

Event: CSS Planter (Robert Smalls)

Grade Level: 8th Grade Social Studies

Social Studies standards addressed:

8-4.5 Compare the military strategies of the North and the South during the Civil War and the fulfillment of these strategies in South Carolina and in the South as a whole, including the attack on Fort Sumter, the Union blockade of Charleston and other ports, the early capture of Port Royal, and the development of the Hunley submarine; the exploits of Robert Smalls; and General William T. Sherman's march through the state.

8-4.6 Compare the differing impact of the Civil War on South Carolinians in each of the various social classes, including those groups defined by race, gender, and age.

Common Core Standards Addressed:

6-12 Write informative/explanatory texts, including the narration of historical events, scientific procedures/ experiments, or technical processes.

Activity - Writing Oral History

Students will first learn about Robert Smalls by researching the website [www.robertsmalls.com/history.html](http://www.robertsmalls.com/history.html)

Next students will generate a variety of general and specific questions they would ask Robert Smalls after reading about his life pre and post slavery.

In writing the interview, students must first introduce the interviewee and provide background information to the readers including the setting, date, and place of the interview.

Then students need to organize the format of the interview, either as continuous narrative describing events in chronological order or by subject, in a question answer format.

After the interview students should write a reflection paragraph on what they learned from the interview, including what surprised or interested them the most.