Lesson Plan: Civil War Photo Album

Teacher Preparation

1. Prior to assigning this project, students should have been taught a unit about the Civil War. Upon completion of that unit, have students create a photo album of the Civil War illustrating important people, battles and events of the war. Explain to students that the camera was invented just before the war had begun and the Civil War was the first time photojournalism was used to sway public opinion and bring information about the war directly to the public.

2. Tell students they will be gathering pictures that are historically accurate and arrange them in a scrap book in a clear, organized format. On each page accompanying the pictures should be a paragraph explaining the significance of the picture.

3. Requirements:
   
   (A) Pictures should include: six important people (three people from the Union and three people from the Confederacy), four major battles, three recognizable events (Signing of the Emancipation Proclamation, Gettysburg Address, etc.), and three multicultural contributions (African Americans, Native Americans, Women, etc.).
   
   (B) The content is historically accurate and timeframe relevant, i.e. pictures should not be in color.
   
   (C) The album follows a clear organizational framework and depicts the Civil War era.
   
   (D) The photographs and other memorabilia are creatively arrange so that they tell a story.

4. Samples from student albums appear on the following pages.

Contributed by: Ms. Sharon Stratemeyer, Thomas Pullen Arts Magnet K-8 School, 20785-0001,  
Ms. Kathleen Kurtz, Principal
Jefferson Davis served as the secretary of war under Franklin Pierce. He was the Senator of Mississippi when the Civil War started. Although he wanted to be a military commander Davis was elected to the six year term as President of the Confederate States in 1861. Some saw Davis as a man with limited views, narrow mindedness, and an unwillingness to compromise. He did manage to uphold the Confederacy until the final defeat. After the war Davis was imprisoned at Fort Monroe, VA for two years. During this time the government was debating on whether to try him for treason. He was released on bail and moved to a donated estate after a stay in Canada. He died in 1889.
Shiloh, 1862

After the Union victories at forts Henry and Donelson, Ulysses Grant led his troops south down the Tennessee River. By the end of March 1862, Grant's army was camped at Pittsburg Landing just north of the Mississippi border. The Confederate commanders in the west were willing to risk anything to stop Grant's advance. Moving north from Corinth with 40,000 troops, the Confederates launched their attack on the morning of April 6, near a Methodist church called Shiloh.

Grant's army was unprepared for the assault, having set up camp with no thoughts of defense or security. First, companies of Union soldiers fled in panic as the Confederates swept forward. Grant hurried to the battlefield as soon as he heard gunfire. The battle quickly turned into what historians called, "a hundred furious little conflicts," as pockets of Union troops fought fiercely to hold their ground.

The Battle Of Shiloh; or Pittsburg Landing, as the south called it, ended with the Union forces still in possession of the battlefield.
Clara Barton, was a genius at organization and the Civil War provided her with endless opportunities to use her skills. She had no official connection to the military, but she became so involved in collecting and delivering supplies to northern troops around Washington DC, that after the war she did not abandon relief work. She became involved in the Red Cross and devoted the rest of her life to the branch she founded in 1881.

LECTURE!

MISS CLARA BARTON,
OF WASHINGTON,
THE HEROINE OF ANDERSONVILLE,
The Soldier's Friend, who gave her time and fortune during the war to the Union cause, and who is now engaged in searching for the missing soldiers of the Union army, will address the people of

LAMBERTVILLE, in
HOLCOMBE HALL,
THIS EVENING,
APRIL 7TH, AT 7:30 O'CLOCK.
SUBJECT:
SCENES ON THE BATTLE-FIELD.
ADMISSION, 25 CENTS.
The United States Life Insurance Company

The above-named person:

Do hereby acknowledge to have volunteered this 18th day of September, 1863 to serve as a Soldier in the Army of the United States of America, for the period of three years, unless sooner discharged by proper authority.

Edmund Wirt

I promise, as a Virginian, that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the United States of America, and that I will serve them honestly and faithfully against all enemies or opposers whatsoever; and that I will observe and obey the orders of the President of the United States, and the orders of the officers appointed over me, according to the Rules and Articles of War.

Witness my hand

Edmund Wirt

I certify, of Virginia, that I have distinctly examined the above-named volunteer, personally to his enlistment, and that he is actually under age; that, to the best of my judgment and belief, he is of sound age and sound mind, and that he is in a condition to perform the duties of a soldier of an extra-battal unit.

Charles M. Stone

I certify, of Virginia, that I have distinctly examined the volunteer, personally to his enlistment, and that he is actually under age; that, to the best of my judgment and belief, he is of sound age and sound mind, and that he is in a condition to perform the duties of a soldier of an extra-battal unit.

Charles M. Stone
**William Carney**, was a twenty-two year old survivor of the Fifth-fourth regiment at Fort Wagner, Massachusetts. Despite him being wounded in his head, chest, right arm, and leg he managed to crawl back to camp after catching the company colors from falling. The poem, "The Old Flag Never Touched The Ground," was inspired by the heroism of him and the other survivors.

**Frederick Douglas,** without any formal education, became an articulate spokesman for the abolitionist movement. He edited a newspaper, "The North Star," and published editorials in other journals. When his autobiography was published in 1845, it made him a fugitive again, so he left the country and lived in England and later bought his freedom. So he was able to return to America and continue his work. During the Civil War, Douglas helped recruit blacks to serve in the Union Army.