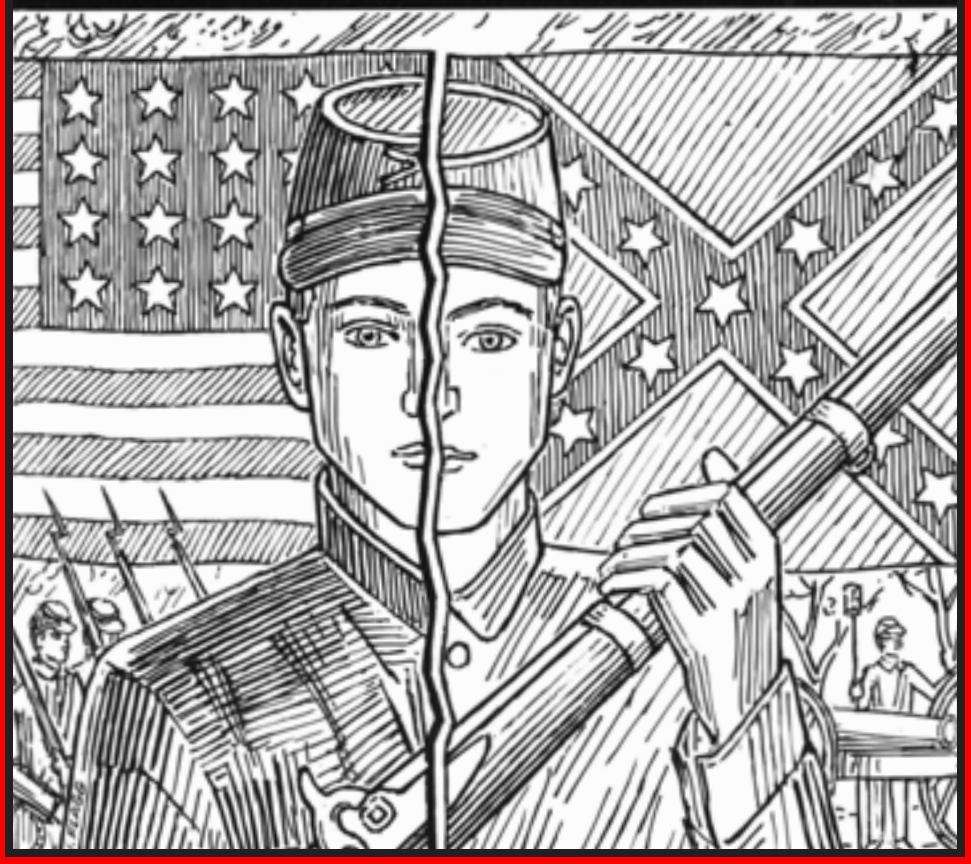
Novel·Ties

RIFLES FOR WATIE

HAROLD KEITH



A Study Guide

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For the Teacher

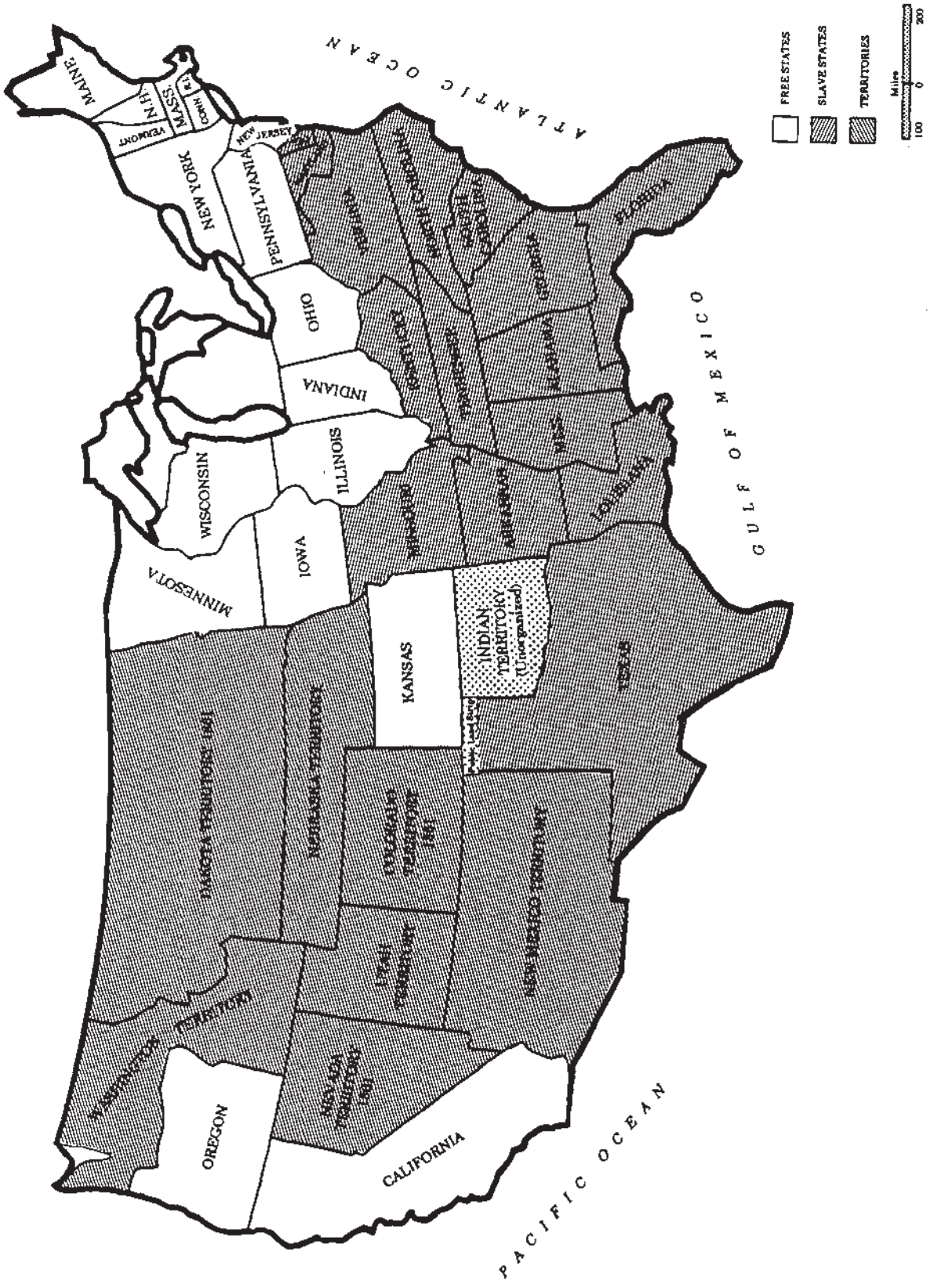
This reproducible study guide consists of lessons to use in conjunction with the novel *Rifles for Watie*. Written in chapter-by-chapter format, the guide contains a synopsis, pre-reading activities, vocabulary and comprehension exercises, as well as extension activities to be used as follow-up to the novel.

In a homogeneous classroom, whole class instruction with one title is appropriate. In a heterogeneous classroom, reading groups should be formed: each group works on a different novel at its reading level. Depending upon the length of time devoted to reading in the classroom, each novel, with its guide and accompanying lessons, may be completed in three to six weeks.

Begin using NOVEL-TIES for reading development by distributing the novel and a folder to each child. Distribute duplicated pages of the study guide for students to place in their folders. After examining the cover and glancing through the book, students can participate in several pre-reading activities. Vocabulary questions should be considered prior to reading a chapter; all other work should be done after the chapter has been read. Comprehension questions can be answered orally or in writing. The classroom teacher should determine the amount of work to be assigned, always keeping in mind that readers must be nurtured and that the ultimate goal is encouraging students' love of reading.

The benefits of using NOVEL-TIES are numerous. Students read good literature in the original, rather than in abridged or edited form. The good reading habits, formed by practice in focusing on interpretive comprehension and literary techniques, will be transferred to the books students read independently. Passive readers become active, avid readers.

HISTORICAL PEOPLE IN THE NOVEL

General James Blunt	Union general in charge of returning refugee Indians to their homes, he took command of Fort Gibson in Indian Territory. Fearing a Confederate attack against Fort Gibson, Blunt attacked and defeated Cooper's Confederate troops in Indian Territory south of Fort Gibson. This battle occurred on July 17, 1863, at Elk Creek near Honey Springs.
Elias Boudinot	One of the Cherokee Indians who, along with his brother Stand Watie and others, signed a peace treaty with the U.S. government. With the signing of this treaty, the Cherokees gave up their land in the East and resettled in the Indian Territory in the West. The followers of Cherokee Chief John Ross murdered Elias Boudinot.
General Cabell	Confederate commander in Arkansas who planned to help General Douglas Cooper attack Fort Gibson.
General Douglas Cooper	Confederate general who threatened to attack the Union armies of Blunt and Phillips stationed at Fort Gibson.
Jefferson Davis	President of the Confederate States of America during the Civil War. A Southerner, Jefferson Davis favored states rights and slavery in the territories. He had a distinguished military career in the Mexican War where he was commended for bravery at the Battles of Monterrey and Buena Vista.
Abraham Lincoln	Sixteenth President of the United States who served from 1861 to 1865, he viewed slavery as a moral evil. He believed that the U.S. government could not endure if the country were divided. He believed that if the United States were to break apart over the issue of slavery, our democratic form of government itself would fail. Lincoln was assassinated on April 14, 1865.
General Nathaniel Lyon	Union general who attacked the Confederate armies of Price and McCulloch at Wilson Creek, Missouri.
Colonel William Phillips	Union commander in Indian Territory at Fort Gibson before General Blunt arrived to reinforce the fort.
Chief John Ross	Principal Cherokee Indian chief who was a mixed-blood Cherokee. He protested his tribe's signing of a peace treaty with the U.S. government in which the Cherokees gave up their land in the Southeast and resettled in the Indian Territory in the West.
General William Steele	Confederate general stationed at Fort Smith on the border separating Arkansas from Indian Territory.
Colonel Stand Watie	Leader of the Cherokee mixed-blood Indians who raised his own regiment of Cherokees to assist the Confederates during the Civil War. Watie was a successful planter who had earlier signed a treaty with the U.S. government which relinquished Cherokee land in the Southeast. Watie was an enemy of Chief John Ross who opposed the treaty.
Colonel William Weer	Union colonel who returned loyal refugee Indian families to their homes and protected Kansas and southwestern Missouri. Colonel Weer, an alcoholic, was abusive to his troops. Colonel Frederick Salomon, Weer's second in command, arrested him and took over his command.

CONFEDERATE AND UNION STATES 1861 - 1865