

➔ Additional Activities ➔ Civil War Travel Trunk

In addition to the many activities presented in the Travel Trunk notebook, please browse here for additional ways to make the artifacts of this trunk more meaningful and edifying! And, please remember, *adjust all activities as required*—according to time allowed, grade level, and needs.



Haversack



A haversack was a small, sturdy bag carried on the back or over the shoulder by Civil War soldiers. The haversack contained essentials such as ammunition, food, supplies, writing materials for writing letters home, small tools, eating utensils, personal hygiene items such as soap, a toothbrush, comb, a straight razor, and even a deck of cards or harmonica for entertainment.

→What would you pack?

Fold a piece of paper horizontally three times, creating eight sections. Cut along the folds, making 8 strips of paper. On seven of the strips of paper, write down one thing you would put in your haversack and why. Use the eighth strip for a cover; staple the pieces together, creating a booklet. [Click here to help brainstorm some ideas.](#)

Tin Plate



The tin plate would normally be carried in the haversack with the ration of food (three days' worth until it was increased to five days' worth later in the war). These tin plates were used as a serving dish, frying pan, and if needed, a digging tool for fortification and fire pits. The initials "CS" in the center stand for: Confederate States.

→ Does Shiny Mean Lots of Good Food?

[Click here](#) to see an example of what a meal might've looked like during the Civil War. [Click here](#) to read about typical Civil War food (Pay special attention to the last paragraph for the Texas Confederate Soldiers). Fold a sheet of paper in half. On the top half, write a short letter home telling your parents about your dinner that night. On the bottom half, draw a tin plate with some typical Civil War food.

Eating Utensils (In Haversack)



Fork, Spoon, Knife—These eating utensils would have been carried in the soldiers' haversack. The forks typically had three tines. Sometimes the handle would be wooden or crafted out of bone; other times, the handle would be in the shape of a spoon. A soldier might have a matching knife, but often the silverware was mismatched—especially in the South, where supplies were difficult to come by.

→Imagine ...

Imagine the more difficult days for the Confederate soldiers during the war. Brainstorm with a friend what else they might've used their silverware for when times were tough. See if you can come up with five possibilities.

Photograph (In Haversack)



Although rather primitive in form, photography was greatly appreciated during the Civil War. Many soldiers carried photographs of loved ones in their haversacks and families back home could keep photos of the sons and sweethearts serving in the war. The Civil War also became the first war where war photos were taken. The photo found in the haversack (handle with care, please!) is a replica of an “ambrotype” photograph—the replacement of daguerreotype (duh-GEH-ruh-tipe) photography. Though somewhat hazy and low-definition photography, people from both the North and the South placed great value on these images of loved ones.

→**If You Had been in the Civil War ...** and had the finances to purchase one small photo to keep in your haversack, who would it be of? Who in your life gives you hope during hard times?

→[Click here to see more Ambrotype Photos.](#)

Hard Tack



Hardtack is a simple flour and water cracker that gained prominence in the Civil War for its cheap manufacturing, astounding longevity, and terrible taste. Without refrigeration and other modern food saving technologies, most food would only remain fresh for a short time. Hardtack, however, remained edible for long periods of time. The downside to hardtack's longevity was the hard consistency. Hardtack was often called "sheet iron" or "molar breakers" and soldiers would often have to smash, soak, or gnaw hardtack before it could be properly eaten.

→Yum?

Take a piece of paper and fold it into fourths, open it back up, and draw lines dividing the four sections. Watch the video: [How to: Make Hardtack](#). Answer one of the following questions in each section:

- 1) What was Hardtack used for?
- 2) What are the three ingredients for Hardtack?
- 3) Using a thesaurus, write five words describing the consistency of Hardtack.
- 4) What would be one way to make Hardtack easier to eat?

Lye Soap



During the Civil War, soap was not the sweet smelling and gentle soap of today. Instead, it was made with fat, vinegar, ashes, and lye (a strong corrosive solution). It was guaranteed to get you clean, if you did not mind some of your skin sloughing off with the dirt. Clothes washed with lye soap fared better than soldiers' skin. Many soldiers were convinced that if you washed off too much surface dirt and grime, you invited disease into the open pores.

→ **Back Home Contributions ...** Perhaps the lye soap wasn't perfect, perhaps it was rough on the skin. But think of these things: would you rather have lye soap or no soap? [Lye soap was a great deal of work to prepare and send to the soldiers.](#) Write a journal entry on cleaning your uniform with lye soap. Be sure to include thoughts of the people back home who made the soap and sent it to you.

Canteen



Nowadays, it's easy to get water, however, during the Civil War, water wasn't always readily available. Civil War soldiers did a fair amount of marching from one place to another, and were not always near a stream, creek, river, or well. So, it was important for them to bring some water along with them as they marched on, using canteens to carry their water. Civil War canteens typically held enough water to get a soldier through a day—about 5-6 cups.

→Take a Closer Look ...

Touch, hold, and strap over your shoulder the canteen from the Traveling Trunk. On a piece of paper, answer these questions:

- 1) Describe what the canteen looks like.
- 2) What is the canteen made from?
- 3) How heavy does the canteen feel?
- 4) How heavy do you think the canteen would feel full of water?
- 5) Why would it be important to stay close to a water source during the Civil War?
- 6) Make a sketch of the canteen.

Bandages



During the Civil War, manufactured bandages were often not produced quickly enough to keep up with the need. So, many mothers, wives, sisters, and sweethearts of the soldiers (North & South) would make bandages to send to the front lines and hospitals. These women would use sheets, bedspreads, old shirts, tablecloths, towels, petticoats, dresses, or any other material they could find. They would cut the fabric into strips and roll them up. A cloth bandage strip might've been washed and reused several times.



[Civil War Bandage Exhibit](#)

→What Would You Use? Think of cloth items in your house you would be willing to cut into strips and donate to soldiers in the Civil War. Make a list of ten items that you would be willing to sacrifice and cut into bandage strips.

Confederate Gray Wool Short Jacket



During the Civil War, wool was a very practical fabric to use for uniforms. It was widely available and consequently the most common fabric of the Civil War, both for uniforms and for everyday clothing. Wool was also very durable with very tight weaving that reduced fraying.

→ **Analyzing the Confederate Gray Wool Short Jacket**

Take a piece of paper and fold it in half lengthwise. While it's still folded, cut three slits on the top layer creating four flaps (approximately the same size). On the top of each flap write the following attributes:

- 1) Texture
- 2) Buttons
- 3) Size
- 4) Purpose

On the inside of each flap, write a sentence (or two) elaborating on your thoughts on each attribute.

→ [See more Confederate Jackets here.](#)

Civil War Soldier's Shirt

Soldiers typically carried an extra shirt which was either home-made or purchased from the “sutler”—a traveling general store that followed armies and sold personal items to the troops. There were far fewer sutlers in Texas and the rest of the Confederacy, so many Texan soldiers had to rely on the home-made soldier shirts. Many were made from “linsey-woolsey”—a blend of linen and wool. Many were made out of cotton as well.



→ Compare & Contrast ...

[It's rare to find photos of Civil War Soldiers in their shirts, without the jacket covering the shirt.](#) Compare the texture of the shirt to the texture of the gray jacket. Make a list of five reasons that the shirt was a practical article of clothing for the soldiers to have.

→ [Compare & Contrast Union and Confederate Uniforms Here](#)

Confederate Army Civil War Kepi

Both Union and Confederate soldiers used the French-influenced kepi cap for a head covering; however, it was more prominent among Confederate troops. Realistically, the kepi was rather impractical, for it offered little protection from the elements. The colors, materials, and construction of the kepis varied. A specially designed kepi for the Hood's Texas Brigade had a star mounted on the front.



Kepi

→ [A Special Kepi for the Texas Brigade](#)

→ Click on the link above to find an aged-replica of the kepi designed for the Hood's Texas Brigade in the Civil War. Fold a sheet of paper into four quadrants and write one or two sentences explaining a difference between the kepi in the trunk and the Hood's Texas Brigade kepi in each quadrant. (Be sure to scroll to the bottom of the linked page to find extra detail!)

Bugle



Bugles were an important form of communication during the Civil War. Before electronic technology became available, various bugle calls were used; each having its own meaning or command. The bugle calls indicated daily routines of camp, relaying instructions, assembling leaders, and giving marching orders, and more. The bugle calls were short tunes and offered clear communication in the midst of raucous and confusing battlefields.

→ [Bugle Calls](#)

- Take out a sheet of loose-leaf paper and number 1 – 11, skipping lines. Then, click on the “Bugle Calls” link above. Listen and watch the video carefully. List the 11 Bugle Calls demonstrated on the video.
- Put a star next to any of the Bugle Calls that sound familiar to you.
- At the bottom, write why you think Bugles were used for giving directions during the Civil War.



Painted by W. M. HUNT

Entered according to act of Congress in the year 1863, by William M. Hunt in the Clerk's Office of the District Court of Mass.

Lith. by D. C. FABRONIUS

BUGLE CALL.
23271

Published for the Proprietor by D. C. FABRONIUS, Studio Building Tremont St. Boston, Mass.

GOVERNMENT
July 28 1863
RECEIVED

(Deposited April 27. 1863
Records Vol. 38. Page 135.)

78:104

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Playing Cards



In between battles, there was a fair amount of waiting-around time for the Civil War soldiers. One way they passed the time was to play card games. Twenty-one, poker, keno, and euchre were common card games played by both Confederate and Union soldiers. Because the South had supply shortages, it was harder for them to acquire decks of cards; however, if they captured Union soldiers, they often took their cards.

→ [How to Play 21](#)

→ If possible, bring in a deck of cards from home. Then, try to imagine that you are a weary Civil War soldier; that you've had a long hard day and just want to relax with friends. Click on the link above, learn the (quite easy) rules of 21, and try a game! Remember, there were no TVs, computers, video games, or any electronics. Playing cards was a very popular way to pass the time during the Civil War.

Slave Shackles



Slave shackles were made out of heavy iron. They were used to constrain captured Africans who were brought to the American continent, and sold at slave markets. Once an African was resigned to a life of slavery, the shackles were not needed as much. However, they (along with whips) were brought out again to punish uncooperative slaves and captured runaway slaves. Whenever a slave was sold to another slaveholder, shackles were often used during the time of transition. Slave shackles are reminders that slaves were treated like property rather than people.

→Think About this ...

Hold and touch the slave shackles for a few moments. Then take a sheet of paper and fold it into four quadrants. Write the following in the quadrants:

- 1) Describe the appearance, weight, and feel of the Slave Shackles.
- 2) Use thesaurus to make a list of ten words on how you think the slaves felt being constrained this way?
- 3) Why do you think people thought it was O.K. to put shackles on captured people and then use them as slaves?
- 4) Imagine you were captured and put in shackles. Using a thesaurus, make a list of ten verbs (action words) describing how you might react.

Cotton Balls



Cotton was a very valuable crop in the South. Many southerners made a great deal of money from selling cotton—using slaves to do the backbreaking work of growing and harvesting the cotton. As the Civil War continued, the Union arranged for blockades preventing the South from shipping and transporting cotton. The Confederate cotton plantation owners had an extremely difficult time getting their cotton out for sale, causing a great loss of income. Many Europeans who had bought so much cotton from the South turned to other cotton-growing countries instead such as India and Egypt. It took a long time for the south to resume profitable cotton production again.

→ Picking Cotton

→ Watch the video “Picking Cotton” and make a list of ten things the cotton pickers did during the clip. Touch and hold the cotton balls from the trunk for a moment. Are they soft and fluffy all around? Under your list, write down what might happen to a person’s hands and back after picking cotton all day for a full cotton season (about 165 days).

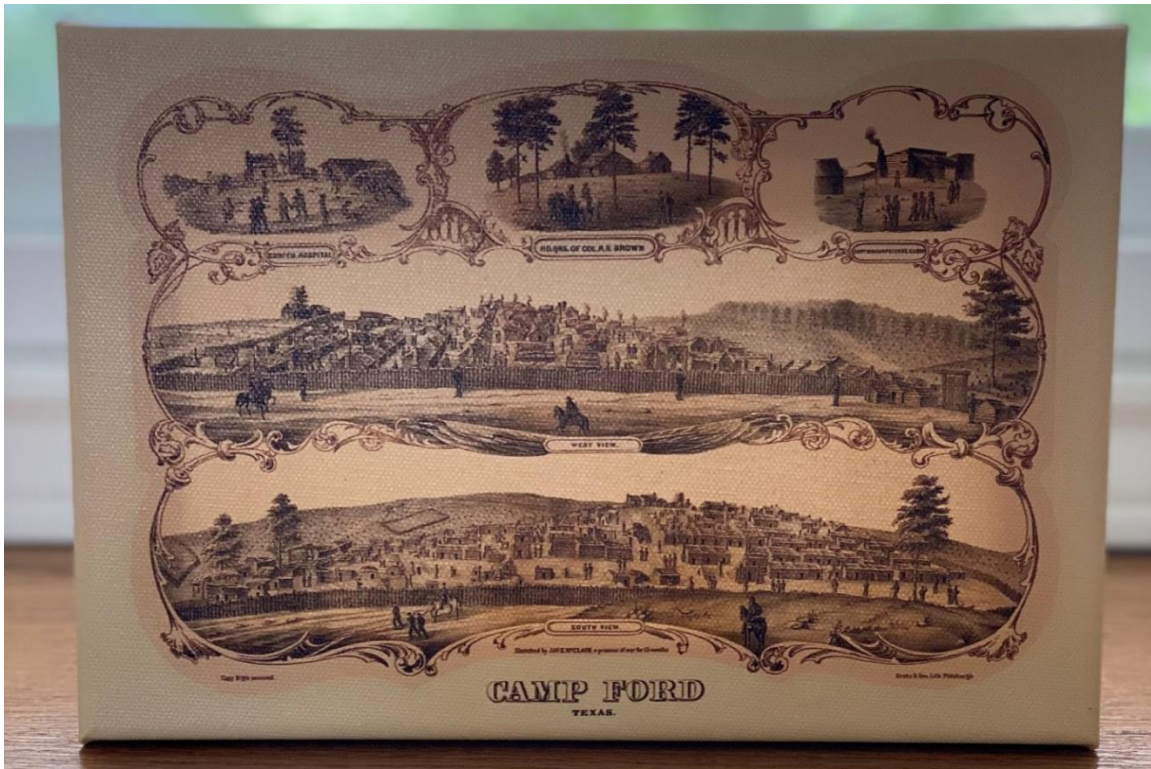
Wallpaper Samples



In the 1800s, wallpaper was a popular way to decorate homes. During the American Civil War, unused (or sometimes used!) wallpaper came in rather handy, for many supplies were blocked from reaching the Confederate states, including paper. Most paper mills were in the North, so the scarcity of paper in the South forced southerners to become resourceful. Many used wallpaper as a substitute for regular paper. Some southern editors used rolls of wallpaper to print their newspapers. Some used wallpaper for envelopes or letter-writing.

→**Take a Close Look ...** at the wall paper samples in the trunk. If desired, [click here and find some more wallpaper designs](#). Take a half sheet of plain white paper and decorate it with your own wallpaper design. Then, write an imaginary letter to an older brother who is serving in the Civil War. Remember to keep it encouraging and hopeful! Fold your wallpaper note so that it can serve as an envelope as well. Address it with a made-up name and Camp Ford, Texas; Galveston, Texas; Gettysburg, Pennsylvania; or Manassas, Virginia (or research other places Texans served during the Civil War).

POW Camp—Camp Ford Engraving



This canvas reproduction was originally a wood cut engraving of the Camp Ford POW Camp in Tyler, TX—the largest Civil War POW Camp west of the Mississippi. By July 1864, Camp Ford held its highest number of prisoners: over 5,300. Intriguingly, this engraving was crafted by a Union POW who had been held at Camp Ford for one year: 1864-1865. Within the engraving, you can find the hospital, the headquarters of Col. Reuben R. Brown—the commander of the camp, the cabin of captured Union Captain Elias Fraunfelder, the west view of the camp, and the south view of the camp.

→[Camp Ford](#)

→Take a good look at the Camp Ford engraving (you can also find it on the link above). Fold a sheet of paper into fourths and answer these questions by analyzing the image:

- 1) Who sketched this Camp Ford image?
- 2) Was this person a prisoner or a guard?
- 3) What three buildings are labeled in the image?
- 4) Make a list of ten synonyms (thesaurus use is encouraged!) to describe the buildings of the “South View.”

36-Star Flag



Treue Der Union Monument
347 High Street
Comfort, TX 78013

It can be confusing to keep track of all the flags used during the Civil War. Both the Union and the Confederacy went through a variety of flags during the four years of battle (April 12, 1861 - April 9, 1865). The Union used the United States flag during the war which was a 36-star flag—in 1865—the year the war ended. The Confederate flags varied even more in design. The 36-Star flag has a special connotation for Texas and the Civil War. It is the flag that is flown next to the Treue der Union Monument in Comfort, Texas to honor the mostly-German immigrants who were killed as they tried to flee from Texas to join Union troops. The 36-star American flag for this monument was the first authorized to fly at half-mast in perpetuity.

→ [Treue der Union Monument](#)

→ Click on the link above and examine the various Treue der Union images. Write down a list of five conclusions you can make from analyzing these photographs.