

2012

RE-ENACTORS OF THE AMERICAN CIVIL WAR

SCHOOL FIELD TRIP FORM



Name: _____

Date: _____

Class: _____

Date Attended: _____

The American Civil War (1861-1865) is of singular importance in American history. It tested and defined the United States of America as no other time before or since. A Civil War reenactment is a living history event at which not only the battles, but also the manners and customs of the 1860s are brought to life. As you visit the reenactment, try to complete all items below.

Section One: The American Civil War

1. What is another name for the American Civil War?

2. What is today's date? How do you know?

3. Ask a Union soldier why he is fighting.

4. Ask a Confederate soldier why he is fighting.

5. What was the greatest killer of soldiers during the Civil War?

6. What was the role of the artillery during Civil War battles?

7. Find medical personnel. Ask them about the latest methods for treating the wounded.

8. Write the words to a verse of a favorite Northern song:

9. Write the words to a verse of a favorite Southern song:

10. Who won the American Civil War? Why?

Section Two: Soldiers and Civilians of the 1860s

1. Describe the Union camp:

2. Describe the Confederate camp:

3. Describe the "town":

4. What did the soldiers eat?

5. What did soldiers do when they were not fighting?

6. Were any soldiers from foreign countries? If yes, what countries?

7. Why did soldiers get into the army?

8. What do civilians do?

9. What is a picket line?

Section Three: The Reenactment

1. What is a suttler?

2. Name one (sutler) and describe it.

3. How did soldiers shoot?

4. How were they killed or wounded?

5. How do they know who wins a battle?

6. Aside from battles, what other kinds of events did you observe?

7. Draw a map of the reenactment site, labeling important locations, such as Union and Confederate camps, Town, sutlers, battlefield, and artillery.

8. How many different kinds of flags did you see?

Label and sketch at least three of them.

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Section Four: Reenacting

1. Find a person with a “first person” impression and interview him or her.

What is their 1860s background?

What is their “present” (period) situation?

What are their views on the war?

Do they have any “future” plans?

What are they?

What are they are in their 21 century lives?

Why do they reenact?

2. Re-enactors use the word or “FARBY” (Far be it for me to criticize, but I don’t believe Union soldiers wore Nikes!) to describe anything that is not appropriate for the time and place they are portraying. Can you spot anything “farby”?

3. Ask a re-enactor what it costs to get into reenacting.

4. Write a few paragraphs summarizing your visit to the reenactment.

Section Six (optional):

Write a letter to RACW about your visit to the reenactment.

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