



TEACHER GUIDE

Chapter 1 – Opening

Host Tommy Sanders in front of the Old Statehouse Museum in downtown Little Rock gives basic background information on the significance of the sesquicentennial anniversary of the Civil War in Arkansas and introduces the program.

Chapter 2 – Dr. Tom DeBlack: Interview

Summary: Tommy Sanders sits down with Dr. Tom DeBlack, a professor of History at Arkansas Tech University.

Topics:

- The forces that lead this country to Civil War
 - o Slavery
 - o Sentiment throughout Arkansas
 - o Arkansas deciding to leave the Union
- The average Arkansan of the time
- The first Civil War battles fought in Arkansas
 - o Pea Ridge in March of 1862
- The strategic importance of Arkansas
 - o The key to Missouri
- Arkansas after the war
 - o The long recovery
 - o Hardships

Chapter 3 – Why Commemorate the Civil War: Video

Featuring:

Dr. Charles Robinson II of the University of Arkansas
Billy Nations of the Historic Washington State Park
Peggy Lloyd of the Southwest Arkansas Regional Archives
Dr. Janine Parry of the University of Arkansas

Topics:

- To Honor
 - o A great generation & Tremendous sacrifice
- To Grow
 - o Civil Rights & What it means to be a citizen
- To Learn
 - o The idea of unity
- To Endure
 - o Understanding the Civil War
- To Remember
 - o Rich, complicated history

Chapter 4 – Dr. Cherisse Jones-Branch: Interview

Summary: Tommy Sanders sits down with Dr. Cherisse Jones-Branch, Associate Professor of History and Assistant Department Chair at Arkansas State University, to discuss how the Civil War impacts contemporary American culture.

Topics:

- What people know about the Civil War
 - o Debunking myths about the Civil War
 - o The roles of African-Americans and women
- African-American slaves and citizens during the Civil War
 - o More involved than one many think
 - o 4 million people of African descent within the country at this time
- The effects of the Civil War for African-Americans
 - o What does it mean to be free? How free is free?
 - o Jim Crow laws
- Overcoming racial differences in America today
 - o Battling a few hundred years of oppression

Chapter 5 – Faces of the Civil War in Arkansas: Video

Summary: A series of photographs depicting some of the many Arkansans who lived during the time period of the Civil War in Arkansas.

Chapter 6 – Josh Williams: Interview

Summary: Tommy Sanders sits down with Josh Williams, the curator for Historic Washington State Park and participant in a number of Civil War re-enactments, to talk about the time period and his interesting hobby.

Topics:

- The uniform and equipment of a Civil War soldier
 - o Colors
 - o Weaponry
- Washington State Park in Washington, AR
 - o Historical significance
- Civil War Re-enactment
 - o What brings people together to participate?
 - o Connecting with the Civil War

Chapter 7 – Living the History of the Civil War: Video

Summary: Cameras follow re-enactors to Jacksonville, Arkansas where they participate in a re-creation of the Battle of August 27, 1863 when the Union was pushed back following the battle of Reed’s Bridge.

Chapter 8 – Richard Davies: Interview

Summary: Tommy Sanders sits down with Richard Davies, the Executive Director for the Arkansas Department of Parks and Tourism, to discuss the resources in and around the state for Civil War interest.

Topics:

- Places of historical significance in Arkansas
 - o Pea Ridge National Park
 - o Prairie Grove battlefield
 - o Red River campaign
- Plan for the commemoration of the Civil War
 - o Why should we commemorate the Civil War?
 - o A divided Arkansas
 - o Big War, Little War
 - o Two governments
 - o The end of the war and aftermath

Chapter 9 – The Sesquicentennial Commemoration: Video

Summary: Mark Christ, a member of the Arkansas Civil War Sesquicentennial Commission, speaks about the upcoming activities involved in the commemoration of the Civil War and highlights a number of sites throughout the state including Prairie Grove State Park, the Fort Curtis restoration site in Helena, and Historic Washington State Park.

Chapter 10 – Dr. Jamie Brandon: Interview

Summary: Tommy Sanders sits down with Dr. Jamie Brandon, a station archeologist with the Arkansas Archeological Survey at Southern Arkansas University, to discuss archeology and the Civil War.

Topics:

- Archeology and battlefields
 - o Finding things that are not in the historical records
 - o The importance of home sites
- How Arkansas changed before and after the Civil War
 - o Arkansans and identity
 - o The emancipation of African-American slaves
- Technology during the Civil War
 - o Medicine
 - o Communication
 - o Railroads
- Items found in an archeological dig
 - o Connecting items to people

Chapter 11 – A Pivotal Point in Our Nation’s History: Video

Summary: Interviewees give final thoughts on the importance of the Sesquicentennial Commemoration of the Civil War in Arkansas and why it is important to them as well as why it should be important to all Arkansans.

Chapter 12 – Closing

Closing remarks from Tommy Sanders and credits.