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Dedication

To Martha, Jordan, and Allison

Acknowledgments

Grateful acknowledgment to my editor, Laura Strom, who has guided me through several books in Good Year's "Everyday Life" series. Without her advice and support, this book would not have been possible.

I would also like to thank Roberta Dempsey, Acquisitions Manager at Good Year, for giving me the opportunity to be a part of such an exciting project. Her support and confidence in me is likewise appreciated.

Everyday Life: The Civil War contains lessons and activities that reinforce and develop skills defined by the National Council of Social Studies. These lessons and activities focus on, but are not limited to, (1) the causes of the Civil War; (2) the course of the war and its effects on the American people; and (3) the plans of reconstruction that followed the war. In addition to social studies, some activities at the ends of the various chapters deal with such skills as writing, critical thinking, and math. All activities, of course, relate to the Civil War. See www.goodyearbooks.com for information on how lessons correlate to specific standards.

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Introduction

E*veryday Life: The Civil War* is exactly what the title implies. It is a survey of what everyday life was like during a most trying time in our nation's history. Battles are mentioned in connection with other events, but, except for the First Battle of Bull Run, they are not the focus of the book.

In *Everyday Life: The Civil War*, you will follow young Union and Confederate soldiers through training and on to the hardships and boredom of camp life. You will accompany them as they go into battle for the first time and share their feelings and apprehensions. All the while, you will learn how they dressed, how they were equipped, and what they ate. You will also learn about innovations, or changes, in warfare that impacted the daily lives of these young men.

In *Everyday Life: The Civil War*, you will come to appreciate the role played by women in the war—not only on the home fronts, but also in the hospitals and on the battlefields. You will learn that a number of women served as spies, and some even disguised themselves as men and fought as soldiers. Also, you will learn of the contributions of African American soldiers, without whose services the Union might not have won the war.

The Civil War was unlike any other war in our nation's history. It pitted American against American and was characterized by unbelievable suffering and slaughter. In *Everyday Life: The Civil War*, you will learn about conditions in field hospitals and prisons, as well as about the hardships endured by the civilian populations of both the North and the South.

A variety of activities following each chapter of the book should make learning with *Everyday Life: The Civil War* an interesting and rewarding experience.

Walter A. Hazen





Use Your Critical Thinking Skills

Think about the questions presented at right. Then write your best answer to each on the lines provided.

1. Robert E. Lee turned down a chance to command the Union Army when the Civil War began. Would you have done the same? Why or why not?

2. In your opinion, could the Civil War have been avoided? Why or why not?

3. How do you think the history of the United States might have been different if the South had been allowed to secede from (quit) the Union?

4. The issue of states' rights was at the core of the break between the North and the South. Should a state have the right to disregard a federal law it does not like or considers against its interest? Why or why not?





eighteenth President of the United States, died of cancer in 1885 at the age of sixty-three.

Ulysses Simpson Grant was born in Point Pleasant, Ohio, in 1822. He was a shy youth who spent most of his time caring for the animals on his father's farm. He was especially fond of horses. He rode every chance he got and by the time he was twelve was considered an expert horseman. Neighbors were often shocked to see him riding around the countryside standing upright on his saddle.

In 1839 Grant's father got him an appointment to West Point. He proved to be only an average student, but he did excel at horsemanship. Upon becoming a second lieutenant, Grant hoped to be assigned to the cavalry. Unfortunately, there were no openings in the cavalry at the time, and he was placed in the infantry.

Grant fought and served well in the Mexican War of 1846–1848 (although two fellow officers by the names of Jefferson Davis and Robert E. Lee drew more attention). Grant stayed in the army until 1854, when he resigned to return to the civilian world. Attempts at several occupations resulted in failures. At first, Grant tried his hand at farming. When this failed, he worked for a while in a real estate office. Still not satisfied, in 1860 he moved his family to Galena, Illinois, where he worked with his brothers in their father's tannery business. A year later, the Civil War broke out, and Grant once more found himself in the army.

This time he rose quickly in the ranks. Four months after the war's beginning, Grant was a brigadier general. Two years later he was promoted to major general. And in 1864, Lincoln made him a lieutenant general and gave him overall command of the Union armies.

Grant proved to be an able and brilliant commander. His strategy was to find the enemy and strike at him with everything he had. He did not agree with the lightning tactics of such previous commanders as France's Napoleon Bonaparte. Nor did he believe in conducting a limited war, as did Robert E. Lee. Grant's plan of war called for hammering away at the enemy with every means available until his opponent was defeated. In the end this strategy would mean victory for the Union.

Sir Winston Churchill, England's great leader during World War II, paid



General Robert E. Lee, in a picture taken at his home in Richmond shortly after his surrender at Appomattox Court House, Virginia.





Put On Your Thinking Cap

Put on your thinking cap and write your best answers to these questions. Continue your answers on a separate sheet of paper. A score of 100 percent indicates that your thinking cap is critically adjusted.

1. A large number of soldiers in both the Union and the Confederate armies were under the age of sixteen. Some were as young as thirteen. These boys were not drummer boys but actual fighting soldiers. What do you think might account for so many of them being able to openly enlist despite their ages?

2. Fraternization, or associating with others in a friendly way, occurred quite often among people on opposite sides of the Civil War. This was especially true regarding pickets. Pickets were soldiers sent ahead of the main army to check on what the enemy was doing. On many occasions pickets of the opposing armies, instead of firing on each other, met and exchanged pleasantries. They often sat and talked of home and traded food and tobacco. Why do you think fraternization between enemy forces occurred more frequently during the Civil War than in other wars involving Americans?

3. You have learned that more than 600,000 soldiers died in the Civil War. Some estimates even place the number as high as 700,000. New weapons, along with disease and sickness, accounted for the majority of these casualties. But can you think of an outdated military tactic that also resulted in the unnecessary deaths of thousands more?





This reward poster appeared five days after Lincoln died. His murderer, John Wilkes Booth, was trapped and killed two weeks later in a barn near Bowling Green, Virginia.

to the sea” during the latter months of 1864. Almost nothing could be seen but gutted factories and homes with little more standing than chimneys. The completeness of the destruction in some areas was mind-boggling.

Travelers who toured the South immediately after the war told similar stories of the ruin and desolation. In many places nothing remained. Houses, crops, fences, cows, horses, pigs—all were gone. Confederate soldiers returning home had little on which to build a new life. Often, they had nothing to eat. Even ex-Confederate generals went about seeking any kind of work that would allow them to feed their families.

Why, you might ask, did people not just go to the nearest general store and buy what they needed? Certainly some people had stashed away considerable sums in the event of such hard times. The answer is that Confederate money after the war was practically worthless. The prices of foodstuffs and other needed items were simply out of the reach of many. With nothing to eat, widows and orphans who had been reduced to begging filled the streets of Southern towns. Federal relief commissions set up shortly after the fighting surely prevented these victims of the war from starving to death.

Without money or credit, planters had no way to recover their losses. They could not borrow money to put in crops or to pay hired hands. As a result, many planters were forced to divide their holdings just to survive. Others made do as best they could. One visitor to a South Carolina community reported seeing an ex-planter sitting in the corner of what once had been his magnificent estate. All he had left was a shell of his former lovely home. What was the planter doing? He was supporting himself by selling tea and molasses to any of his former slaves who happened to pass by.

Southerners reacted to the end of the war in different ways. Many welcomed Lee’s surrender and the peace that it brought. Lee himself even stated that it was time to put the past behind and cooperate with the North in restoring the South to its feet.

Although there were no guerrilla activities or “last stands” by diehard Rebels, there was a lot of resentment and hatred on the part of some individuals. Many Southerners were bitter because they found themselves poverty-stricken after the fighting ceased. They had lost everything, and they would blame the Yankees (a commonly used slang term for Northerners) for many years to come for their desperate plight. Hate seemed to be the one thing that kept some of them going. One ex-hotel owner who found himself penniless told a reporter that he lived only to hate the North. He stated that

