The Home Front

The American Battlefield Trust Traveling Trunk Program

Lesson #4
The Home Front

The Civil War touched the lives of every American family, North and South.
The Home Front
The Role of Women

Illustration in: Harper's weekly, 1862 Article *The Influence of Woman*
The Role of Women

Life must go on.
Women North and South take over men's work
The Role of Women

Some women disguised themselves as men and marched off to war.
The Role of the Family
The Role of the Family
The Role of the Family

Children went to War:

Private Johnny Cook was a bugler with Battery B, 4th U.S. Artillery who was awarded the Medal of Honor for his actions at the Battle of Antietam when he was only 15 years old.

Just west of the Cornfield with men down in the battery, he acted as cannoneer under severe fire.
The Role of the Family

**Tillie Pierce** was a 15 year old teenager on July 1, 1863 when she left Gettysburg with her family to escape the battle. She found herself nursing the wounded at the Jacob Weikert Farm south of town. Care of wounded soldiers continued upon returning to the family home, and in almost every home and building in Gettysburg for months after the battle. Tillie later wrote about her experiences in an article, “What a Girl Heard and Saw of the Battle.”
The Role of Slaves
The Role of Slaves
The Role of African Americans
Challenging Times
Challenging Times

Shortages became so severe that in 1863 the women of Richmond marched on the government in a “Bread Riot.”

Confederate President Jefferson Davis himself appealed to the crowd to disperse.
Challenging Times

Civilians in Vicksburg lived through 47 days of Union siege operations against Confederate forces defending the city of Vicksburg. Families lived in caves and trenches to escape the bombardment and many starved in the process.
Challenging Times

 Civilians who had homes near battles often had their homes destroyed or taken over for use as field hospitals.

 The Chancellor family was trapped between the armies in May 1863 when their home became General Hooker’s Headquarters.
Challenging Times

Those on the home front had to meet the needs of their family as well as support the needs of the army.
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List of the names of the captured men of the 8th Regiment Mo. Vol. during and after the capture of Ft. Wagner, July 18, 1863.
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