

Subject Guides

Civil War

Greenwood Public Library



This pathfinder is designed to help you locate all kinds of information on the American Civil War. It focuses on materials relevant for students grades K-12; these materials include [online searches](#), [print materials](#), [multimedia items](#), [websites](#), and [teacher resources/activities](#).

The causes and consequences of the American Civil War are still being debated among historians today. Many of our nation's most notorious leaders and historical characters took part in the War Between the States. The resources provided in this pathfinder will help you study all aspects of the war using academic, primary source, and multimedia materials.

The print materials and multimedia materials were located using the Greenwood Public Library Evergreen search website, and they may all be located at Greenwood Public Library. The electronic materials were located through Google searches and other online databases.

Keywords & Searching Tips

When searching for information through an electronic database or Internet search engine, you may find more or stronger resources by using the following tips:

When looking for a particular phrase, such as *Civil War*, surround the phrase with quotation marks ("Civil War"). This ensures that your results will include this entire phrase, rather than just "Civil" or "War."

If you do not want something in your results, put a minus sign (-) in front of it. For example, if I do not want information regarding *Confederacy* in my Civil War search, I could type: "Civil War"-Confederacy.

If you want to search for more than one phrase at the same time, use the word "OR" between the phrases. For example, if I searched "Civil War" OR "Abraham Lincoln," I can locate materials that use either of these phrases.

You can narrow down your search even further by using the word "AND." If I want to research the battle of Fort Sumter during the Civil War, I can search "Civil War" AND "Fort Sumter" to get more appropriate results.

Try using the following search terms to locate various materials regarding Civil War.

- Abolition
- Afro-American soldiers
- Andersonville
- Brady, Mathew (Civil War photographer)
- Civil War

- Civil War artillery
- Civil War diaries
- Civil War letters
- Civil War maps
- Civil War personal narratives
- Civil War prisons
- Civil War soldiers
- Civil War statistics
- Confederate Army
- Confederate States of America
- Conscription
- Contraband
- Dates (1861, 1862, 1863, 1864, 1865)
- Davis, Jefferson
- Douglas, Stephen
- Emancipation Proclamation
- Generals - Union
- Generals - Confederate
- Gettysburg Address
- Grant, Ulysses
- Lee, Robert E.
- Lincoln, Abraham
- Names of people
- Names of battles
- Names of battlefields
- Names of Civil War era events
- Names of forts
- Names of ships
- Pictorial envelope
- Rebels
- Secession
- Slavery
- Underground Railroad
- Union Army
- United States - History - Civil War
- War Between the States

If looking for information on a particular battle during the Civil War, use the search terms above and the name of the battle (for example: “Civil War” AND “Gettysburg”)

If looking for information on a particular person important during the period, type their last name, first name. For example, “Lincoln, Abraham.”

Multimedia

The following multimedia items contain both educational and recreational materials regarding the Civil War.

[Birth of a Nation](#) D.W. Griffith’s historical film of the Civil War and its aftermath is told through the intertwined stories of two families, one on each side of the conflict.

[Gettysburg](#) Gettysburg features some of the most authentic Civil War battle scenes ever committed to film. The film culminates with Pickett’s charge, the most courageous and heartbreaking infantry assault in military history. A powerful work that depicts the events, battles and personal struggles of valor on both sides of the Civil War.

[The Red Badge of Courage](#) The story of Henry Fleming and his initiation into manhood as a Union Army recruit during the Civil War.

[Gone With the Wind](#) A love story set in the deep South during the Civil War. Scarlett O'Hara and Rhett Butler try to reshape their lives in the war-torn South.

[Glory](#) Two idealistic young Bostonians lead the 54th Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry, America's first Black regiment in the Civil War.

[Cold Mountain](#) Inman, a young Confederate soldier, who is injured during the explosive 1864 battle of Petersburg, Virginia, is struggling to make his way home to Cold Mountain, NC, where his beloved Ada awaits him. In Inman's absence, Ada befriends Ruby, who helps her keep up her late father's farm. Meanwhile, in his travels, Inman encounters a menagerie of interesting and colorful characters.

[Civil War Minutes](#) Experience the Civil War in twenty 4-8 minute segments featuring never before seen photographs, artifacts and hundreds of rare paintings and engravings. Learn about the lives of the soldiers through their handwritten letters home and find out what life was like from the perspective of the average foot soldier.

[The Civil War](#) Ken Burns's Emmy Award-winning documentary brings to life America's most destructive and defining conflict. The Civil War is the saga of celebrated generals and ordinary soldiers, a heroic and transcendent president and a country that had to divide itself in two in order to become one

Fiction/Nonfiction Books

Nonfiction : Grades K-5

[A Civil War Doctor](#) by Michael v. Uschan Discusses what life was like for a doctor during the Civil War. (J 973.775)

[Food and Recipes of the Civil War](#) by George Erdosh Briefly describes some of the foods eaten in the North and South before and after the Civil War and the impact of the war on what foods were available and how they were prepared. Includes recipes. (J 641.597 ERD)

[When This Cruel War is Over: The Civil War Home Front](#) by Duane Damon Tells the story of the civilians--nurses, farmers, factory workers, songwriters--who endured the war and reveals how that conflict forever changed their nation. (J 973.71 DAM)

[What People Wore During the Civil War](#) by Allison Stark Draper This book describes what people wore in the days of the Civil War, discussing Union and Confederate uniforms, women and children's clothes, and slaves' clothes. (J 391 DRA)

[The Big Book of the Civil War](#) by Joanne Mattern A guide to the Civil War provides information on issues behind the war, commanders of both armies, army life, major battles, the Emancipation Proclamation, hospitals, prisoners, Lincoln's assassination, and the end of the war. (J 973.7 MAT)

[*The Civil War: an illustrated history*](#) by Catherine Clinton Traces the course of the Civil War, year by year, using profiles of important people, eyewitness accounts, and period art. (J 973.7 CLI)

[*Unconditional Surrender: U.S. Grant and the Civil War*](#) by Albert Marin An account of Grant's life, focusing on his role in the Civil War. (J 973.73 MAR)

[*Fields of Fury: the American Civil War*](#) by James M. McPherson Examines the events and effects of the American Civil War. (J 973.7 MCP)

[*Children of the Civil War*](#) by Candice F. Ransom Explores the lives of children during the Civil War, including those who joined the armies, others who stayed home, and the large numbers made homeless because of the conflict. (J973.7 RAN)

Fiction : Grades K-5

[*When Will This Cruel War Be Over? : the Civil War diary of Emma Simpson*](#) by Barry Denenberg The diary of a fictional fourteen-year-old girl living in Virginia, in which she describes the hardships endured by her family and friends during one year of the Civil War. (J FIC DEAR)

[*Leigh Ann's Civil War*](#) by Ann Rinaldi Recounts the experiences of a spunky young girl, just eleven when the Civil War breaks out, as she watches her brothers go to war, helps care for her mentally ill father, and falls in love with a boy determined to be a soldier. Includes historical notes. (J FIC RIN)

[*Watcher in the Piney Woods*](#) by Elizabeth McDavid Jones In 1865, while helping her family keep their Virginia farm going through the end of the Civil War, twelve-year-old Cassie meets a Confederate deserter and a Yankee prisoner of war and tries to discover who has been stealing from the farm. (J FIC AMER)

[*A Light in the Storm: the Civil War diary of Amelia Martin*](#) by Karen Hesse While working in her father's lighthouse, Amelia writes in her diary about the Civil War devastating her divided state. (J FIC DEAR)

[*Silent Thunder: A Civil War Story*](#) by Andrea Davis Pinkney In 1862 eleven-year-old Summer and her thirteen-year-old brother Rosco take turns describing how life on the quiet Virginia plantation where they are slaves is affected by the Civil War. (J FIC PIN)

[*Pink and Say*](#) by Patricia Polacco Chronicles the friendship of Pink, a fifteen-year-old African-American Union soldier, and Say, his poor white comrade, as one nurses the other back to health from a battle wound and the two of them are imprisoned at Andersonville. Based on a true story. (J PIC POL)

[*Cecil's Story*](#) by George Ella Lyon A boy thinks about the possible scenarios that exist for him at home if his father goes off to fight in the Civil War. (J PIC LYO)

[Mr. Lincoln's Drummer](#) by G. Clifton Wisler Recounts the courageous exploits of Willie Johnston, an eleven-year-old Civil War drummer, who became the youngest recipient of the Congressional Medal of Honor. (J FIC WIS)

[Charley Skedaddle](#) by Patricia Beatty During the Civil War, a twelve-year-old Bowery Boy from New York City joins the Union Army as a drummer, deserts during a battle in Virginia, and encounters a hostile old mountain woman. (J FIC BEA)

NonFiction : Grades 6-12

[African Americans in the Civil War](#) by Victor D. Brooks Relates the experiences of Black soldiers who fought in the Union Army as well as of those who fought with the Confederate forces during the Civil War. (ADU 973.7 BRO)

[Battle Cry of Freedom](#) by James M. McPherson Discusses the political, social, and military events that followed the outbreak of war in Mexico and ended with the Civil War. (ADU 973.7 MCP)

[1001 Things Everyone Should Know About the Civil War](#) by Frank E. Vandiver Contains 1,001 entries, arranged chronologically from 1860 through 1865, that provide information about significant characters, events, and cultural phenomena related to the Civil War. (ADU 973.7 VAN)

[The American Civil War: a visual encyclopedia](#) edited by Angus Konstam (ADU 973.7 AME)

[The Civil War: an illustrated history](#) (ADU 973.7 CLI)

[Indiana in the Civil War: Doctors, Hospitals, and Medical Care](#) by Nancy Phippen Eckerman (ADU 973.775 ECK)

[Great Battles of the Civil War](#) by John Macdonald Examines great battles of the American Civil War, from the first battle at Bull Run in 1861 to the Battle of the Five Forks in 1865. (ADU 973.7 MAC)

Fiction : Grades 6-12

[How I Found the Strong: A Civil War Story](#) by Margaret McMullan Frank Russell, known as Shanks, wishes he could have gone with his father and brother to fight for Mississippi and the Confederacy, but his experiences with the war and his changing relationship with the family slave, Buck, change his thinking. (YA MCM)

[The River Between Us](#) by Richard Peck During the early days of the Civil War, the Pruitt family takes in two mysterious young ladies who have fled New Orleans to come north to Illinois. (YA PEC)

[*Soldier's Heart: a novel of the Civil War*](#) by Gary Paulsen Eager to enlist, fifteen-year-old Charley has a change of heart after experiencing both the physical horrors and mental anguish of Civil War combat. (YA PAU)

[*The Passage*](#) by James Killgore Fifteen year old Mississippi schoolboy Sam Wood learns about honor, courage, and friendship while serving on a Confederate ironclad gunboat, the CSS Arkansas, in the early days of the Civil War. (YA KIL)

[*Girl In Blue*](#) by Ann Rinaldi To escape an abusive father and an arranged marriage, fourteen-year-old Sarah, dressed as a boy, leaves her Michigan home to enlist in the Union Army, and becomes a soldier on the battlefields of Virginia as well as a Union spy working in the house of Confederate sympathizer Rose O'Neal Greenhow in Washington, D.C. (YA RIN)

[*Bull Run*](#) by Paul Fleischman Northerners, Southerners, generals, couriers, dreaming boys and worried sisters describe the glory, the horror, the thrill, and the disillusionment of the first battle of the Civil War. (YA FLE)

[*In My Father's House*](#) by Ann Rinaldi For two sisters growing up surrounded by the Civil War, there is conflict both outside and inside their house. (YA RIN)

[*The Last Silk Dress*](#) by Ann Rinaldi During the Civil War, Susan finds a way to help the Confederate Army and uncovers a series of mysterious family secrets. (YA RIN)

[*With Every Drop of Blood*](#) by James Lincoln Collier While trying to transport food to Richmond, Virginia, during the Civil War, fourteen-year-old Johnny is captured by a black Union soldier. (YA COL)

[*Amelia's War*](#) by Ann Rinaldi When a Confederate general threatens to burn Hagerstown, Maryland, unless it pays an exorbitant ransom, twelve-year-old Amelia and her friend find a way to save the town. (YA RIN)

[*My Brother Sam is Dead*](#) by James Lincoln Collier Recounts the tragedy that strikes the Meeker family during the Revolution when one son joins the rebel forces while the rest of the family tries to stay neutral in a Tory town. (YA COL)

Teacher Resources

All Ages

[*The Blue and the Gray*](#) Solve this set of puzzles and discover the theme the pictures have in common.

[*Civil War Time Line*](#) Students develop time lines of various events that took place during the Civil War.

[Civil War Recipes](#) Students prepare foods, including hardtack, that were among the staples of a Civil War soldier's diet.

[A Flag Divided](#) Students learn about the flags of the Union and Confederacy, explore the symbolism of those flags, and create flags of their own.

[Civil War Word Search Puzzle](#)

[Make a Civil War Drum](#) During the Civil War, boys under the age of 16 served in both the Union and Confederate (southern) armies. Most of them played drum, fife, or bugle. Learn to make a drum.

[Civil War Activities](#) Quizzes, Reading Lessons, and Activities

[The Civil War for Kids: a history with 21 activities](#) by Janis Herbert Teaches about the Civil War from the secession debates to Appomattox, by means of activities like making butternut dye, decoding wigwag, and baking hardtack. Includes a resource section with a glossary and pertinent web sites. (J 973.7 HER)

K-5 Activities

[Civil War Fill In the Blank Quiz](#)

[Follow the Trail to Freedom in the 1850s](#) Slaves resisted slavery in many ways; some rebelled, some sabotaged their work, and many tried to escape despite the overwhelming odds against them. Use this map to determine the best route to freedom.

[The Underground Railroad](#) You are a slave. Your body, your time, your very breath belong to a farmer in 1850s Maryland. Six long days a week you tend his fields and make him rich. You have never tasted freedom. You never expect to. And yet...your soul lights up when you hear whispers of attempted escape. Freedom means a hard, dangerous trek. Do you try it?

6-12 Activities

[The Civil War through A Child's Eye](#) Students use literature and photographs to view the Civil War from a child's perspective.

[Ladies, Contraband, and Spies](#) Students view the perspectives of slave women, plantation mistresses, female spies, and Union women during the Civil War.

[What Do You See?](#) Students analyze Civil War photographs, and develop links between the Civil War and American industrialization.

[Civil War Music](#) Describe the ways historic events influence popular music. Compare lyrics of Civil War songs from both sides, including “Battle Cry of Freedom” and “Dixie” and make conclusions about the lyrics.

[Lee and Grant at Appomattox Court House](#) Research Union General Ulysses S. Grant’s battle strategies and how they led to the end of the Civil War.

[Lincoln and Reconstruction](#) Analyze the presidency of Abraham Lincoln during the Civil War and his attitude toward reconstruction.

[The Civil War: A Nation Divided](#) Students will discuss major differences between the North and the South and how these differences led to the Civil War.

Websites

Databases

A database is a collection of related electronic records in a standardized format, searchable in a variety of ways, such as title, author, subject, and keyword. Common examples of databases are the library catalog and citation indexes. The library subscribes to a variety of websites and also provides access to a state run database known as Inspire. Through each database you can access journal and magazine articles from a variety of sources.

[Inspire](#)

[Student Research Center](#)

Websites

When searching for information on the Internet, you need to find out where the information is coming from. Anyone can create a website so make sure that the information is referenced or is provided by an educated source. An educated source can be from a university/school, a teacher or usually a site that ends in .edu or .org. Some .com sites have good information just make sure that the person that created the website is qualified. If you are not sure, look for their contact information at the bottom of the website.

Before, During and After the Civil War

(<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/ndlpcoop/nhihtml/cwnyhsspec.html>) This selection of images from the *New York Historical Society Civil War Treasures* collection provides an overview of the war from Union and Confederate points of view.

Harriet Tubman (<http://www.africanamericanhistorymonth.gov/profiles/tubman.html>) Learn about this famous African American activist.

Jump Back In Time: Civil War (<http://www.americaslibrary.gov/cgi-bin/page.cgi/jb/civil>) Link to more than 35 Civil War stories.

Jump Back in Time: November 19, 1863 (http://www.americaslibrary.gov/cgi-bin/page.cgi/jb/civil/gettysbg_1) Read about Lincoln's delivery of the Gettysburg Address.

Proving Ground (<http://www.pbs.org/teachers/connect/resources/6862/preview/>) Tour the battlefield at Gettysburg as Dr. Henry Louis Gates, Jr. attempts to uncover the source of Lincoln's strength during our nation's greatest crisis. View this clip as a video stream or as a free download.

The American Civil War Home Page (<http://sunsite.utk.edu/civil-war>) The 12 categories in his comprehensive collection of Civil War resources include images of war, battles and campaigns, documentary records, and studies by state. Constantly updated to include additions and revisions, the site is extremely helpful for targeting specific topics for study.

Camp Life (<http://www.cr.nps.gov/museum/exhibits/gettex/>) The National Parks Service offers this highly polished slide show of camp life during the Civil War. The site brings together primary source quotes, images, and information that create a truly striking portrait of day-to-day camp life, as well as insights into changes that occurred when a battle broke out.

Symbols in Battle (<http://www.cr.nps.gov/museum/exhibits/flags/>) This visually interesting collection of flags from the National Parks Service includes Civil War flags from Appomattox to Fort Sumter to Stone River. Each page also provides a link to the appropriate historic site. Perhaps most fascinating is the flag that hung at Ford's Theatre, which was torn by John Wilkes Booth's spur after he shot Abraham Lincoln.

Interactive Battle Map (http://www.civilwar.com/component/option,com_battlemap/) Statistics and location of battles that were fought across the Union and Confederate territories.