



ISD Virtual Learning

8th Grade Social Studies

May 5, 2020

8th Grade Social Studies Lesson: 32

Objective/Learning Target:
I can explain the life of a Civil War Soldier.

Warm Up



Examine the picture on the right of Union soldiers.

- ◆ What are some things you notice about the picture.
- ◆ Pay attention to the living conditions and clothing.

Warm Up



Some things you may have noticed:

- ◆ The men do not seem very clean and may have lived in unsanitary conditions.
- ◆ The tent in the background seems to barely stand and would not be great shelter for the soldiers.

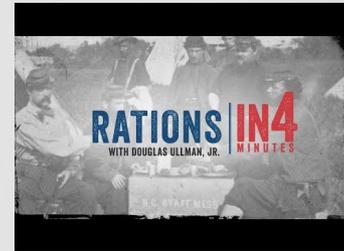
Lesson Activity



Background: Now that the Civil War has begun soldiers on both sides are facing many hardships in order to ensure victory for either the Union in the north or the Confederate states of America in the South. In this lesson you will study the lives of soldiers during the Civil War.

Lesson Activity

1. Watch the following video about Civil War soldiers' food supply:
2. Read through the letters sent from Civil War soldiers to their families on the following slides.
3. On a sheet of paper list at least 5 hardships soldiers faced while at war.



Lesson Activity

**A Letter by George P. McClelland, Union Soldier
Virginia
December 19, 1863**

Dear Sister Lizzie,

The weather has been very cold and the duty of the men is severe. They hardly have time enough to obtain sufficient wood to keep themselves warm.

We have a very strong guard; one half of the Regiment on duty every day for the reason we have an important post to guard and guerillas are as plenty as blackberries in summer. No one durst stray half a mile from camp or he will be "gobbled" up. It is really dangerous as we are liable to be picked off by murderous assassins at any time. I would sooner be in "front" – that is, with the main Army.

Pardon this scribble. I never take time to punctuate. I require a lecture from you or somebody else, then I'll be better.

Ever Your Brother,
George

Lesson Activity

**Letter from John Sweet, Confederate Soldier, to His Parents
Tennessee
November 1863**

We have just returned from a trip into East Tenn where we got big amounts of everything to eat and everything we eat is so good to me as I had been starved out so long on some bread & beef, all that we got while we were here besieging Chattanooga. up there we got sweet and Irish potatoes, chickens, molassas, wheat bread and everything that was good for a poor soldier. Oh, how I do wish that I could be at home now, for it is getting late in the evening and I have had nothing to eat since breakfast and no telling when we will get rations for our rations are out, since we left our ration wagons behind in coming here to this place, for I know you have all had a good & plentiful dinner. I know you will say poor John, but this is only a chapter in military service which we often read, but I am content and will be more so when we get rations. The independence of the bounty is what I want and I am willing to suffer for something to eat many, many days if it will only send me to my dear parents, a full and independent boy.

John H. Sweet

Lesson Activity

**Letter from Zachariah HJ Benefield, Confederate Soldier, to His Wife
Tennessee
April 1864**

Mrs Sary Jane Benefield

Dear beloved wife I seat myself this morning to drop you A few lines to let you know that I am well at this time and hoping this few lines may --- ---- to hand and find you enjoying the best of health Jane I have no mise of intrust to write to you Only we have had A hard march we marched five days it snowed and rained every day we are camped a- Zolicofer Tennessee Eleven miles from the line of Virginia. When you hear from me again I will be in Virginia. I reckon We have stopped at Zolicofer to rest A few days on Tuesday the 22 of March the snow fell two feet deep hear & it has been snowing & raining every since We are on our rode to Virginia I think

Jane we are faring very bad for something to eat we get flour with the brand in it & it is half oats & man can't hardly eat it we don't get half enough if it We steal a little & parish a little. We can't buy nothing our money ant no count... Give my love and best respects to all friends I must close so no more at present Only remains your truly husband until death

Write soon Good Bye When this you See remember Me

Z H J Benefield

Lesson Activity

On your paper you could have listed:

1. Food rations such as Hard Tack were typically hard to eat and often full of maggots.
2. Soldiers had to march many many miles day in and day out.
3. The weather could be a huge obstacle as it could be freezing in the winter or extremely hot in the summer.
4. Men were afraid to be attacked by guerillas or “murderous assassins if they strayed too far from camp.

Practice

Place yourself in the shoes of a Civil War soldier who is writing a letter to your loved ones back home.

Your letter should:

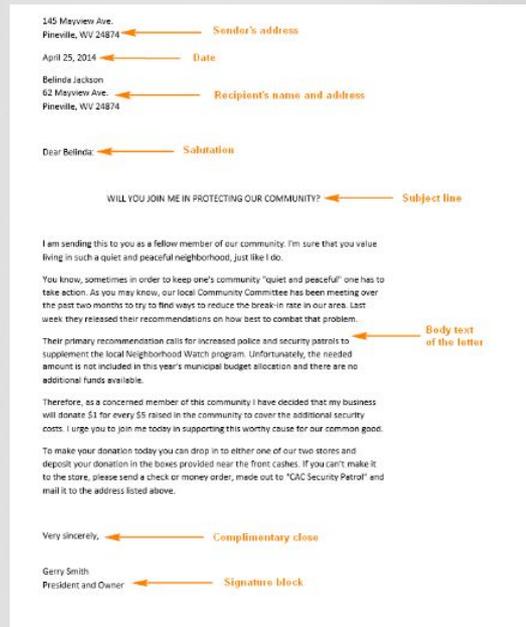
- ◆ Be at least 5 sentences.
- ◆ Talk about at least 3 hardships you face as a soldier.
- ◆ Be a properly formatted letter with correct spelling and grammar.
- ◆ Be Creative!

Practice- Examples

Your letter could include the following information:

1. Food rations such as Hard Tack
2. You had to march many many miles
3. The weather could be freezing or extremely hot in.
4. You are afraid to be attacked by guerillas or “murderous assassins if they strayed too far from camp.

Format:



Reflection

Summarize the life of a Civil War soldier and explain how the hardships could affect young men.

