



GOAL 2 | LESSON PLAN | MIDDLE SCHOOL

Life At War

Grades Level: Middle School

Approximate Length of Time: 2.5 hours

Goal: Students will be able to discuss the life of soldiers during the American Civil War.

Objectives:

1. Students will be able to complete a graphic organizer, finding key information within primary and secondary sources.
2. Students will be able to address a question about a historic event, providing evidence from primary and secondary sources.

Common Core:

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RH.6-8.1

Cite specific textual evidence to support analysis of primary and secondary sources

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RH.6-8.2

Determine the central ideas or information of a primary or secondary source; provide an accurate summary of the source distinct from prior knowledge or opinions.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RH.6-8.6

Identify aspects of a text that reveal an author's point of view or purpose (e.g., loaded language, inclusion or avoidance of particular facts).

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RH.6-8.7

Integrate visual information (e.g., in charts, graphs, photographs, videos, or maps) with other information in print and digital texts.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.WHST.6-8.1

Write arguments focused on *discipline-specific content*.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.WHST.6-8.7

Conduct short research projects to answer a question (including a self-generated question), drawing on several sources and generating additional related, focused questions that allow for multiple avenues of exploration.

NCSS STANDARDS FOR SOCIAL STUDIES:

- 1—Culture
- 2—Time, Continuity, and Change
- 3—People, Places, and Environment
- 5—Individuals, Groups, and Institutions

Description: This is an inquiry lesson where students will do research to answer the main, inquiry question about the life for soldiers during the American Civil War. Students will develop a hypothesis, search for evidence in multiple primary and secondary sources, and complete a graphic organizer. Through this process students will develop a strong answer to the inquiry question posed at the beginning.

Inquiry Question: What was the American Civil War for those who were the “boots on the ground?”

Material:

- Vocabulary page
- Life at War Power Point, includes videos
- Documents Packet
- National Archives Document Analysis Form (5 copies for each student)
- Graphic Organizer
- Highlighters
- Final Essay

Procedure:

1. Hand out the Final Essay, students should be able to refer to this throughout the lesson. It’s what they are researching!
2. Have students begin with a hypothesis to answer the inquiry question.
3. Hand out the Vocabulary page.
4. Go through the Life at War Power Point with the class or have them do it independently. This Power Point is a secondary source and students should be encouraged to use it as part of their research in answering their inquiry question. If students do the Power Point alone, be sure they view the Power Point in editing view so they can see the notes.

5. Students will then read through the *Document Packet*, filling out the *Graphic Organizer* and National Archives Analysis form as they progress.

Conclusion:

Students will answer the inquiry question either orally or in essay form.

They should use evidence from their primary and secondary sources. They can use the documents, their notes, the Power Point, videos and their graphic organizer. Students can do additional research to bolster their argument.

Recommended Collections for Letters and Diaries:

Michigan State University - <http://civilwar.archives.msu.edu/collection/>

University of Washington -

<http://content.lib.washington.edu/civilwarweb/index.html>

University Notre Dame -

https://rarebooks.nd.edu/digital/civil_war/diaries_journals/index.shtml

University of Virginia Library, Valley of the Shadow -

<http://valley.lib.virginia.edu/VoS/lettersp2.html>

Students can share their responses with the class.

Assessment in this Lesson:

1. A completed graphic organizer
2. Completed National Archives Analysis forms
3. Notes taken on graphic organizer, documents, or other notes sheets
4. A complete answer to the inquiry question with quotes from the provided documents and other sources.



Name: _____

Date: _____

Vocabulary

Soldier – A person who serves in the military.

The Union Army – Also known as the “federal” or “northern” army, served the United States federal government. A Union Soldier, sometimes called a “Yankee” or “Yank” served the Union Army.

Confederate Army – Also known as the “rebel” army, served the Confederate States or the states in rebellion of the United States. A Confederate soldier, sometimes called a “rebel” or “reb” served in the Confederate Army.

Drill – To practice something, usually a physical maneuver, over and over again.

-Your own vocabulary list can be created below -



Name: _____

Date: _____

Life at War Documents Packet

- The following documents may have been excerpted, if so, you can find the full texts using the citation below the document.
- Certain parts have been bolded and highlighted to draw attention to words or parts of the text, this has been done for the lesson only, and are not in the original document.
- Circle, look-up, and define the words you need to know in order to understand the document.
- Underline names of people mentioned, do a quick search, and write down a very brief note about them on the document.
- Double underline places that are mentioned and find them on a map. Note their location. Do a search on battlefields.org to see if there was a battle at this location on or around the dates that are given.
- Use the National Archives Document Analysis Form for each written document.



Brandy Station, Va.
Library of Congress

Below describe this image using bullet-point notes:

Look up Brandy Station on battlefields.org and list details about this place:

What do you notice about the structures in this image? Do they look like they will be used short-term or long-term?

What can you learn about lives of soldiers from this photograph?

David H. Bertram's Letter

Murfreesboro
Tenn
March 2, 1862

Veary Dear Father & mother & famley [sic],

I again seat my Self to infor [sic] you that I am well truly hoping those lines to find you all well. The moset [sic] of the boyes [sic] is well. The helth [sic] in general is good. I beleave I hav [sic] no news of importance to writ [sic] to you at the present. Times is peasabel hear know [sic]. Their [sic] has bin [sic] no fighting near our lins sence [sic] you was at Nashville [sic] and I suppose there is no prospect of a fight eny wayse [sic]. Shortely [sic] General Roeycrantz [sic] has ishued [sic] an order that we shall all be forlowed [sic] home by squades [sic]. I suppose four or fiv [sic] from a co. at a time. I saw the order last night my Self. I suppose that will commence in a few dayes [sic]. There is only one non-commishend [sic] officer to loder [?] the Co. at a time bair [?] an axident [sic] us. Three will not get off together he gides furlows [sic] for 20 dayes [sic] nad that is longe a nough [sic]. I hope to sea you all in the coarse of 2 months & mabey soner [sic] and mabey hardely so soon, I can't tell. We will chang [sic] our sugect [sic]. I recieved [sic] your leters last eavning [sic] which was dated the 24th of feb. I was truly glad to hear from you all & to hear that you was all well. I hope to get newse [sic] from you often. from the wreading [sic] of your your leter & other newse that I hav got from that cuntiry [sic]. The excitement is veary high a bout the abolition partey but the sucesh calk as that will tha cant afeet [?] nothing buy their chat. Thier is no dont bit what tha think that consiarvetive partey will hafte to tak sides as long as I am a living bean. I never will onless a grat change. I am not in for freeing the negro rather am I in for desolving the union. I wish that all the disloyal mens negroes to be taken and colonized on some ilant [sic] or sell them to help pray the expence of this war & thin [sic] treat the abolition party the same way. There is a nough, a nough loyal men to protect the old constitution if the will tak hold of the thing wright [sic] and I think it will be don [sic] if the abolition partey comes out. I considder [sic] my Self a volentiar [sic] for three year longer if nesary [sic] and my part will be under the old Stairs and strips and in the defence of the old constution [sic] if I am permitted to liv [sic]. This rebellion cold [sic] be put down in a hurry if it wasint [sic] for the love of money. The love of money is the gratest [sic] evil hat the human man poseses [sic]. This war has caused the life of many true patriates [sic] and we should simpatrise [sic] with their friend in their lonsom [sic] and didstresing [sic] hours so we change the subject [sic].

Well you requested me to xpress [sic] my fealing [sic] to you. I am ashamd [sic] almost to say eny thing [sic] about it if it cold [sic] be the will of the almitey [sic] to pardin [sic] me then I cold [sic] hav [sic] the fase [?] and sadisfaction [sic] but as I am I cant giv [sic] sadisfaction [sic]. A man in my condition and of my turn is liabel [sic] to be lead astray whin [sic] the are so many attracting thing of the world for man to [?]. I want you to know that I gard [sic] aganst [sic] that

as much as I can and I entend [?] to without a chang [sic] being hear and being at home. Their [sic] is a grat difrence [sic] we never show no preaching. I hant [sic] heard a searmont [sic] preacht [sic] since we weas at battle creak [sic]. I [t]hink that if I cold [sic] be at meating [sic] and hear good preashing [sic] it wold [sic] be a sadisfactin [sic] to me. I hav [sic] often [sic] thought that my day has past are and my [?] is fixt [sic] for that affil [sic] world to be my home though I hope for the beter [sic]. I intend to try as long as I liv[sic] to bege [sic] for mursey [sic] without a grat [sic] change. It looks to me that it tis imposabel [sic] for a man to keep his mind on the things that he ort to & a very easy matter for him to kep [sic] his mind on the thinges [sic] that he shold [sic] mat but it tis the nature [sic] of man. I cold [sic] expres [sic] my feealinges [sic] and mind better if I cold [sic] see you when I set down to write a letter to you. My mind is all ways scattered and torne [sic] up so that it tis imposabel [sic] for me to giv [sic] you my sadisfaction [sic] about eny thing [sic] attal [sic].

Well Mother I know your condition renders you unhapey [sic]and it tis a nough [sic] to. I know but you must bair with it the best that you can and not tak [sic] thinges [sic] to hart [sic] Ma maur [sic] than you can help and don't suffer you mind to be filld [sic] up with the newse [sic] of the world. If a person will beleave [sic] all the newse [sic] that tha hear, tha will always be in misrey [sic]. Mother your condition is good so fair to what some is all thre [sic] of us boyes [sic] is aliv [sic] and hartey [sic] and enjoyes [sic] good helth [sic] while nombers [sic] of othrs [sic] wimen [sic] hav [sic] lost the only child that tha hav [sic]. I dont pertend [sic] to say but what our chance is the same as those that hav [sic] past [sic] away. We must look look to him for peas [sic] and eas [sic] mind and happeners [sic] al. So tell Martha that I wasn't hur [?] to writ [sic] to me. I will clos [sic] by requesting you to writ son [sic] and often and I will the same. Tell [?] and the balents [?] of the children I hav [sic] not forgot them yet. Tell Brand and Mary hodey [sic] for me. I Close your Son Tell dethe [?]

D.H. Butram to

E. Butram & famley [sic]

When you write tell me how your propertey [sic] is & whether you hav [sic] got Andey & my cow yet or not.

"David H. Bertram Letter to His Parents." Letter from David H. Bertram. March 2, 1862. Accessed March 19, 2018. <http://digitalcollections.lib.washington.edu/cdm/compoundobject/collection/civilwar/id/720/rec/31>.
David H. Bertram, a sergeant in the 9th Kentucky Infantry Regiment

John G. Roller Diary Entries July 7-31, 1864

Thurs, 7th Laid in camp fixed our tents up, formed in Co. Colum Deserters coming in every day. the flanks of our army rest on the river. Weather good and warm.

Fri. 8th Policed our camp. Reported that the mail train was burnt. Weather warm.

Sat. 9th Still in camp, drew a pair of shoes canonading all along our line Weather warm.

Sun. 10th The rebs fell back to the south side of the Chattahoochee, they burnt the R.R, Bridge about daylight our men advanced their skirmishline to the river bank moved about 1/4 of a mile and returned to camp again marching order. Cannonaded, Weather warm and showery had divine service in camp.

Mon, 11th Still in camp, our boys trading with the rebel skirmishers. Tobacco, knives, matches, guns, blankets and such like. Weather clear and pleasant.

Tues, 12th Not much news in camp. Weather warm and showery.

Wedn, 13th Nothing of importance going on in camp. Weather warm and clear.

Thurs. 14th The army reported all across the river except the 14th and 20th corps. Weather rainy, had prayer meeting in the evening.

Fri. 15th Slight skirmishing and canonading on our right. Weather clear, got a letter from Jake.

Sat. 16th Had inspection of arms in camp. I and Charley wrote letters to Jake Charley sold his watch to George Cooper of Co. "H"

Sat, 17th Received marching orders to march at 3 o'clock P.M. marched to the left, crossed the Chattahoochee River about dark, and camped about 3 miles south of the river, came nearly playing out. Weather warm

Mon. 18th Got a letter from Lazenbys folks, bought a watch of Joel Ball for #20. moved 2 or 3 miles to the right and built breastworks, after night not much rest for us. Weather rainy,

Tues, 19th Laid over. Sharp canonading in front, a part of the 4 corps took some Rebel works in the P.M. had a good prayer meeting in the evening saw the first wild cucumbers. Weather very warm,

Wedn. 20th Moved to the left in the A.M. Made a short halt in a cornfield and eat a bite, moved to the ript in the P.M. heavy skirmishing going on all the time, the rebels attacked us at 4 o'clock P.M. We met them and a fierce battle raged until sundown, the loss in our Regt 58, in our Co. 14. Our orderly Merry

Mcmillan, John Botts our color-bearer, William Sister got killed. J. Wells, George Oldham, John Stevens, R. Haed, Wiatt and Henry King, Peter Shonover, Henry Deck, John Andrews, Theodor Ellis, got wounded, built breastworks after the battle was over, rebel loss terrible. Weather exceedingly hot. The rebels had 3 lines and we had but one we held our ground the rebels fell back in great confusion, no relief for us.

Thurs. 21st Was on picket no rest last night drew rations in the morning Charley was with me. Buried our dead. One of our Regt. got some whisky Buried over 100 Rebs in front of our Brigade. Weather warm Col. Doan went to the Hospital

Fri. 22nd Advanced our line about 2 1/2 miles and built breastworks, the 15th the 16th and 17th corps heavily engaged on our left. The rebs drove them back about 1 mile but they rallied and drove the rebs in turn taking their breastworks. the loss was heavy on both sides Gen McTherson killed we are within 2 1/2 miles of Atlanta the enemy has fallen back
Weather cloudy the rebs shelled us after night.

Sat. 23rd The rebel batteries busy all day shelling us, but doing us but little harm, the rebs charged our skirmishline driving our skirmishers from their posts and wounded Sergt. c a of Co. "B" Weather warm, had no tents up the rebs made another point in our skirmishline.

Sun 21ith The rebs are still wasting ammunition shelling us. Wrote 2 letters one to R. Haed's wife and his brother and for myself to John Lazenbys. was detailed for picket drew rations Charley took sick Weather warm

Mon. 25th The rebs attacked our skirmishline last night, but held our posts firing about 15 rounds, was on the line after night and on the reserve in the daytime was relieved about dark. Weather warm

Tues. 26th Charley still sick, getting worse, the Regt moved to the right after night. I stayed with Charley till morning. Weather cloudy in the daytime and rainy after night.

Wedn. 27th Went with Charley who was conveyed to our Div. Hospital in the A.M. got back to the Regt about noon. Drew rations the 16th and 17 corps moved to our right. Weather warm and rainy.

Thurs. 28th Gen Hooker left us in the A.M. He having resigned Gen. Williams took command of our corps, got orders to get ready to march. A heavy fight on our right the rebs repulsed with fearful loss Lieut. Wilkerson come back, did not march. Weather warm rainy.

Fri. 29th Our Div moved to the extreme right, wrote a letter for Long of co. "B" bunked with B. Hunter considerable of rain after night.

Sat. 30th Was detailed for fatigue duty in the A.M. moved about 3/4 of a mile to the right and built breastworks, was detailed to go out in front with 10 more of our Regt. Weather warm

Sun. 31st The 2nd Div. of the 11th corps went out to reconnoiter encountered the rebel skirmishers and returned in the evening, we had orders to keep ourselves in readiness for a march but did not march. A heavy rain.

John G. Roller Civil War diary transcript Diary of John G. Roller. 1864-1960. Accessed March 20, 2018.
<http://digital.lib.uiowa.edu/cdm/compoundobject/collection/cwd/id/19694/rec/6>.

W.H. Gaston's Letter

1st Texas Vol. November 28, 1862

Pa

I received your letter of the 5th Nov. a few days ago but have not had opportunity of writing until now. I am surprised at you not receiving my letters written after the Sharpsburg fight. I cannot see why my letter should not reach home as soon as others. I wrote you soon after the fight & gave you all the information I could about Robert. I have been inquiring and hunting for him ever since he was lost. I can hear nothing from him. I feel that he was slain although I cannot give him up yet. There is some chance for him to be alive yet. He may have been badly wounded and still in the hands of the enemy. There has been some of my boys sent back to Maryland that I thought was killed. They saw nothing of Robert but say he may be there somewhere as our boys were scattered all over Md. I hope he may turn up yet someday. I have felt miserable since he has been gone and it is with deep regret that I have to communicate his loss to you. I hope you all will not think hard of me for not giving you all the particulars of his fate when it was out of my power and as my letters failed to reach you. We were overpowered by the enemy and compelled to give up the battlefield leaving behind our killed and wounded with some prisoners & were not permitted to go on the field after the fight. Consequently I cannot tell the result of the missing. We are not lying in sight of the Yankee tents. Only the Rappahannock River behind us. May expect a fight any day but I do not think they will attempt to cross this winter. The weather is very cold but we stand it very well. Have plenty of clothes. Some shoes wanting. Our boys are in fine health and our army is in good condition. We expect to go into winter quarters shortly. I intend to come home this winter if I can. I may have to resign to do so but I intend to come. My health has not been good for some time & I think I have tried it long enough here to satisfy me. You spoke of coming here. I would advise you not to come as you cannot accomplish anything by the trip. If Robert can be found I will find him before I come. If killed, we will have to give him up for a time. I'm glad you sold Jake as Negroes are cheap. I think it my duty to come home awhile at least. Excuse my writing with pencil as ink is scarce in camp. Write to me often. I will do the same. I close, This from your Son W.H. Gaston

"W.H. Gaston Letter." W. H. Gaston to Pa. November 28, 1862. Accessed March 22, 2018.
[https://www.nps.gov/anti/learn/education/upload/letters and diaries of soldiers and civilians.pdf](https://www.nps.gov/anti/learn/education/upload/letters%20and%20diaries%20of%20soldiers%20and%20civilians.pdf).

Henry Welch's Letter

WASHINGTON D. C.
Jun 13 1863
Mr Franklin Tanner
South Granville
Washington Co.
NY

Camp. William's near Stafford Courthouse
June.12th.1863.

Dear Uncle and Aunt

I received a letter from your (you) yesterday, and I cannot pass my time more pleasantly for a few hours than answering it! I am well and so is Dowd Francis Thair (Thair, Dowd Francis) and all the boy's from Granville! we are haveing (having) very warm weather down here now days, but I guess we can stand it! we received marching order's a few day's ago but we have not marched yet we keep three day's ration's in our haversacks ready to march at one hour's notice! there has been a great cavalry fight up near Kelly's ford our men gained the victory! I think they intended to have had our Brigade march up there if the reb's had been likely to crossed the river! but as our men drove them back I hardly think we shall march very soon! our men captured their papers which contained all their plans Stuart (Stuart) 's plan was to make a raid into Maryland with 12 thousand cavalrymen my mind is that he has failed in his calculations! we are doing picket duty in the woods the picket line extend's across the hill's through thick pines and ceder's (cedars) with here and there a small clearing! one of Co: E boy's was shot a few nights ago while on picket the ball passed through his arm! the bush whackers are spying around our line all the time! Dowd and I are going to try and get permission to go beyond our lines as scouts if we get the chance we will be just in our element for no business would suit us better! we do not have chance to sleep but very little when we are on picket the last time I was out I slept about 45 minute's we saw nothing of any rebs that night but a pesky wildcat was prowling about my post the most of the night its yell's did not sound very pleasant! Its against orders to shoot unless at a reb but if I get a chance to take good aim at the beast I shall halt Mr wildcat and then fire. if the oficer's (officers) say anything I will make them believe that I thought it was a reb shure (sure)!

"Letter Written by Henry Welch." Henry Welch to His Aunt and Uncle. June 12, 1863. Accessed March 22, 2018.
[http://cwl.dhinitiative.org/islandora/object/HamiltonCivilWar:1093?solr_nav\[id\]=daa64f67a3c93642b041&solr_nav\[page\]=0&solr_nav\[offset\]=16](http://cwl.dhinitiative.org/islandora/object/HamiltonCivilWar:1093?solr_nav[id]=daa64f67a3c93642b041&solr_nav[page]=0&solr_nav[offset]=16).

Samuel Cabbie's Letter

Massachusetts

1863

Dear Wife i have enlisted in the army i am now in the state of Massachusetts but before this letter reaches you i will be in North Carolina and though great is the present national difficulties yet i look forward to a brighter day When i shall have the opportunity of seeing you in the full enjoyment of freedom i would like to know if you are still in slavery if you are it will not be long before we shall have crushed the system that now oppresses you for in the course of three months you shall have your liberty. great is the outpouring of the colored people that is now rallying with the hearts of lions against that very curse that has separated you and me yet we shall meet again and oh what a happy time that will be when this ungodly rebellion shall be put down and the curses of our land is trampled under our feet i am a soldier now and i shall use my utmost endeavor to strike at the rebellion and the heart of this system that so long has kept us in chains . . . remain your own affectionate husband until death—Samuel Cabbie

"Samuel Cabbie Letter." Samuel Cabbie to Wife. 1863. Accessed March 22, 2018.

<https://www.civilwar.org/learn/primary-sources/samuel-cabbie-letter>.

Samuel Cabbie, a private in the Fifty-fifth Massachusetts Infantry (colored), was a slave before he joined the army. He was twenty-one years old.

Graphic Organizer—Life at War

Letter Title & Date	Description of the soldier	Location while writing.	Insight given on a soldier's life	Major events in the war at this time	Other features of note

Analyze a Written Document

Meet the document.

Type (check all that apply):

- | | | | | |
|---|------------------------------------|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Letter | <input type="checkbox"/> Speech | <input type="checkbox"/> Patent | <input type="checkbox"/> Telegram | <input type="checkbox"/> Court document |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Chart | <input type="checkbox"/> Newspaper | <input type="checkbox"/> Advertisement | <input type="checkbox"/> Press Release | <input type="checkbox"/> Memorandum |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Report | <input type="checkbox"/> Email | <input type="checkbox"/> Identification document | | <input type="checkbox"/> Presidential document |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Congressional document | | <input type="checkbox"/> Other | | |

Describe it as if you were explaining to someone who can't see it.

Think about: Is it handwritten or typed? Is it all by the same person? Are there stamps or other marks? What else do you see on it?

Observe its parts.

Who wrote it?

Who read/received it?

When is it from?

Where is it from?

Try to make sense of it.

What is it talking about?

Write one sentence summarizing this document.

Why did the author write it?

Quote evidence from the document that tells you this.

What was happening at the time in history this document was created?

Use it as historical evidence.

What did you find out from this document that you might not learn anywhere else?

What other documents or historical evidence are you going to use to help you understand this event or topic?





Name: _____

Date: _____

Essay

What was the American Civil War for those who were the “boots on the ground?”

Be sure to:

- Discuss the people and how they are doing physically, mentally, and emotionally.
- Provide your response to the inquiry question.
- Support your response with evidence – using quotes and data from primary and secondary source material.
- Write your essay and present your information in an organized way.
- Establish and maintain a formal style.
- Provide a concluding statement or section that supports the argument presented.