United States Map during the Civil War

This activity accompanies "After a Visit," from *The Complete Poems of Paul Laurence Dunbar* by Paul Laurence Dunbar, record number 5012.

Activity Title: United States Map during the Civil War

Description: The students will create a map identifying the division of the United States at the outbreak of the Civil War.

Subject: Social Studies

Skill: American History and Geography

Behavioral Objective:

- The student will identify the division (Confederate and Union States, Border States, Western Territories) of the United States at the outbreak of the Civil War.
- The student will use appropriate geographic tools and terms to identify and describe significant places and regions in American history.

Materials:

- "After a Visit" poem, available in audio and print form at http://etc.usf.edu/lit2go/
- Paper and pencils
- Print out of blank United States map (available at the second link listed below)
- Internet access to:
    - http://etc.usf.edu/maps/galleries/us/civilwar/index.php
    - http://www.50states.com/maps/print/usamap.htm
- History books
- Colored pencils

Procedures:

Read the poem with the class, or have the students read it on their own. Explain to the students that the United States did not always look the way it does today. Describe to the students the various territories during the Civil War (Confederate and Union States, Border States, Commonwealth States, and Western Territories).

Next, have the students use the first link (listed above) or their history books, to identify the division of the United States at the outbreak of the Civil War. Have the students shade and label the various divisions including: Confederate and Union States, Border States, Western Territories, and Commonwealth States.

Then, have the students describe which type of state Kentucky was during the time period, and explain why Dunbar may have written a poem about it.