

# Educator Overview

From Track to Trench: Civil War on the Turf



Audience	Grade levels 9-12 ▾	Subject Social Studies ▾	Topic Horse racing during the American Civil War
Guiding Questions	1. What was the role of horse racing in America in the years leading up to the Civil War?	2. How did the sport of thoroughbred horse racing adapt to the circumstances of the Civil War?	3. What key figures helped to shape horse racing in a post-Civil War America?
Background Knowledge	Students should have some working knowledge of American history up to and including 1865 to provide useful context for this resource kit. A brief summary of events is provided, but students will get the most out of this resource kit if they have already gone through the key points of American development and history up to the outbreak of war. Additionally, as this resource kit ventures past 1865 and highlights some historical developments afterwards, it also helps for students to already have a baseline of knowledge for American historical events in the postwar Reconstruction period.		
Content Topics	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Historical events and social developments that contributed to the American Civil War.</li><li>2. The place of thoroughbred horse racing in American popular culture and life during the 1800s.</li><li>3. The effect of the American Civil War on American life through the lens of thoroughbred horse racing and how the sport adapted and changed due to the War's circumstances.</li><li>4. A reflection on the course of a postwar America in the reconstruction period from the lens of thoroughbred horse racing and how the war changed the sport's trajectory.</li><li>5. An overview of the various key figures that helped to shape thoroughbred racing in America after the war, namely black equestrians.</li></ol>		

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<b>Student Engagement</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Students will compare and contrast sports journalism from the 1800s and modern day.</li><li>2. Students will categorize and compare various key figures, trophies, and artifacts from American thoroughbred racing during the pre- and post-war eras.</li><li>3. Students will participate in an escape room with answerable questions in multiple forms to test their knowledge and awareness of the material.</li></ol>
<b>Other Notes</b> (Supplies needed, independent vs. whole class engagement)	Portions of this resource kit should be done as a whole class, but other portions can be done individually, depending on the teacher's preference. Engagement activities can also be done in small teams to encourage cooperation.