STUDENT HANDOUT

Kreminna: The Forest Front

Kreminna and Serebrianka forest, Ukraine · 30 January to 31 July 2023

Information as of October 2026

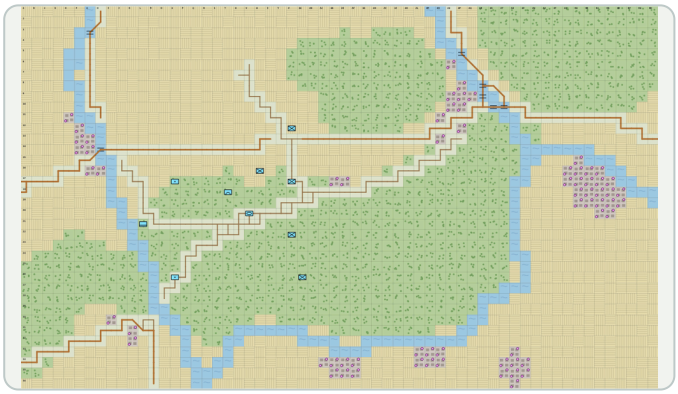
Review provenance

AI reviewed: sources, guide, assessment and model controls. Source attribution and reconstruction limitations remain.

No named human subject-matter reviewer or external validation is recorded. Material completeness is not certification. Instructors should check factual claims, sensitive content, age suitability and local context before use.



Scenario illustration · AI generated



Student map · own side only · Simulation situation map · reconstructed terrain and estimated deployments; not verified historical positions.

Learning objectives

- Locate the forest between the river valleys and Kreminna.
- Compare a limited damage objective with a territorial breakthrough.
- Distinguish documented drone roles from assumed types and quantities.

Run time and a good result

Default run clock: 5 minutes 30 seconds at 1×, excluding pauses, briefing and discussion. Time controls change elapsed play time.

Objective: Put four opposing formation groups out of action during the selected phases. This is a limited damage mission; capturing Kreminna is outside the mission.

Kreminna: The Forest Front: Put four opposing formation groups out of action during the selected phases. This is a limited damage mission; capturing Kreminna is outside the mission. Put at least 4 represented opposing units out of action; decoys do not count. The authored limit is 330 simulation seconds across 3 stages. Compare objective progress, time, losses, drone expenditure and recorded civilian harm with a second run. A strong classroom result also explains the source evidence and reconstruction estimates; it does not verify a historical casualty count.

Atrocity notice

The UN Commission found war crimes by Russian authorities, including killings, torture and sexual violence, and a small number of violations by Ukrainian forces. Its March 2023 findings are context, including for later scenarios.

These reports describe the wider conflict. They do not establish that every crime occurred in this modeled battle.

Studying or commanding a side does not endorse its conduct. Drone Front never lets players target civilians, hospitals, schools or places of worship. Civilian harm from simulated strikes is counted and shown in the debrief, including nonzero harm. Civilian massacres are never playable operations. Designated terrorist forces and Wagner remain computer controlled; Gaza war events remain excluded from play.

▼ Dated reports and findings

- 2023-03-16 · UN Commission of Inquiry: war crimes in Ukraine

Learn more: the laws of war

- ICRC: Geneva Conventions and commentaries
- ICRC: Customary IHL database
- UN: Genocide Convention (9 December 1948)
- UN: Rome Statute (17 July 1998), articles 6–8

Historical source notes

Drone reconnaissance could matter even when the front moved very little.

The map distinguishes military losses from control of towns. Neither limited objective represents conquest of the wider region.

CNN described ruined homes and remaining residents in Zarichne. A static front still imposed a civilian cost.

Civilian harm

CNN reporters found ruined homes and residents enduring winter with damaged housing in Zarichne.

Evidence for learning objectives

CNN observed Dnipro-1 using a Mavic 3; the model's flight allocations are authored assumptions.

The simulation sets disruption of 4 represented groups; this counts represented groups, not historical deaths or the capture of Kreminna.

CNN described damaged homes and winter hardship in Zarichne; it did not establish a complete sector casualty total.

Timings

For 60 minutes, brief for 15, run with pauses for 25 and review for 20. For 90 minutes, repeat from the other side. For 180 minutes, compare the physical map and contemporary reports.

Session	Plan
45 minutes	Brief: 10 min; Run: 15 min; Collect: 5 min; Review: 15 min
60 minutes	Before questions: 5 min; Brief: 10 min; Run: 20 min; Collect: 5 min; Debrief and after questions: 15 min; Discussion: 5 min
90 minutes	Before questions: 5 min; Brief: 10 min; Run 1: with drones: 20 min; Run 2: without drones: 15 min; Collect: 5 min; Compare and discuss: 25 min; After questions: 10 min
180 minutes	Before questions: 10 min; Brief and staff roles: 15 min; Run 1: with drones: 25 min; Run 2: without drones: 20 min; Break: 10 min; Run 3: syndicates: 30 min; Collect: 10 min; Seminar replay and debrief: 40 min; After questions: 10 min; Close: 10 min

Staff roles

commander
Track the limited objective and phase dates.

intelligence
Compare the source accounts and their scope.

fires
Record simulated effects and civilian exposure.

droneOps
Record the reconnaissance role and evidence limits.

Opposing staff objective

Keep losses below four formation groups. This is a limited preservation mission; capturing Lyman is outside the mission.

Decision points

- Opening: how do the contemporary reports describe the front?
- Middle phase: which claims come from officials and which from direct reporting?
- Final phase: did the outcome change control of Kreminna or Lyman?

Before and after questions

1. **Which conclusion follows from the briefing's attributed CNN observation of Dnipro-1 at Kreminna?**

   A. It documents a Mavic 3 reconnaissance role.
   B. It verifies the model's total drone inventory.
   C. It confirms identical drone types on both sides.
   D. It establishes every phase's flight allocation.

2. **How should the 9 June 2023 Radio Svoboda account of limited movement be read?**

   A. As proof that no positions changed all year.
   B. As an attributed account of a limited period.
   C. As confirmation of the conquest of Kreminna.
   D. As independent verification of all loss totals.

3. **At the Kreminna time limit, what does meeting n=4 mean in this model?**

   A. Four real battalions were destroyed in 2023.
   B. The wider Kreminna region changed ownership.
   C. Four represented enemy groups are out of action.
   D. Four civilian deaths were included in the result.

4. **What do Kreminna's 330 seconds and timeScale=4368 represent?**

   A. 4368 seconds of measured battlefield footage.
   B. 330 hours of continuous historical observation.
   C. 4368 times the historical rate of equipment loss.
   D. 4368 represented hours compressed into a run.

5. **How should Zarichne's documented civilian hardship enter the debrief?**

   A. Record the harm; leave an unknown total unknown.
   B. Treat damaged homes as a complete casualty count.
   C. Add displaced residents to military equipment losses.
   D. Read missing casualty totals as evidence of no harm.

Discussion

- Why might aerial observation matter on a static front?
- Which effects of seasons and vegetation are missing from this compressed map?
- How should civilian losses be recorded when no complete total is known?

Debrief rubric

Strong
Meets the objective or explains why it was not met; uses the published sources and run evidence, separates known facts from assumptions, compares both sides' losses and cost exchange, and evaluates precautions against civilian harm.

Adequate
Describes the objective and main decisions, identifies at least one source and model limitation, reports losses and harm, and gives a reasoned change for a second run.

Weak
Reports only victory or points, treats teaching settings as real performance, gives unsupported historical claims, or omits uncertainty and civilian harm.

Published readings

1. Radio Svoboda, Tetyana Zabashtanska: Fighting in Serebrianka forestry, 9 June 2023
2. Ukrinform: Russians try to attack Ukrainian positions near Kreminna, 5 April 2023
3. The Guardian, Luke Harding: Luhansk governor reports Russian offensive, 9 February 2023, updated 10 February

Complete source list

Wikipedia: Luhansk Oblast campaign, accessed 4 October 2026
Radio Svoboda, Tetyana Zabashtanska: Fighting in Serebrianka forestry, 9 June 2023
Ukrinform: Russians try to attack Ukrainian positions near Kreminna, 5 April 2023
The Guardian, Luke Harding: Luhansk governor reports Russian offensive, 9 February 2023, updated 10 February
Ukrinform: Cherevaty reports no Russian advance in the Lyman and Kupiansk direction, 31 July 2023
UK Home Office: Proscribed terrorist groups or organisations, updated 7 July 2026