

This lesson was made possible through a generous grant from Humanities Texas

► Dudley Ward and Yellow Jack: A Gallery Walk DBQ

Directions for Teacher:

The attached lesson is made up of Document-based Questions concerning mortality among soldiers in the American Civil War with a focus on a letter from a Confederate private from Texas. There are three documents; arrange them on the walls at various stations in your classroom. After the engagement activity, encourage students to discuss the documents with a partner at each station where they will also respond to the document questions. Once students have completed the gallery walk and questions, they will return to their desks to write their response to the Big Question. Students should rely on the documents to justify their statements in the Big Question response.

Note: Yellow Jack was a common term for yellow fever because quarantined ships had to fly the yellow flag, or jack. You might consider this for a bonus question.

Objective

The student will analyze primary and secondary source materials for information before writing a paragraph concerning soldier fatalities in the Civil War.

Engagement:

More than 600,000 people died in the Civil War. Turn and talk to your table partner about possible reasons for these deaths.

Lesson Stages:

Students will complete the DBQ Gallery Walk, working with a partner to discuss the documents and respond to the questions.

Assessment:

Students will independently complete The Big Question essay.

Vocabulary

Brackish

salty, unpleasant

consternation

alarming amazement

mobilize

assemble into readiness for military service

muster

to gather for inspection (military)

vermin

parasitic worms or insects

TEKS:

(1) History. The student understands traditional historical points of reference in Texas history. The student is expected to: (A) identify the major eras in Texas history including... Texas in the Civil War ...

(5) History. The student understands how events and issues shaped the history of Texas during the Civil War and Reconstruction. The student is expected to: (B) identify significant events concerning Texas and the Civil War...

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DOCUMENT
1

Dudley Ward

Dudley H. Ward (1845-1864) Confederate soldier and prisoner of war, was born in 1845 in Austin, Texas. Ward enlisted as a private in Company G, 2nd Texas Volunteer Infantry. He was captured at the siege of Vicksburg and held as a prisoner of war in the hands of the United States Forces. Ward was paroled July 7, 1863. He died in September, 1864 near Galveston during a yellow fever epidemic and was buried in what is known today as "Soldier's Rest" in the City Cemetery in Galveston. The exact location was lost along with many others in the 1900 hurricane, though markers for Dudley H. Ward and various other Confederate soldiers stand today near the "Soldier's Rest" location.

From The Dudley Ward Papers, 1863-1864, Texas General Land Office Archives

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DOCUMENT
2

The Civil War by the Numbers

2.1 mil

Number of Northerners mobilized to fight for the Union army

880,000

Number of Southerners mobilized to fight for the Confederacy

3:1

Ratio of Confederate deaths to Union deaths

50

Estimated percentage of Civil War deaths that occurred in the last two years of the War

40+

Estimated percentage of Civil War dead who were never identified

66

Estimated percentage of dead African American Union soldiers who were never identified

2 out of 3

Number of Civil War deaths that occurred from disease rather than battle

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**A Letter from Ward
to his Father**

Mud Island, Texas
May 23, 1864
Col. Thos Wm Ward

My Dear Father,

It is becoming oppressively warm here, and if it were not for the sea breeze I do not know what we would do. The general health of the regiment is excellent, for my part I never enjoyed better and what is more, I improve every day, at present I weight [sic] nearly 160 lbs. We are getting plenty of good rations, with the exception of water, of which there is neither enough nor is what we do get good, being first of all brought from some brackish Bayou and then let stand in the sun until it becomes full of filth and vermin, and of this miserable stuff we only get one gallon per day for each man. We have driven the enemy's troops from an immense amount of our territory which caused thousands of their bravest men to bite the dust, in order to get, and it requires every man that they can muster to hold the ground on which they stand. Great will the consternation on the minds of the Northern people [be] when they reflect upon the immense mortality of their armies, and the question will be asked- "What has become of the hundreds and hundreds of thousands of troops, amounting in all to nearly two millions of men called out by Lincoln, when he can now scarcely find enough to cope with the handful of heroes in the Rebel ranks?" History will answer that they have gone to their long homes, sent there by the messengers of Death, - disease and minie balls.

Your Affectionate Son,
Dudley H. Ward ,
Col 2d Regt Texas Vol. Inftry. , Galveston Texas

► DBQ Responses

Name _____

Document 1: Dudley Ward

1. Describe the military involvement that Dudley Ward experienced as a private in the Confederacy.
2. What was the cause of Dudley's Ward's death?
3. What was the month and year of Dudley Ward's death?

Document 2: The Civil War by the Numbers

1. How many soldiers were in the Union Army?
2. How many soldiers were in the Confederate Army?
3. What was the more common reason for soldier deaths, wounded in battle or disease?

Document 3: A Letter from Ward to his father

1. How does Ward describe his current state of health?
2. What does Ward describe as the greatest problem that he has encountered on Mud Island?
3. What does Ward mean when he refers to "nearly two millions of men called out by Lincoln"?
4. To what does he attribute the deaths of these men?
5. How much of a time lapse between the date of this letter and Ward's death?

