

CIVIL WAR ARCHIVES

ARCHIVES: The dictionary describes "archives" as the records or historical documents of an institution or community. Most of the vital documents about United States history reside in our National Archives in Washington, D.C. These documents are used by historians to interpret our nation's past. To help us interpret the events of the Civil War, you will create a Civil War Archives or museum. Following you will find all the information necessary as to criteria, suggested topics, requirements, etc. to construct your Civil War Archival project.

GUIDELINES:

1. Look over the list of suggested projects and choose one to research, design, and construct for our Civil War museum displays. If you have a topic which I did not list, just talk to me about your idea and we will discuss it.
2. Students will be responsible for creating a 3-sided display that represents the chosen topic in an interesting and educational manner. Sketches of what display will look like must be approved by me before any permanent attachment to display board is made.
 - A. Three-sided project boards are available at Hobby Lobby or Michael's
 - B. You will have some class time to research, design, and construct your display; however, out-of-class time may also be necessary
 - ★ plan carefully, display should go through planning stages
 - ★ be creative in your display design; your goal is to design a display that is both **ACCURATE** and **ENTERTAINING**
 - ★ **TITLE** must be neat and clear
 - ★ use bright and contrasting colors (limit to 3) for a more pleasing presentation
 - ★ use borders, mat/frame your pictures, type captions, use appropriate maps, diagrams, etc. which focus the eye of the viewer on the display and makes the presentation more pleasing
 - ★ use precise lettering (use stencils or type titles, etc. on the computer)
 - C. Though the display will have many captions, quotes, etc., you do not want to overwhelm the viewer; therefore limit all the words on the display to a maximum of 500 for the entire display.

BATTLE-RELATED TOPICS

1. Present a famous battle. Include information on commanders, geography of the battle, dramatic moments, and ultimate results. Many museums use a diorama (small model) to give a visual dimension to the display. Audio tape can give the battle great flavor as Civil War music or dramatic reading is played in the background.
2. Compare two generals of the War - one Union and one Confederate. What common threads run through the biographies of both men?
3. Research the role of African American soldiers in the war. Focus on one famous regiment i.e. the 54th Massachusetts) or a famous/infamous personality of the war (Frederick Douglass).
4. Research uniforms of both sides and create a display that shows the wide variety of fighting attire. (Perhaps a model(s) dressed in full uniform of a particular side).
5. Find pictures or drawings of a typical camp set-up. Build a small diorama of a camp showing tents, campfires, soldiers, etc.
6. Research the weapons (bayonets, knives, pistols, sabers, rifles, artillery, etc.) of the Civil War. Also show the destructive power and carnage these weapons caused.
7. Research the foods the soldiers on both sides ate during the war. What was a 'typical' meal for a 'Yank' or 'Reb'? You might find a recipe i.e. hardtack) and make and share as part of your display.
8. Research the origins of the Medal of Honor during the Civil War. Display several of the winners, both white and African American.
9. Research ironclads and the impact they had on Naval history; create a diorama of the famous battle of the Monitor and the Merrimac.
10. Research Sherman's 'March to the Sea'. Display would cover information about Sherman, total war, the path of destruction left after Sherman and his troops.
11. Research hospitals, dressing stations, medical instruments, tools, doctors, etc. utilized during the Civil War.

PEOPLE TOPICS

12. Create a display on an important figure of the Civil War - list of candidates is huge. Be sure to include information about their early life, life during the war, role they played in the war, what happened to them, if they survived, after the war.
13. Research and present information dealing with the assassination of Abraham Lincoln: people, places, dates, times, etc. (at time line of events with pictures could be very dramatic).

14. Present a display on the Civil War first ladies: Mary Todd Lincoln and Varina Davis.
15. Create a display on Civil War villains like John Wilkes Booth, or William Clarke Quantrill, etc.

MISCELLANEOUS TOPICS

16. Show the development of Confederate and Union flags used throughout the war.
17. Research and display the work of the Red Cross during the Civil War; Clara Barton and her contribution to the Red Cross at this time in history.
18. Research the contributions that women, both Union and Confederate, made during the Civil War.
19. Research the role of spies during the Civil War. What made an effective spy? How difficult was it to detect spies in a civil war where both sides are nearly identical in dress and language? Who were the spies of the Civil War - male and female.
20. Prepare a display of the timeline of events of the Civil War. Use pictures drawings, or other visuals to enhance the display.
21. Research the background and origin of Civil War music and musicians. Perhaps create a CD with many of the songs of the day, of both sides.
22. Research the role of Kansas during the Civil War; battles fought in Kansas; famous personalities, etc.

These are only a few suggestions. If you have a topic I did not list, and I'm sure there are many, please come and discuss it with me.

Now, choose a partner, select a topic, let me know your choice, and then get started on creating your part of our Civil War Archive!!

GOOD LUCK AND GOOD RESEARCH!!!

CIVIL WAR PROJECT

CRITERIA FOR CIVIL WAR ARCHIVE PROJECTS

	<u>Possible points</u>	<u>Points earned</u>
A. The display is attractive, creative, & interesting	8	
B. Main theme is clear & title helps explain the theme	8	
C. Information is thorough, appropriate, and accurate	30	
D. Pictures, photographs, drawings, diagrams, graphs, & other elements add information & make ideas clear	20	
E. Space, shapes, textures, & colors provide interest & make the display easier to understand	10	
F. Display does not appear too full nor too empty	10	
G. Overall appearance is neat & presentable	6	
H. Spelling, grammar, & punctuation is correctly used throughout the display	8	
Total points	100	