

## War is Expensive

The Civil War was very expensive in both blood and treasure. The following lesson is designed as an inter-disciplinary exercise that will help students understand why money played such an important role in the Civil War.

#### **PURPOSE**

The purpose of this lesson is to help students understand how money paid for items used during the Civil War.

#### **GOALS**

At the end of this lesson, students will be able to:

- · List several items that soldiers used during the Civil War.
- Describe the money denominations issued by the United States during the Civil War Era.
- Solve basic mathematical problems with Civil War information as the subject.
- · Locate all Union states and Confederate states on a map.
- Locate operating Mints at the start of the Civil War.

#### **BACKGROUND**

The Civil War was fought between 1861 and 1865. The war took place in territories as far west as Arizona and in states as far north as Vermont. The cost of the war was astronomical. 2.5 million dollars was spent per day and approximately 8 billion dollars was spent by the end of the war.

With so much money spent, one would think that basic needs for soldiers were met. As the war dragged on, supplies became more scarce and therefore more expensive. By the end of the conflict many soldiers were barefoot and starving. What items were needed by soldiers for their everyday existence and how much did they cost?



### War is Expensive (continued)

#### MATERIALS NEEDED

- 1. Political map of the United States and Confederacy.
- 2. A Guide Book of United States Coins by R.S. Yeoman

#### INTRODUCTION

Open a discussion with students about their traveling experiences. Have students describe items they would take with them if they were going camping. What everyday items would be included and what items would they need to leave behind? Why?

#### STUDENT ACTIVITIES

- 1. Students will list 10 items that they would need while camping. Items may include but are not restricted to the following:
- Tent Sack
- BlanketCupPlaying cardsCan opener
  - Pots & pans Book
- Eating utensils
   Pencil & paper

In pairs or small groups, students will estimate the price of each item they list.

Students will add the prices for each item together and reach a total cost.

By using an inflation website such as: www.westegg.com/inflation have students determine the cost of their camping items if they were purchased during the Civil War.

- 2. Students will make a list of all coin denominations currently in use. With assistance from the instructor, the students will add to the list denominations used during the Civil War. Additional denominations include:
- Two-cent pieces
- Three-cent pieces
- Quarter Eagles (\$2.50)
- Half Eagles (\$5.00)
- Eagles (\$10.00)
- Double Eagles (\$20.00)

Students will solve the math problems provided.

**3.** Students will label the Confederate and Union states that existed at the start of the war on the map provided. Students will complete the map directions and answer the questions provided on the map direction sheet.

#### CONSLUSION

For a homework assignment, have students list 5 items from home of which they know the cost and come up with totals to pay for the items using denominations that are no longer used.

### **INTERNET RESOURCE**

Website: www.westegg.com/inflation

# PRINTED RESOURCE

A Guide Book of United States Coins by R.S. Yeoman This book has a listing for every coin minted in the United States. It serves as a great guide in finding the various coin denominations that have been employed in our nation's history.

# **Map Directions**

A map of the United States at the start of the Civil War is much different than a map of the United States today.

By using the list of states at the start of the war found below, follow the directions for the map and worksheet.

UNI	ION STATES	CONFEDERATE STATES	
California	Michigan	Alabama	
Connectic	ut Minnesota	Arkansas	
Delaware	Missouri	Florida	
Illinois	New Hampshire	Georgia	
Indiana	New Jersey	Louisiana	
Iowa	New York	Mississippi	
Kansas	Ohio	North Carolina	
Kentucky	Oregon	South Carolina	
Maine	Pennsylvania	Tennessee	
Maryland	Rhode Island	Texas	
Massachus	etts Vermont	Virginia	
	Wisconsin		
DIRECTIONS:	Label each of the states on the map.		
	Shade in each of the Union states on	e color and the Confederate states another color.	
	Answer the following questions with	the help of your map.	
I. Which Confederate state is the largest?			
2. Which Union state is the largest?			
3. Which two major bodies of water do Union states border?			
4. Which two m	ajor bodies of water do Confederate :	states border?	

### Map Directions (continued)

The Mint operated in several locations when the Civil War began. Below is a list of Mint sites that existed during that time and the mint mark placed on coins coming from each Mint. Please place an example of each mintmark in its appropriate state on your map.

#### **OPERATING MINTS IN 1861**

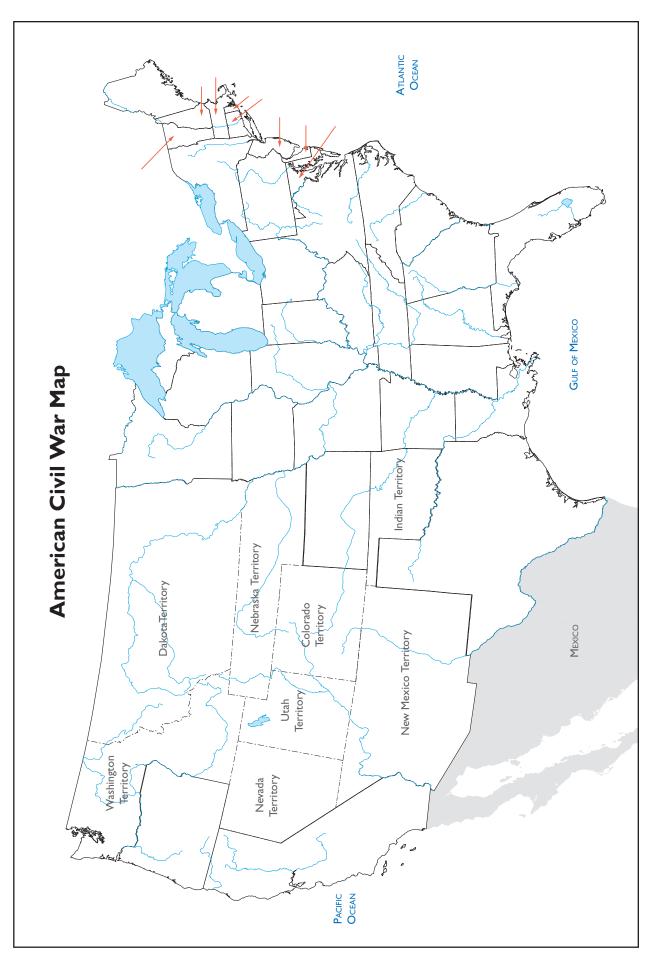
Charlotte, North Carolina - C

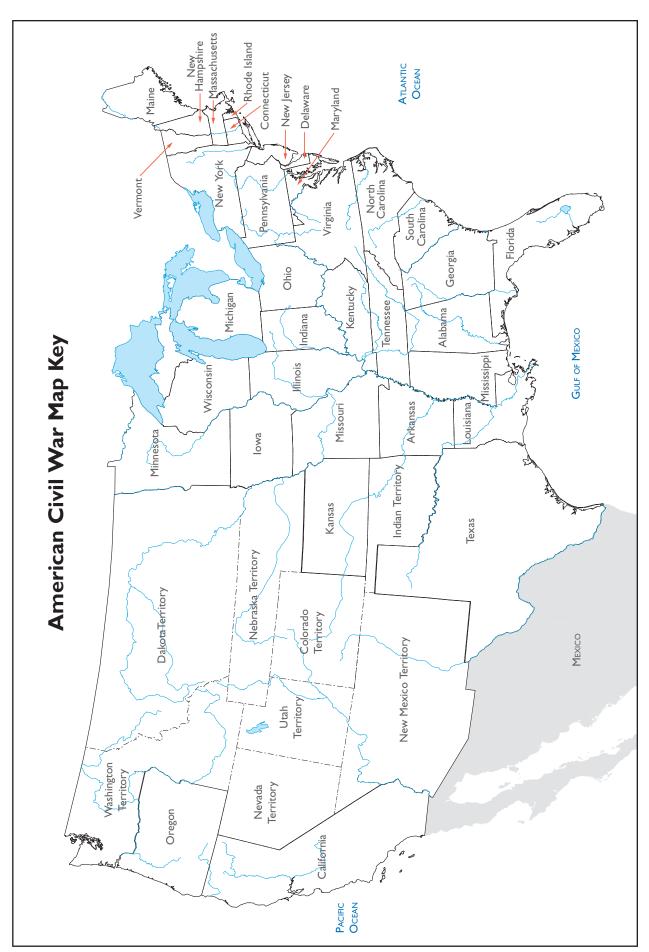
Dahlonega, Georgia – D

New Orleans, Louisiana - O

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania – P

San Francisco, California – S





## **Math Problems**

**DIRECTIONS:** Solve the following mathematical problems.

I.	There were 900,000 Confederate soldiers who fought in the Civil War. How many tens equal 900,000?		
	900,000 = tens		
2.	The Civil War started in 1861. Express 1861 in Roman numerals.		
3.	The Civil War ended in the year 1865. Is 1865 an even or odd number?		
4.	At the start of the war, Union soldiers were paid \$11 a month. If a soldier served for 3 years, how much money would he earn?		
5.	If a Civil War canteen held a quart of water, how many canteens would be needed to hold 4 gallons?		
6.	If a 12- pound cannonball could be shot 1,300 yards, how many feet would that equal?		
7.	If a bushel of potatoes fed 15 soldiers and cost \$2.25 in 1863, how much money would be needed to buy enough potatoes for 450 soldiers?		
8.	President Lincoln earned a salary of \$25,000 a year. If half of his yearly salary was paid in 2 cent pieces, how many coins would have been needed to pay him?		



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