

# Civil War Traveling Trunk

## Teacher's Manual



AMERICAN  
BATTLEFIELD  
TRUST ★ ★ ★

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PRESERVE. EDUCATE. INSPIRE.

For further information regarding the Traveling Trunk, please visit:  
<https://www.battlefields.org/learn/educators/resources/civil-war-traveling-trunk>

# Using the Traveling Trunk

Thank you for borrowing the American Battlefield Trust's Civil War Traveling Trunk! We are very excited to be able to offer this wonderful, free resource to teachers.

Here are some helpful tips and guidelines for using the trunk:

1. **Inventory** – Upon renting the trunk, the American Battlefield Trust sent you an email with the inventory list attached. When you receive the trunk, take an inventory of the items present in the trunk. When you are done using it, take another inventory. Email the completed inventory at the end of the week to [travelingtrunk@battlefields.org](mailto:travelingtrunk@battlefields.org).
2. **Be careful** – We fully expect the materials to be used and handled; however, the trunk needs to travel to schools around the country all year, so we want to be sure the next class has a great experience as well! For the paper documents, we recommend making copies of the documents we included, so that the students can write on the copies. If any items are lost or damaged, please let the American Battlefield Trust's Education team know as soon as possible.
3. **Have fun** – The items in the trunk can be categorized and placed into stations, passed around the classroom, incorporated into plays and scavenger hunts, and used in conjunction with our online lesson plans; you are welcome to use the objects as you see fit. [Lesson plans](https://www.battlefields.org/learn/educators/civil-war-traveling-trunk/traveling-trunk-resources), classroom activities, and other resources can be found on website: <https://www.battlefields.org/learn/educators/civil-war-traveling-trunk/traveling-trunk-resources>.
4. **Take pictures** – Please send us pictures of your students exploring the trunk. Pictures provide evidence of programs that work, allowing us to promote the program and acquire additional funding to create more resources for teachers and students. You can find the American Battlefield Trust's Media Release form in emails sent regarding the Traveling Trunk, as well as on our website: <https://www.battlefields.org/learn/educators/civil-war-traveling-trunk/traveling-trunk-resources>
5. **Tell us what you think** – When you email your completed inventory to us, please take some time to tell us what you think worked well and what we can improve for the future.
6. **Pass it along** – Be sure to send the trunk to the next person by Friday of your scheduled week! The American Battlefield Trust will email you your pre-paid shipping label before your week is through.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact: Education Department  
[travelingtrunk@battlefields.org](mailto:travelingtrunk@battlefields.org)  
(p) 202-367-1861 and select "School Programs Traveling Trunks" on the phone

## Items found on the [Traveling Trunk resources webpage](#):

1. **Union Documents** – These replica documents show the files that would be kept whilst serving as an officer for the Union, including: enlistment form, stationary, draft notice, oath, pass, furlough, identifier tags, discharge, disability discharge, parole of prisoners of war.
2. **Confederate Documents** – These replica documents show the files that would be kept whilst serving as an officer for the Confederacy, including: enlistment form, stationary, oath, pass, furlough, identifier tags, surgeons certificate, discharge, disability discharge, and parole at Appomattox.
3. **Fife Guide and Finger Chart** – Revving up motivation in the field, musicians rolled along with regiments! Fifes were a defining component of field music during the Civil War. Take a look at the finger chart and fife guide to get a sense of this Civil War instrument.
4. **Flag Guide** – Learn more about the different flags used by both the Union and the Confederacy during the Civil War.
5. **Over 18** - To join the army, men had to be 18 years old or older. To be able to say that they were over 18 without lying boys would stand on a piece of paper with the number 18 written on it. Then they would pronounce that they were indeed, “Over 18.” You’ll find a chart of squares containing the number “18” on this worksheet – your students can cut out their own “18” and make their own declaration that they are “Over 18.”
6. **The Common Civil War Soldier Lesson Plan** - Students will explore items such as military issued jackets and kepis, brogans, haversack and canteen and personal items such as a prayer book, coffee ration, hardtack, a cup, and silverware. Encourage students to touch and immerse themselves with the trunk items as this will enhance their learning experience
7. **Civil War Photography Lesson Plan** - Students will be able to explain why photographs are a primary source and will be able to list at least one piece of information about a historic event using a photograph.
8. **Civil War Camp Life Lesson Plan** – Students will experience personal hygiene items such as a toothbrush and comb. They will also be provided the opportunity to gain insight on what a housewife is, as well as a prayer book, tin cup, and silverware. Games that soldiers often played while in camp included playing cards, cup and ball, and a Jacob’s Ladder.
9. **The Role of Military Music & Instruments in the Civil War Lesson Plan** – Students will be able to describe the role that music played on the battlefield and in camp. They will also explore the role that children close to their age played in the army.
10. **The Home Front Lesson Plan** - Students will be able to list examples of how and discuss why the war affected every citizen’s day-to-day life; discuss the impact of the Civil War on families and describe the challenges faced by those on the home front during the Civil War; describe how news traveled to the home front during the Civil War, listing communication methods of the period; address questions concerning what actions an individual might take in a typical war time scenario.

# More About the American Battlefield Trust

Preserve. Educate. Inspire.

## Our Mission

The American Battlefield Trust is the largest and most effective nonprofit organization devoted to the preservation of America's hallowed battlegrounds. The American Battlefield Trust preserves America's hallowed battlegrounds and educates the public about what happened there and why it matters.

## Preservation Method

The American Battlefield Trust preserves land utilizing several well-established conservation strategies. Ultimately, these efforts are guided by our mission to preserve significant battlefield land in perpetuity. For those interested in preserving a property we invite you to contact our real estate department directly.

We work only with willing sellers and each project is unique in its own way. However, in general, there are two types of preservation transactions:

1. Preservation in which the landowner retains ownership  
( i.e. [Conservation Easements](#) )
2. Preservation that transfers ownership  
( i.e. [Fee simple transactions](#) )

American Battlefield Trust members have helped save almost 52,000 acres at battlegrounds like Antietam (the bloodiest single day in American history), Fort Donelson (where a future U.S. president earned his nickname "Unconditional Surrender" Grant) and Morris Island (where the 54th Massachusetts made the charge immortalized in the movie *Glory*, in addition to dozens of other sites in 24 different states. Chances are the American Battlefield Trust has saved land at every battlefield you're familiar with, and maybe even some you're not! [View our Index of Saved Land »](#)

In addition to preserving historic landscapes, the American Battlefield Trust conducts programs designed to inform the public about America's first century conflicts and the consequences of the Revolutionary War, War of 1812, and Civil War. We seek to create a personal connection to the past and foster opportunities for individuals to experience battlefields first hand.