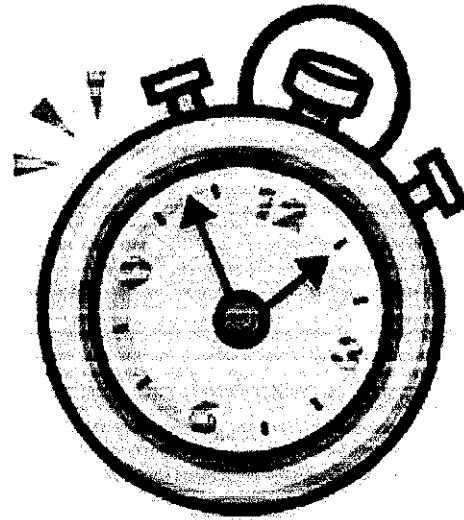
Did the music excite you, calm you, or make you sad?

NTID Suggested Activities

November 26, March 25, Snow Days 1, 2, 3

Elementary P.E.

Take 20 minutes for active play or exercise...



DID YOU...

take a walk?

play outside?

practice a sport?

go swimming?

go sledding?