

How do we know what we know? *Foundations*

Unit 8: Civil War

Name:

Date:

Period:

Part I: Texas Leaves the United States

When Texas was an independent country, the Republic of Texas had worked for nine years to be **annexed** to the United States. The **Republic of Texas** finally achieved its goal in **1845** when it became the **28th state in the Union**. Then, just sixteen years later, the people of Texas voted to **secede** from the United States. **Most Texans no longer wanted to be part of the nation they had worked so hard to join.**

Texas was one of **eleven Southern states** that seceded from the Union. These Southern states were united by their common **slave-based agricultural economies**. They called themselves the **Confederate States of America**, or simply, the **Confederacy**. The secession of those Southern states caused a civil war between Northerners and Southerners. **The Civil War lasted four long years, and was the bloodiest war in American history.**

Studying the Civil War can bring up a lot of questions. What caused hundreds of thousands of men to fight against their countrymen, and in some cases, their own families? What was life like for those soldiers who experienced so much death and violence? How did families survive the destruction that occurred around them? What did this war mean for the enslaved people in the South? What was the outcome of the war? And how did all of this affect Texas and Texans?

As always, we can find answers to many of our questions about the past from the people who lived through the events themselves.

What types of materials and what kind of information do you expect to see in this lesson about primary source materials from the Civil War? Check AT LEAST FOUR .

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|---|---|
| ☐ Video footage of the war | ☐ How families at home survived |
| ☐ Letters from families and soldiers | ☐ What it was like in the army |
| ☐ Photographs | ☐ Accounts of people escaping the violence |
| ☐ Artwork, paintings, drawings | ☐ Maps of important battles or events |
| ☐ Social media posts | ☐ Alliances between the North and South |
| ☐ Official reports and documents | ☐ Partnerships with American Indians |
| ☐ Newspaper articles | ☐ Trade deals with France and Britain |

Part II: Primary Source Analysis

Directions: Choose 4 of the 10 available primary source materials that accompany this lesson. Analyze each material and record your response in the chart below.

Letter of Source	Summary of Source (1 - 2 sentences)	What inferences can you make about the Civil War era based on this source?
		From this material, I can infer that _____ _____
		From this material, I can infer that _____ _____
		From this material, I can infer that _____ _____
		From this material, I can infer that _____ _____