ESSENTIAL CIVIL WAR CURRICULUM

Environment and the Civil War

By Matthew M. Stith, University of Texas at Tyler

Resources

If you can read only one book

Author	Title. City: Publisher, Year.
Drake, Brian Allen ed.	The Blue, the Gray, and the Green: Toward
	an Environmental History of the Civil War.
	Athens: University of Georgia Press, 2015.

Books and Articles

Author	Title. City: Publisher, Year.
Bell, Andrew McIlwaine	Mosquito Soldiers: Yellow Fever, Malaria,
	and the Course of the American Civil War.
	Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University
	Press, 2010.
Brady, Lisa M.	War Upon the Land: Military Strategy and
	the Transformation of Southern Landscapes
	during the American Civil War. Athens:
	University of Georgia Press, 2012.
Downs, Jim	Sick From Freedom: African-American
	Illness and Suffering during the Civil War
	and Reconstruction. New York: Oxford
	University Press, 2012.
Fiege, Mark	"The Nature of Gettysburg:
	EnvironmentalHistory and the Civil War"
	chap. 5 in The Republic of Nature: An
	Environmental History of the United States.
	Seattle: University of Washington Press,
	2012.
Humphreys, Margaret	Marrow of Tragedy: The Health Crisis of the
	American Civil War. Baltimore: The Johns
	Hopkins University Press, 2013.

Krick, Robert K.	Civil War Weather in Virginia. Tuscaloosa:
	University of Alabama Press, 2007.
Meier, Kathryn Shively	Natures Civil War: Common Soldiers and
	the Environment in 1862 Virginia. Chapel
	Hill: University of North Carolina Press,
	2013.
Nelson, Megan Kate	Ruin Nation: Destruction and the American
	Civil War. Athens: University of Georgia
	Press, 2012.
Steinberg, Ted	"The Great Food Fight" chap. 6 in Down to
	Earth: Nature's Role in the American
	History. New York: Oxford University Press,
	2002.
Sternhell, Yael A.	Routes of War: The World of Movement in
	the Confederate South. Cambridge: Harvard
	University Press, 2012.
Stith, Matthew M.	Extreme Civil War: Guerrilla Warfare,
	Environment, and Race on the Western
	Trans-Mississippi Frontier during the Civil
	War. Baton Rouge: Louisiana State
	University Press, 2016.

Organizations

Web Resources

Other Sources

Scholars

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Google Keywords

The natural and built environment directly shaped the course and outcome of the Civil War. Disease, weather, terrain, animals, food, and a host of other environmental factors were all inextricably tied to both large-scale campaigns and back yard battles across the South. The environment influenced critical engagements just as much as it affected civilian efforts to survive. It dictated guerrilla tactics as much as it influenced military and domestic supply systems. The environment molded the war, and the conflict shaped the natural environment. Environmental forces determined where, when, and how battles were waged and won, and they dictated the course of the war on the home front.
