

BLOODSHED AMONG BROTHERS

A Civil War Diary

In 1860, our nation was at the brink of collapse. Tension had grown between the northern and southern states and some states had even left the union to form their own country! In 1861, bloodshed began. The Confederate States of America attacked Fort Sumter, resulting in 2 deaths. However, by the end of the war 620,000 Americans had died, more than any other American war. The American Civil War left scars on our nation that still remain today.



YOUR ASSIGNMENT

The Civil War left no American untouched. Mothers lost sons. Brother fought against brother. Slaves hoped for freedom. Families lost fortunes. In order to better understand the gravity of this conflict within our nation, you will be reading the diary of a confederate soldier from the South. You will then be asked to create your own diary from the opposing, Union, perspective. You may choose to explore the experience of a white soldier, a black soldier, a nurse, or a prisoner of war. Regardless of whom you choose, every experience was unique and compelling!

As you research the perspective of your choosing, keep in mind that a diary is meant to record important experiences and events in an individual's daily life. Through the use of reliable texts and primary sources, you will find the information that you need to accurately portray the experiences of your character during the American Civil War. Remember that a diary should be reflective and include the writer's thoughts and feelings. What was important to your character? What did he/she believe? How did he/she feel about each event? What did your character worry about? What did he/she hope for?

On the following page, you will find an outline to guide your research & the creation of your diary. Good luck!

DIARY GUIDE

You will be choosing 1 of the following perspectives:

1. A soldier in Grant's Army
2. A soldier in Sherman's Army
3. A Civil War Nurse
4. A black soldier in the 54th Massachusetts Volunteer Regiment
5. A prisoner of war

If you choose PERSPECTIVE #1-4, please include:

- 8 total diary entries:
 - 1 entry introducing your character (Who are you?)
 - 2 entries describing daily life with the military
 - 2 entries describing experiences in battle
 - 1 Post-War Reflection
- Include the following information somewhere within your diary entries
 - *How did you get involved in the military?*
 - *What are your reasons for fighting? Motivations?*
 - *What types of hardships did you experience? Think about disease, long marches, food shortage, shelter, emotions*
 - *Include 4 primary sources*

If you choose PERSPECTIVE #5, please include:

- 8 total diary entries:
 - 1 entry introducing your character (Who are you?)
 - 2 entries describing daily life before your capture
 - 1 entries describing your capture at the Battle of Gettysburg
 - 1 entries describing daily life after your capture
 - 1 Post-War Reflection
- Include the following information somewhere within your diary entries
 - *How did you get involved in the military?*
 - *What are your reasons for fighting? Motivations?*
 - *What types of hardships did you experience? Think about disease, long marches, food shortage, shelter, emotions*
 - *Include 4 primary sources*

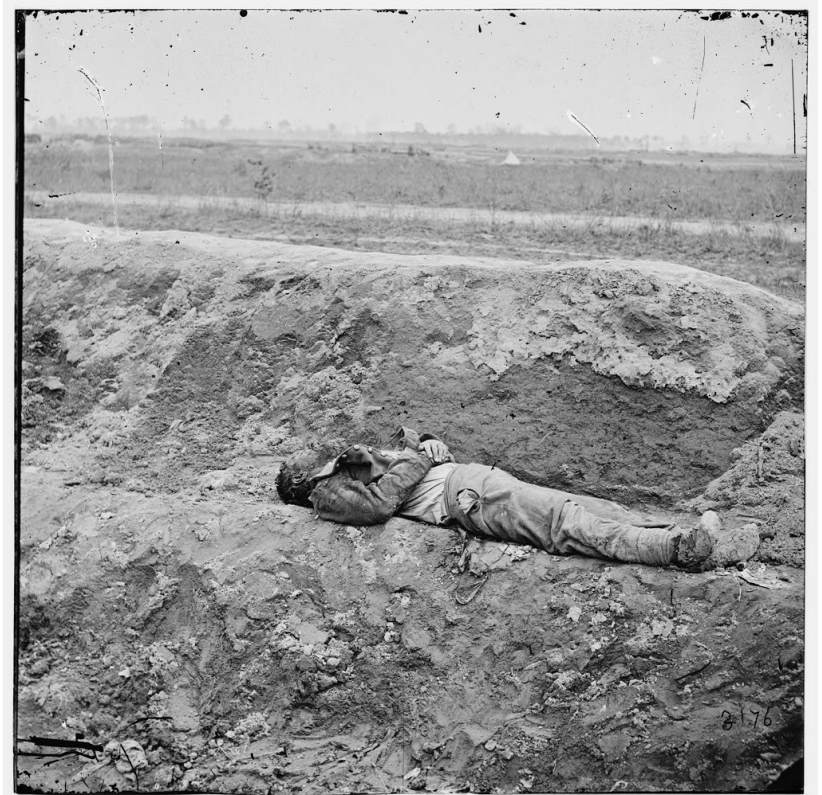
CIVIL WAR DIARY RUBRIC

	Points Possible	Points Received
1. Completion a. At least 6 diary entries - 6pts b. Correct number of daily life, battle & post-war reflection entries (<i>See page 3 of your packet</i>) - 6pts	12	
2. Research a. 3 research guides have been completed with all questions adequately answered: <i>Motives, Daily Life & Battle</i> – 9pts	9	
3. Diary Requirements a. The following questions have been addressed & explained in detail: - 9pts <i>i. How did you get involved in the military?</i> <i>ii. What are your reasons for fighting? Motivations?</i> <i>iii. What types of hardships did you experience?</i> b. The diary includes the character’s thoughts & feelings rather than a simple summary of events. - 6pts c. The diary contains at least 3 relevant primary sources – 6pts	21	
4. Accuracy of information a. Information included is historically accurate (<i>dates, events, historical figures</i>) - 6pts b. The perspective (<i>thoughts & opinions</i>) described in the diary is historically accurate & consistent with the character that has been chosen - 6pts	12	
5. Presentation a. The diary is neat & easy to read - 2pts b. All writing has been edited & ideas are clear - 5pts	7	
TOTAL POINTS RECEIVED	52	

Diary Example...

September 1, 1863 - To-day we went on a general hunt in full force. We went into a house where we suspected there was a deserter. We hunted through all the out-houses, then went to the house, and the lady strongly denied there being any one there, but would not give us permission to look. We then searched the house, but found no one. I then proposed that we go in the loft. She objected again. But of course we were determined. It was pitch-dark in the loft. We called in, but no answer came. I then proposed, in a loud voice, so that if any one was there they could hear me, that we fix bayonets and stick around and satisfy ourselves that no one was there. Still no answer. I then got in the loft, took my gun and commenced sticking around. At last an answer came from the far corner that he would surrender. The way I got into the loft was, I being a little fellow, and Si Wolf a tall man, they put me on his shoulder, and in that way I crawled in. We then left for camp, passed a church, and was in time to see a wedding. We drilled for the ladies, and had a good time.

September 16, 1863 - To-day there was a man shot for desertion. Eight balls passed through him. The way this is conducted is: the brigade that he belongs to, or sometimes even the division, is drawn up in full sight of the doomed man. He is tied to a stake in front of his grave, which is already dug, and his coffin at his side. There is a squad of twelve men and one officer detailed to do the shooting. Eleven of the guns are loaded. The guns are given to them by the officer, so that no man knows which gun is loaded. The order is then given to fire. Thus ends the deserter's life. The brigade, or division, then marches around him, so that every man can see his, the deserter's, end.



Websites for Research

Grant

Battles

Vicksburg

<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/today/may19.html>

Chattanooga

<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/today/nov23.html>

Appomattox

<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/today/apr09.html>

Nurses

Primary Source Photographs

http://www.loc.gov/rr/print/list/107_civw.html

Diary

<http://www.civilwarwomenblog.com/2010/12/hannah-ropes.html>

Clara Barton Diary

<http://www.nps.gov/clba/historyculture/antietam.htm>

Andersonville/POW

Interview

<http://www.nps.gov/clba/historyculture/cbcongress.htm>

POW story

<http://memory.loc.gov/learn///features/timeline/civilwar/soldiers/jhrobs.html>

Today in History

<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/today/nov10.html>

Sherman

Today in History

<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/today/mar11.html>

Today in History

<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/today/sep01.html#sherman>

Diary

<http://dlg.galileo.usg.edu/hargrett/platter/001.php>

Diary (Southern Perspective)

<http://www.eyewitnesstohistory.com/sherman.htm>

54th Massachusetts

African American's in the Civil War

<http://lcweb2.loc.gov/ammem/aaohhtml/exhibit/aopart4.html>

National Archives Info

http://www.archives.gov/exhibits/american_originals/54thmass.html

Letter

http://battleoflustee.org/letters/soldier_54th_mass.html

Letter

http://battleofolustee.org/letters/soldier_54th_mass.html

Enlisting**Diary**

<http://memory.loc.gov/learn///features/timeline/civilwar/soldiers/bowles.html>

Diary

<http://memory.loc.gov/learn///features/timeline/civilwar/soldiers/mcbride.html>

Additional Resources**Civil War Timeline**

<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/cwphtml/tl1861.html>

Daily Life

<http://www.nps.gov/history/museum/exhibits/gettex/index.htm>

Civil War Photographs

<http://www.loc.gov/pictures/collection/cwp/>

<http://www.loc.gov/pictures/collection/lilj/>