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# Bailey's Dam

## 1864

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Middle School  
Social Studies  
Civil War

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### Overview

The PowerPoint presentation tells about archaeological study of a dam built to get Union gunboats over the rapids in the Red River at Alexandria during the Civil War.

### Objectives

Students will learn about the Red River Campaign during the Civil War.

Students will learn about primary sources such as maps, drawings, photographs, and artifacts.

Students will learn that archaeology can be used to confirm or question the historic record.

Students will learn about different kinds of historical and modern dams.

### Activities

Student activities and worksheets include:

- Graphic organizers

- Internet research

- Maps

- Review questions

- Creative writing

- Make a map or model

Teacher answer sheets are provided.

### Related Resources about Bailey's Dam

See [www.crt.la.gov/DiscoverArchaeology](http://www.crt.la.gov/DiscoverArchaeology)

- Interactive Online Exhibit

- Virtual Book

### Vocabulary

Archaeologist

Army

Artifact

Campaign (military)

Centimeter

Confederate

Dam

Fleet

Interpretation

Lock

Navy

Red River

Scale

Skirmish

Site

Timeline

Union

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

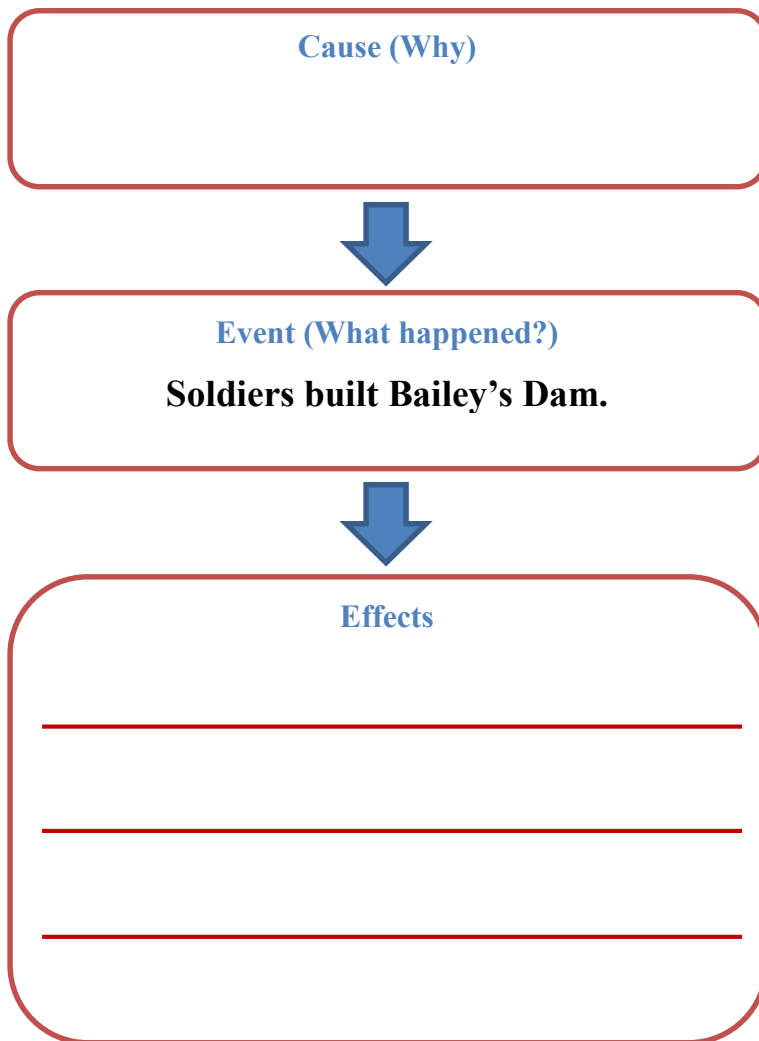
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### Cause and Effect – Bailey’s Dam

Bailey’s Dam was an unusual solution to the situation of the Union ships in the Red River. What happened to bring about Bailey’s Dam, and what happened afterward? Fill in the Cause and Effect diagram below and use “Soldiers built Bailey’s Dam” as the “Event.” In addition to information in this module, you can access information from the Bailey’s Dam interactive exhibit and virtual book at [www.crt.la.gov/DiscoverArchaeology](http://www.crt.la.gov/DiscoverArchaeology). You may also find information from the KnowLouisiana.org website at <http://www.knowlouisiana.org/entry/red-river-campaign/> useful for this exercise.



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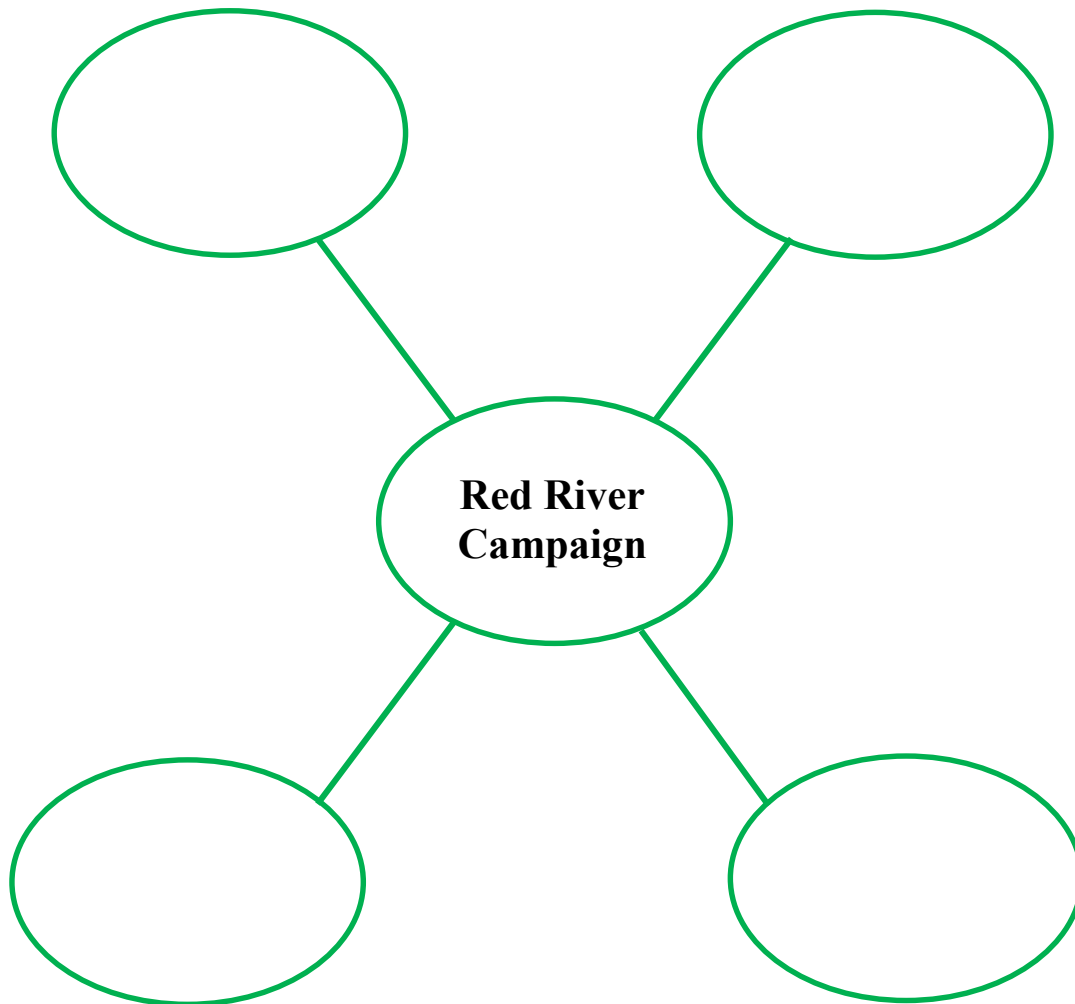
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### **Internet Research**

#### *The Red River Campaign and Bailey's Dam*

The Red River Campaign was not a success for the Union forces in Louisiana. What benefits did the Union forces think would outweigh the dangers and loss of life and equipment for such a mission? This module did not address all reasons for the Red River Campaign. Access the Bailey's Dam interactive exhibit and virtual book at [www.crt.la.gov/DiscoverArchaeology](http://www.crt.la.gov/DiscoverArchaeology), and the KnowLouisiana.org website at <http://www.knowlouisiana.org/entry/red-river-campaign/> to find out more about this Civil War event in Louisiana. Fill in the graphic organizer below with the reasons why the Red River Campaign took place.



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

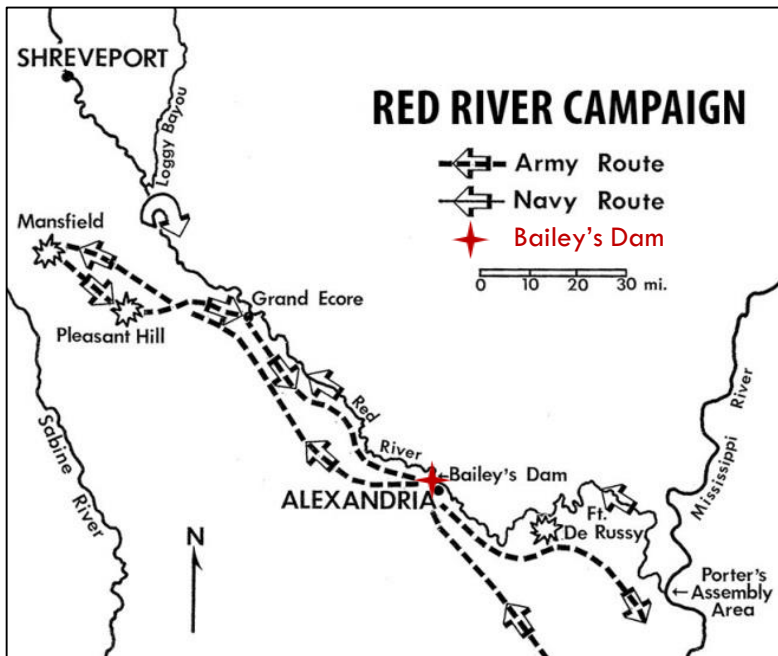
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## Maps and Scale

1. Refer to slide #8 showing the map of the Red River Campaign and a map of Louisiana. Both maps have North arrows that tell direction, and scales that show distance. Alexandria is very near Bailey's Dam and is in the middle of Louisiana. Draw a dot on the map of Louisiana to mark where you live, if it is not shown on the map. What direction is your town compared with Alexandria? How far would you estimate your town is from Alexandria?



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## Maps and Scale

1. Refer to slide #22 with the two excavation units for the crib dam. Look at the north arrow, which also serves as a scale. The arrow/scale is in 10 centimeter increments. Estimate the total length of this archaeology scale in centimeters, and then convert that to inches.



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Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Review (True/False, Short Answer, Essay)**

The Red River Campaign was a success for the Union.

True  False

Archaeology can be used to confirm or question the historic record.

True  False

Confederate and Union forces were evenly matched in the Red River Campaign.

True  False

Why did archaeological excavations take place at Bailey's Dam?

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Give one example of what archaeologists discovered at Bailey's Dam that was different from what was recorded in the historical documents. \_\_\_\_\_

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Examine one of the historic photographs, maps, drawings, or other primary source material from this module and describe what you see. What information does it contain about the site? What does it tell you about Bailey's Dam?

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### **Creative Writing Exercise**

#### *Bailey's Dam and the People of Alexandria*

Pretend that you lived in the city of Alexandria at the time of the Red River Campaign. Your city has been occupied by the Union forces, and these extra people need supplies. These supplies, such as food and shelter, are not only for the soldiers and officers, but are needed to build Bailey's Dam. Adopt the role of a business person, farmer, or enslaved person. Create a brief diary to document your feelings and experiences. To complete this exercise, you will need to access information from the Bailey's Dam interactive exhibit and virtual book at [www.crt.la.gov/DiscoverArchaeology](http://www.crt.la.gov/DiscoverArchaeology). Another good source detailing this event is the KnowLouisiana.org website at <http://www.knowlouisiana.org/entry/red-river-campaign/>. You may also find it useful to primary source reports from the military officers involved in the campaign at [www.civilwarhome.com/redriverrecords.html](http://www.civilwarhome.com/redriverrecords.html).

### **Make a Map or Model**

There are many details about the construction of Bailey's Dam, such as the types of dams used, dimensions, and construction materials. Draw a map or build a model of one of the dam types using information from the various websites and suggested sources provided in this module.

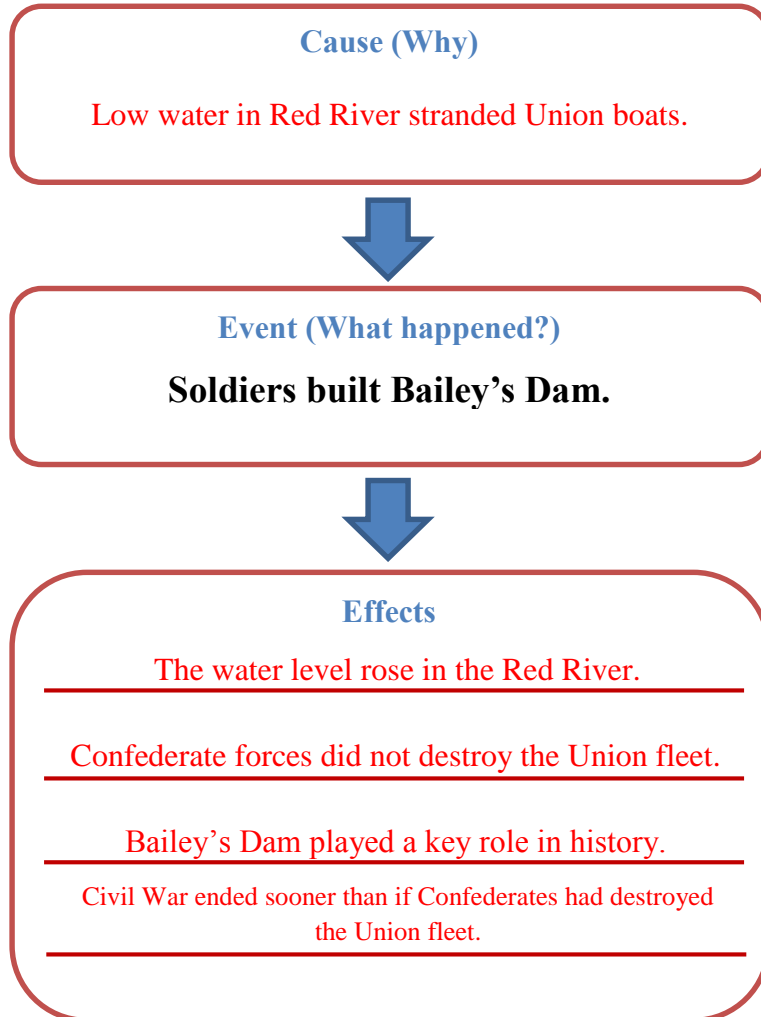
For a map you'll need graph paper, which you can print out free at <http://www.printfreegraphpaper.com/>. Remember to use good mapping techniques such as an arrow pointing north, a scale, and direction of water flow. You can refer to the maps on slide #8 and #10 in the PowerPoint presentation for ideas.

To create a model you can use items from your yard, such as twigs and small rocks to create a scale model of the dam structures.

**For the Teacher**  
**Answers**

**Cause and Effect – Bailey’s Dam**

Bailey’s Dam was an unusual solution to the situation of the Union ships in the Red River. What happened to bring about Bailey’s Dam, and what happened afterward? Fill in the Cause and Effect diagram below and use “Soldiers built Bailey’s Dam” as the “Event.” In addition to information in this module, you can access information from the Bailey’s Dam interactive exhibit and virtual book at [www.crt.la.gov/DiscoverArchaeology](http://www.crt.la.gov/DiscoverArchaeology). You may also find information from the KnowLouisiana.org website at <http://www.knowlouisiana.org/entry/red-river-campaign/> useful for this exercise.





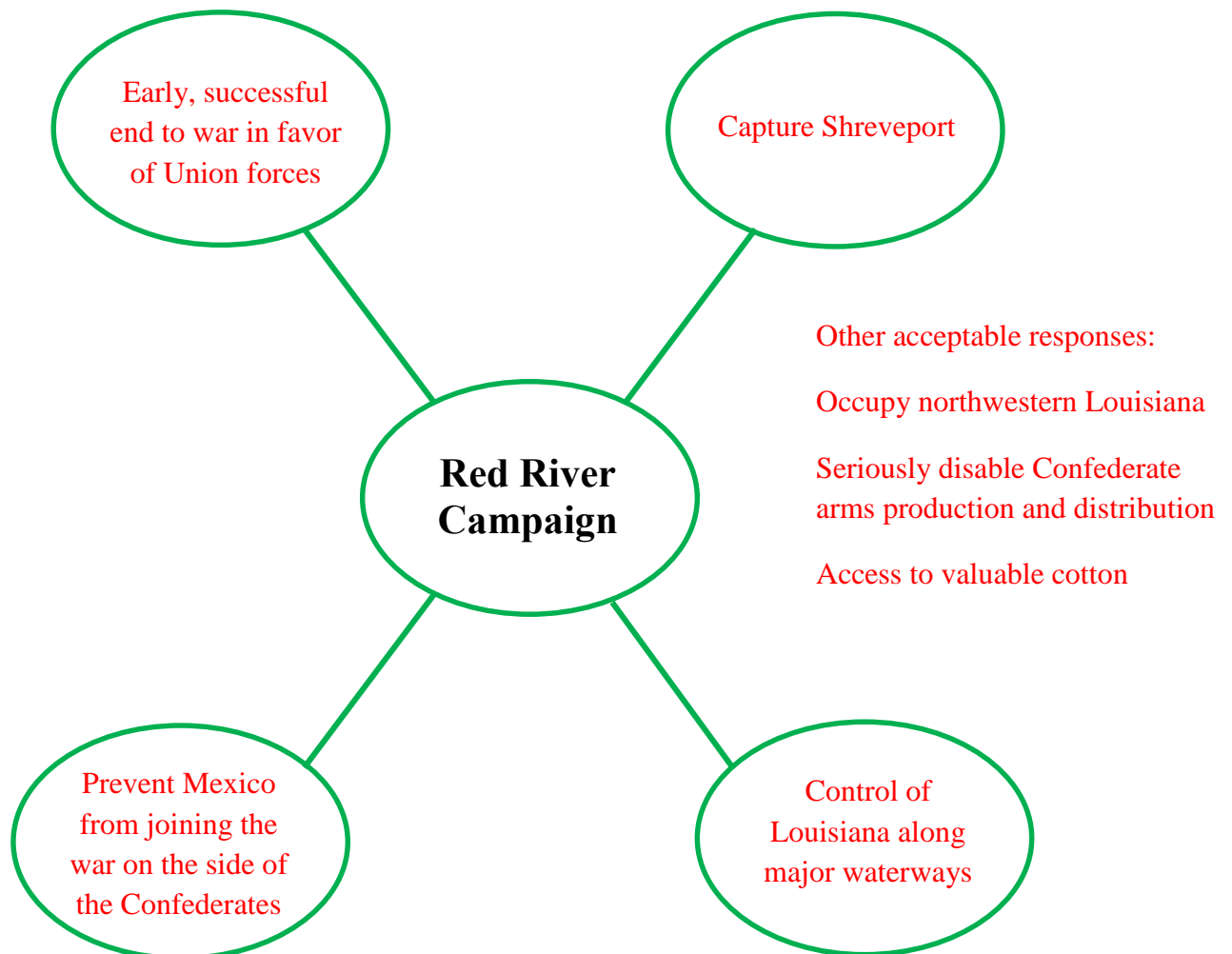
## For the Teacher

Answers

### Internet Research

*The Red River Campaign and Bailey's Dam*

The Red River Campaign was not a success for the Union forces in Louisiana. What benefits did the Union forces think would outweigh the dangers and loss of life and equipment for such a mission? This module did not address all reasons for the Red River Campaign. Access the Bailey's Dam interactive exhibit and virtual book at [www.crt.la.gov/DiscoverArchaeology/](http://www.crt.la.gov/DiscoverArchaeology/), and the KnowLouisiana.org website at <http://www.knowlouisiana.org/entry/red-river-campaign/> to find out more about this Civil War event in Louisiana. Fill in the graphic organizer below with the reasons why the Red River Campaign took place.



## For the Teacher

### Answers

#### Maps and Scale

2. Refer to slide #22 with the two excavation units for the crib dam. Look at the north arrow, which also serves as a scale. The arrow/scale is in 10 centimeter increments. Estimate the total length of this archaeology scale in centimeters, and then convert that to inches.

The scale on slide #22 is about 45 centimeters long: 10 centimeters for each full rectangle and a total of about 5 centimeters for the tip and tail. This converts to about 17.72 inches (rounded up to the second decimal place).

## For the Teacher

### Answers

#### Review (True/False, Short Answer, Essay)

The Red River Campaign was a success for the Union.

True  False

Archaeology can be used to confirm or question the historic record.

True  False

Confederate and Union forces were evenly matched in the Red River Campaign.

True  False

Why did archaeological excavations take place at Bailey's Dam?

The US Army Corps of Engineers was planning to build a modern lock and dam, which would cause the site to be underwater permanently. Bailey's Dam was an important part of our history and recording the details of the site was important.

Give one example of what archaeologists discovered at Bailey's Dam that was different from what was recorded in the historical documents. Historical documents indicated that the fill for the crib dam was brick, stone and machine parts, but archaeologists found that the fill was sand and mud topped with brick and stone. The historical documents showed the tree dam with tree tips pointing upstream, but archaeologists discovered the tree tips pointed downstream.

Examine one of the historic photographs, maps, drawings, or other primary source material from this module and describe what you see. What information does it contain about the site? What does it tell you about Bailey's Dam?

No wrong answers here.

# Bailey's Dam

## 1864

This is one in a series of modules about Louisiana archaeology. Each module has a PowerPoint presentation and associated student activities. The series is called “Learn about Louisiana’s Past through Archaeology.”

The presentation is intended for educational use. Please use image credits where provided.

Please visit the Division of Archaeology website for additional teaching materials and educational resources at: [www.crt.la.gov/DiscoverArchaeology](http://www.crt.la.gov/DiscoverArchaeology).

**Presented by:**

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Office of the Lieutenant Governor  
Baton Rouge, Louisiana

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