

STUDENT RESOURCEV: “Reimagining of Gettysburg” Video Guide

Anne Kelly Knowles is a geographer with a specialty in Historical GIS. The video is a discussion presented to a group of middle school students as part of a TedEd talk in which she illustrates how she used digital technologies to investigate the Battle of Gettysburg, the turning point of the Civil War.

Focusing on Robert E. Lee’s decision to order Pickett’s Charge. Knowles discusses the process of transforming and moving historical maps to digital imagining using Geographic Information Systems (GIS) in order to “reimagine” Lee’s decision, in an effort to “make an educated guess why he made this crucial mistake.”

Before we start the video, answer the following question:

1. What do you think the terrain is like around Gettysburg, Pennsylvania? Describe it here briefly.

These questions should be answered during the video:

2. What is meant by the term “elevation”? How is it represented on the map?
3. If you were standing where Knowles thinks General Lee was standing, what could you see and not see? How is this seen on the map?
4. Looking at this map, what can General Lee see? What would you tell him to do?

After the video is over, answer this question:

5. Thinking about the geography around Gettysburg, why did the Confederates lose at the Battle of Gettysburg?