

# VFT: ANDERSONVILLE

# USER GUIDE

## OVERVIEW

The Andersonville virtual field trip provides students with an in-depth look at a Confederate prisoner-of-war camp and the harsh conditions that Union soldiers endured while imprisoned at Camp Sumter. We recommend that students explore this virtual field trip after they have read “The Tragic Story of Andersonville Prison” in unit 5, chapter 13 of the [Georgia Studies Book: Our State and Our Nation](#). Teachers could use this activity as a group experience, provide class time for students to explore the field trip at their own pace, or assign it as homework in a flipped classroom setting.

## FEATURES

- **video** footage of interviews with a park guide who explains different components of the prison and prison life
- **photos** of the cemetery, monuments, stockade, deadline, prison grounds, and Star Fort
- **360° experiences** of the prison site, Star Fort, and cemetery
- biographical information about the prison camp’s commanders, General John Winder and Captain Henry Wirz
- **journal entries** written by prisoners at Camp Sumter

## GEORGIA STANDARDS

**SS8H5** Analyze the impact of the Civil War on Georgia.

- b. Explain Georgia’s role in the Civil War; include the Union blockade of Georgia’s coast, the Emancipation Proclamation, Chickamauga, Sherman’s Atlanta Campaign, Sherman’s March to the Sea, and Andersonville.

## DISCUSS

1. What was Andersonville’s primary function during the Civil War?
2. Explain the living conditions of the prison. How do you think these conditions could have been improved?
3. Who were the Raiders and why were they significant? Do you think the prisoners could have worked together to handle problems rather than turning against one another?
4. What became of Captain Henry Wirz? Do you believe this was fair? Why or why not?  
\*This question could be used as a debate topic.

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**VFT: ANDERSONVILLE****USER GUIDE****EXTEND** 

1. Pretend that you are a soldier who is being held in Andersonville Prison. Write a letter home to your family describing the living conditions at the prison. Be sure to include details about housing, food, and social conditions.
2. Captain Henry Wirz was the only Confederate commander at Camp Sumter to be tried and executed for war crimes. Some people believe that Wirz received just punishment, but others believe that he was not the only person responsible. Should Henry Wirz have been the sole person executed or should others have shared the blame? Be sure to choose a side and support your answer with evidence from the virtual tour.