Ashwin Thilakkumar

"Interactive Tool for American Civil War"

Abstract

The focus of my thesis is to create a GIS (Geographic Information Systems) tool that will help people learn about the Civil War, including background, a timeline, important battles that were fought, and other important statistics about the War. Information about historical war sites have also been presented. The information is provided in JAVA dialog boxes and also in detail through a website.

The GIS tool has been developed in JAVA using MOJO (Map Objects Java Objects – developed by ESRI). Features like division of Civil War states are shown as polygon layers and battle sites as points on the United States of America map and were designed using MOJO. The user will be able to select different layers and click on a particular battle point to obtain more information about the same. The in-depth details about the battles, war technologies, war generals, etc., are shown on an interactive and dynamic website developed with web technologies like HTML, CSS, JavaScript, jQuery.

The user interface is simple and easy to use which broadens the audience. To keep the user engaged, key aspects are explained using images, videos, and a timeline, on HTML pages. The idea is that pictures and videos help the user garner interest to learn about things in more detail.

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