RETREAT FROM GETTYSBURG

LEE, LOGISTICS AND THE PENNSYLVANIA CAMPAIGN



LEE'S ESCAPE WITH THE ARMY OF NORTHERN VIRGINIA

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Teachers Guide

PROGRAM OVERVIEW:

Based upon the critically-acclaimed and award-winning book, Retreat From Gettysburg: Lee, Logistics & the Pennsylvania Campaign.

Highly praised, this documentary takes the viewer on the very roads used by Lee's Army and immense wagon trains, as well as the key sites along those roads where Lee established defenses that delayed or defeated advances by General Meade's Union forces.

Magnificent aerial footage takes you to the battlefields, roads, mountain passes and Potomac River crossings. This unforgettable documentary is lavishly illustrated with period photographs, reenactments of critical moments in the retreat, animated battle maps and rare works of art.

DISCUSSION TOPICS/QUESTIONS:

- 1. Why did General Lee determine to construct a defense line between Hagerstown, Maryland and the Potomac River on July 7, 1863?
- 2. Describe the length and sophistication of General Lee's defense line between Hagerstown, Maryland and the Potomac River.
- 3. How quickly was General Meade's Union army able to position itself in front of Lee's defense line?
- 4. What hindered General Meade's efforts to pursue General Lee's army the most?
- 5. President Abraham Lincoln believed that General Meade's army could have destroyed General Lee's Confederate army after Gettysburg. Was his belief well taken? And, if so, or if not, why?
- 6. How long did it take General Lee's army to construct a pontoon bridge across the Potomac River?
- 7. Describe how General Lee's army escaped across the Potomac River on July 13 and 14, 1863.

- 8. What does the retreat from Gettysburg tell you about the generalship of Generals Lee and Meade?
- 9. Did General Lee achieve the military objective of his retreat after his loss at Gettysburg, and, if he did, how was it achieved?