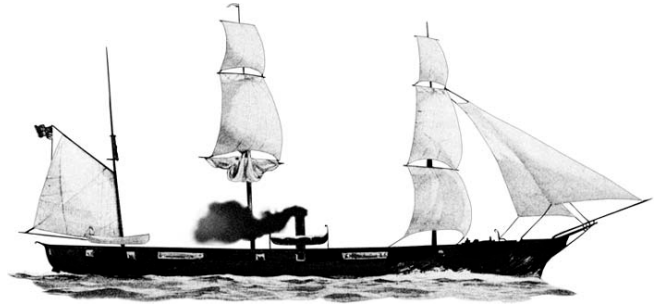


## Supplemental Lesson Plan: Profit & Patriotism- Running the Union Blockade

The South's agrarian nature and limited industrial capacity required the Confederate States to rely on imports for the war material needed to fight a prolonged war. To cut off this trade, the North established a blockade of Southern ports. In response, adventurous seamen and ambitious businessmen began running goods, both vital and frivolous, though the blockade on specially designed ships called blockade runners. In this lesson for grade 8, students will learn about the motivations for those individual ship owners who ran the Union blockade bringing goods into the port of Wilmington and, thereby, the rest of the South.



### Competency Goals

This lesson can be used in partial fulfillment of the following:

NCSCOS Social Studies grade 8: 4.02; 4.03

NCSCOS English/Language Arts grade 8: 1.02

NCSCOS Information Skills: 4.07

### Objectives

After classroom discussion, historical background reading, and examination of ships' manifests, students will:

- Explain the strategy behind the Union implementation of the blockade of southern ports.
- Explain the need for blockade runners, how they operated, and why the North Carolina coast was well-suited for this activity.
- Make decisions on what they would select for their cargo if they were the captain of a blockade runner.

## Teacher Planning

Provide the following materials either through web access to the Educational Unit or through handouts downloaded via the web site.

Site Narratives – *Economics and Blockade Running*  
*The Importance of Wilmington*

Copy of “Information Sheet on Prices of Goods in 1864”

Copy of “Samples of Blockade Runner Manifests”

Copy of article from Wilmington Journal on civilian goods brought through the blockade up for auction in Wilmington

## Time Requirement

Approximately 45 minutes to 1 hour

## Bell Ringer Activity

Have students write on a piece of paper what everyday items they would find it hard to live without. Ask them what they think they would do to replace much needed or desired goods?

## Teacher Input

- A. Lead students in a class discussion on the ideas they came up with in the Bell Ringer Activity. What type of shortages have we experienced in recent times, not necessarily as a result of war, but of economic circumstances or global conditions?
- B. Apply the situation to the time of the Civil War, and explain that, during wartime, many shortages of goods took place.

## Classroom Activities: Guided Practice

Set the background for the lesson by either reading aloud or allowing the students to read for themselves the suggested site narratives. Emphasize the importance of Wilmington in supplying the southern armies.

1. Read the introductory material to this lesson. Divide the class into small groups (3-4 people each). Give one-half of the groups the following assignment:
  - a. Imagine yourself the owner of a blockade runner with a 325-ton cargo

- capacity. Based on the prices and weights on the worksheet provided, specify which goods you would bring through the blockade to fill your 325-ton vessel and tell why?
- b. Would you choose military goods to aid in the South's fight for independence or items that would bring you more money? Or would you perhaps find some type of balance?
  - c. As a blockade runner, what reasons can you think of for bringing in luxury items, aside from their lighter weight and higher profit? What other uses might these goods have to the captain of a blockade runner?
2. Have the other half of the groups put themselves in the place of a Confederate civilian during the war and have them consider these questions:
- a. Faced with shortages and high prices, what items do you think that you could find substitutes for?
  - b. Which goods would be indispensable to you?
  - c. Do you think that something like salt would be an item of luxury or necessity?
3. Have all groups consider the following questions:
- a. What would the Confederate military consider to be vital commodities?
  - b. Is there anything besides guns and munitions that would be important for the Southern armies?

### **Closure**

- A. Have one student from each blockade runner group present its manifests and explain it to the rest of the class.
- B. Have one student from each civilian group share their ideas on what they needed and why.

### **Assessment**

Have the students write a newspaper article clearly describing the activity of a Confederate ship entering the port of Wilmington, including its manifest and adventures in running past the Union blockade.

## Introductory Material:

### Patriotism & Profit: Running the Union Blockade

Due to the weak manufacturing capabilities of the seceded states, the Southern Confederacy had to **import** the majority of its **finished goods** from Europe, primarily Great Britain. The Union, realizing the South's dependence on imported manufactured goods, imposed a **blockade** on the Confederacy's major ports. This blockade used Union warships to prevent the passage of trade goods, supplies, and arms to and from the Confederacy. The only way to bring these products into the Confederacy and ship out cotton and other Southern trade goods was to run the Union blockade.

Military hardware, such as rifles, cannons, and gunpowder, were not the only items run through the blockade. Civilian goods were also brought in. Some of these were essential products like food and medical supplies, but luxury items like silks, lace, wine, and other nonessential goods were brought in as well. Captains of blockade running ships and their sponsors transported these frivolous products because they were profitable. The men that owned these ships were interested in making money.

With the South's limited industrial capability devoted to war production and no finished goods coming from Northern states, these types of goods were in continuous short supply. This, coupled with increased demand, meant that those products brought large profits when sold. This **speculation**, in turn raised prices even higher.

The men who operated blockade runners had a variety of reasons for doing so. Some were committed to Southern independence; others were only interested in making a profit. Many were somewhere in-between these two ends of the spectrum.

## Glossary Terms

1. **blockade** - the isolation by a warring nation of an enemy area (as a harbor or port) by troops or warships to prevent passage of persons or supplies; designed to obstruct the commerce and communications of an unfriendly nation
2. **finished goods** - products or items that have completed the manufacturing process but have not yet been sold or distributed to the end user.
3. **import** - to bring in goods from one country into the port of another country
4. **speculation** - taking part in business transactions involving considerable risk but offering the chance of large gains

## Information Sheet on Prices of Goods in 1864

(Prices are based on 1864 Richmond, Virginia and were obtained from the Historical Statistics of the United States, Millennial Edition On Line database).

	Price (\$)	Weight (1 ton = 2,000 lbs)
Wheat (Per bushel)	\$18.00	1 bushel = 50 lbs
Flour (Per barrel)	\$250.00	1 barrel = 20 lbs
Corn (Per bushel)	\$45.00	1 bushel = 50 lbs
Bacon (Per lbs)	\$7.42	1 crate = 25 lbs
Salt (Per bushel)	\$20.00	1 bushel = 50 lbs
Enfield Rifles (Per case of 10)	\$200.00	1 case = 125 lbs
Heavy Artillery (Per piece)	\$10,000.00	1 piece = 15,500 lbs
Field Artillery (Per piece)	\$900.00	1 piece = 1250 lbs
Leather (Per Pound)	\$10.50	1 crate = 25 lbs
Brandy/Whiskey (Per gallon)	\$70.00	1 gallon weighs 9 lbs
Sugar (Per pound)	\$8.88	1 barrel weighs 50 lbs
Coffee (Per pound)	\$14.05	1 can weighs 5 lbs
Candles (Per pound)	\$7.17	1 box weighs 5 lbs

## Samples of Blockade Runner Manifests

### Military Goods that were run through the Union Blockade into Wilmington, from *Entrepot: Government Imports into the Confederate States* by Charles L. Webster III

#### April 24, 1862 S.S. *Thomas L. Wragg*

- 6,420 stands of arms
- 40 tons of gun powder
- 200 "Ready-made Uniforms, grey suits"
- 500 "Blue Cloths Caps & Covers, Army Regulation
- unquantified bales/boxes of:
  - grey & white blankets
  - officers' swords
  - army buttons
  - sword belts & sword knots
  - grey flannel
  - Oxford grey cloth
  - scarlet, yellow & blue facing cloth
  - military overcoats, "English regulation"
  - Blucher boots, "English regulation"

#### June 27, 1862 S.S. *Modern Greece*

- 7,000 stands of arms
- 4 rifled Whitworth breech-loading cannon
- 100 tons of gun powder
- unquantified bales of clothing
- unquantified cases of equipment

#### July 19, 1863 S.S. *Eugenie*

- 100 cases Enfield rifles
- 200 cases Enfield cartridges
- 1 case shoe thread

- 50 bales cartridge paper
- 20 cases cartridge paper
- 5 cases leather
- 1 roll leather
- 1 bale canteen cloth ("taken to Quartermaster Dept.")
- 1 bale scarlet cloth ("taken to Quartermaster Dept.")

#### August 22, 1863 S.S. *Advance*

- 119 boxes cartridge paper, sewing thread, leather, &c.
- 50 boxes Enfield cartridge

#### February 8, 1864 S.S. *Index*

- E 601 boxes Enfield cartridges
- 41 cases leather
- 2 cases canteens, ## 4114, 4115
- 1 case gun oil cans
- 2 cases bayonets
- 30 cases Enfield rifles
- 14 cases carbines
- 1 bale leather
- 2 bales merchandise
- 2 boxes stationary

#### December 29, 1864 S.S. *Banshee*

- 69 cases shoes
- 10 bales cloth

#### December 29, 1864 S.S. *Evelyn*

- 4,400 jackets
- 4,400 pants ("Collie & Tait")

## Civilian goods brought through the blockade up for auction in Wilmington

From the *Wilmington Journal*

AUCTION SALE  
By Wilkes Morris, Auct'r

Large Sale of Imported Goods at Auction at Wilmington NC  
Entire cargo of steamships *Kate* and *Pet* with large consignments per  
*Banshee* and *Cronstadt*

On Wednesday, August 12<sup>th</sup>, 1863 at 10 o'clock A.M. I will sell at my Sale Rooms, No. 2 Granite Row, the entire cargos of Steamships *Kate* and *Pet* with large consignments per *Banshee* and *Constradt*, altogether making the most extensive sale of the season, comprising articles now in general demand.

Attention is invited to the selection, viz:

26 bales Fancy Prints "Schawbes"  
10 bales Black and White Prints "Schawbes"  
10 bales Grey Prints "Schawbes"  
10 cases Ladies and Gents Hosery  
10 bales Grey Union and Electoral Flannel  
3 bales Welsh Flannel  
1 bale Scarlet Flannel  
1 bale Silk and Wove Flannel  
4 bales Blue Cloth  
4 bales Linen Cambric Handkerchiefs  
Idn  
3 bales Mixed Meltons  
5 cases Sewing Cotton, Coasts and Clarks, 200 yards  
2 cases Pearl Sewing Cotton  
4 cases Flax Thread, Assorted Colors  
1 case 4-4 Black Crape  
1 bale Mottled Lustre  
1 bale Beaded Stripes  
1 case Black Alpacea  
1 case White Mulls  
1 case Berege and Challies  
1 bale Fancy Square Shawls  
3 bales Negro Hdk's [Handkerchiefs?]  
2 cases White India Twills

1 case Irish Linen  
 5 bales bedtick  
 2 bales Regattas  
 1 bale Blue Denims  
 7 cases Bleached Shirting  
 4 cases Long Cloth  
 2 cases Suspenders  
 2 cases Mering Shirts  
 2 cases Merino Shirts  
 2 cases Silk and Wool Shirts  
 1 case L.O. Shirts, Wave fronts

2 cases Misses' and Ladies' Hats and Bonners, 75 dozen

7 cases Ladies' and Gents' Clothing, manufactured by Welsh, Margetron & Co., London

1 case English Scissors  
 1 bale Brown Bounden Duck  
 8 bales Bagging  
 1 bale Twine

10 bales Bed Sacks, 50 each  
 10 bales Bed Cords, 50 each  
 10 bales Newspaper, 36 by 49  
 5 cases English Letter and Note Paper  
 5 cases Letter and Cap Paper

2 cases Superior Sole Leather Trucks  
 4 cases French Calf Skins, 200 dozen  
 4 bales Sole Leather  
 4 trucks Ladies and Children Shoes  
 8 cases Gents' Calf and Kid Gaiters  
 11 cases Men's Stout Bluchers  
 3 cases Shoe Thread  
 1 cask Mason's Blacking, 12 gross

30 bags Prime Jamaican Coffee  
 10 bags St. Domingo Coffee  
 8 chests Congon Tea  
 6 chests Gunpowder Tea  
 10 bags Black Pepper  
 3 cases Mustard



15 cases Olive Oil

25 boxes Castile Soap, 120 lbs each

15 boxes Castile Soap, 28 lbs each

6 cases Honey Soap

6 cases Skin Soap

4 cases Brown Windsor and Fancy Soaps

40 boxes London Brown Soap

30 boxes Belmont's Sperm Candles

40 boxes beat Adamantine Candles

10 boxes Star Candles

160 kegs Bi Carbonate Soda

127 casks Soda Crystals

40 casks Soda Ashe

3 casks Quinine, (300 oz)

77 barrels Epsom Salts

13 barrels Copperas

13 barrels Alcohol

32 drums Castor Oil

64 packages Drugs, containing:

Camphor, Cod Liver Oil, Cream Tartar, Sapis Calamine, Red Valerian,

Salem Copaiba, Scilla Sice, Tartaric Acid, Quicksilver, Pulv Opie, Spts.

Ammon Aroma, Tinc Opie, Peppermint, Blue Mass, Nitrate Silver,

Citrate Mag. Calomel, Potass Iodide, Morphia Sulph, Ipecac, Choroform,

Magnesia, Citric Acid, Iodine, Maddler, Cantharides, Blue Stone, &c, &c,

&c

1 Medicine Chest, complete

20 boxes Extract Logwood

10 tons Hoop Iron

78 kegs Nails

260 pieces Hollow Ware

270 Pick Axes

72 boxes Tin Plates

25 Ingots Refined Tin

40 boxes Window Glass 8 by 10, 9 by 11, 10 by 12, 10 by 14, 12 by 14, 12 by 18, 16 by 18

12 creates Earthen Ware, containing Tea Sets, Plates, Bowls, Cups and Saucers,  
Ewer and Basins, Mugs, Chambers, Tumblers, Jugs, Bakers, &c, &c, &c

70 creates "Claret" Bottles

57 creates Dark Wine Bottles

4 bales Bottle Corks, 300 gross

150 sacks T.J. Salt

100 sacks Liverpool fine Salt

500 cases pure Holland Gin

208 Demijohns pure Holland Gin

10 pipes pure Holland Gin

214 cases Cognac Brandy, various brands

10 quart casks Cognac Brandy, various brands

1 cask choice Martel Brandy

1 cask choice Jamaica Rum

11 cases Cherry Cordial

40 cases St. Julien Claret

40 pipes Rum

14 half pipes Rum

70 quarter pipes Rum

10 eighth pipes Rum

7 casks Ale, Jeffrey's, 4 dozen

2 casks Porter, Byass, 4 dozen

11 casks Bay Water

1 Medicine Chest, complete

3 cases Quinine, 300 ounces

77 barrels Epsom Salts

13 barrels Copperas

21 barrels Alcohol

32 drums Castor Oil

64 packages Drugs