

Life During the Civil War:  
What was it like?

***If GFMS closes for an extended period of time, this assignment will help you start thinking about our unit on the Civil War.***

***We hope you enjoy previewing an upcoming unit in our Social Studies curriculum.***

**Introduction:** We will study the Civil War by looking at the lives of at least 600,000 Americans who would lose their lives fighting for constitutional principle, sectional differences, economic self-interest, and moral righteousness.

Start by watching CivilWar360, Season 1, Episode 1 (on youtube). As you are viewing it, think about what aspect of the war you may be interested in learning more about.

Another interesting video about this period of time is America the Story of Us, Season 1 Episode 5.

**Your Task** is to “wear the shoes” of an American during our nation’s Civil War (1861-1865) by creating a journal of their experiences during the war. After choosing a role, you will research your role and events of the Civil War. Create a story about their experience.



You are to write three journals (single page each). Your entries should be written in **FIRST** person and describe your experience during the civil war. Each entry should have at **least 5 historically accurate facts** about events and life during the war.

**Process:**

1. Pick a role that interests you the most. The role does not have to be a specific person. If you find a specific person during the civil war, feel free to research them.

**Role Options:**

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Black Soldier       | <input type="checkbox"/> Confederate Soldier             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Military Doctor     | <input type="checkbox"/> Union Soldier                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Military Nurse      | <input type="checkbox"/> Prisoner of War (Andersonville) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Woman on homefront  | <input type="checkbox"/> Mary Todd Lincoln               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Confederate General | <input type="checkbox"/> Jefferson Davis                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Union General       | <input type="checkbox"/> Abraham Lincoln                 |

**2. Research your role. Here are some websites that may help you.**

<http://www.socialstudiesforkids.com/subjects/civilwar.htm>

[https://www.americancivilwar.com/kids\\_zone/causes.html](https://www.americancivilwar.com/kids_zone/causes.html)

<http://www.pbs.org/kenburns/civil-war/>

**What are good tips to gather facts?**

- In your searches, include civil war plus your role.
- Think about the websites you visit (is it .org? it is reliable?)
- Civil War is from 1861-1865. This is helpful for your search as well.
- Union= North (USA/Lincoln); Confederacy = South (CSA/Davis)

Take notes on paper or in Office365 (See research chart that is attached for some ideas) to organize your facts.

If you want to use the textbook: Textbook: Chapter 16 pg. 458- Chapter 17 533

3. Write your journal entries. Remember to tell a story weaving the facts of history.

**Here is a to do list:**

- Watch the videos to get some background information.
- Take notes and research helpful information on what it is was like for that individual or role during the Civil War.
- Draft your journal entries. Try to tell a story about what life was like based on what you learned.
- You should have three entries.

Try your best! History is full of many exciting stories!

*What was your role during  
the Civil War (1861-1865)?*

<b>Training?</b>	
<b>Uniform description?</b>	
<b>Tools, weapons, medicines used?</b>	
<b>Important people?</b>	
<b>Important battles and details?</b>	
<b>Description of camp life or battle life:</b>	
<b>Duties performed?</b>	
<b>Additional facts/outcome</b>	