

How do we know what we know? *Grade Level*

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 all that apply.

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

Part II: Primary Source Analysis

Directions: Choose 6 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 - 3 sentences)	What inferences can you make about the Civil War era based on this source?