

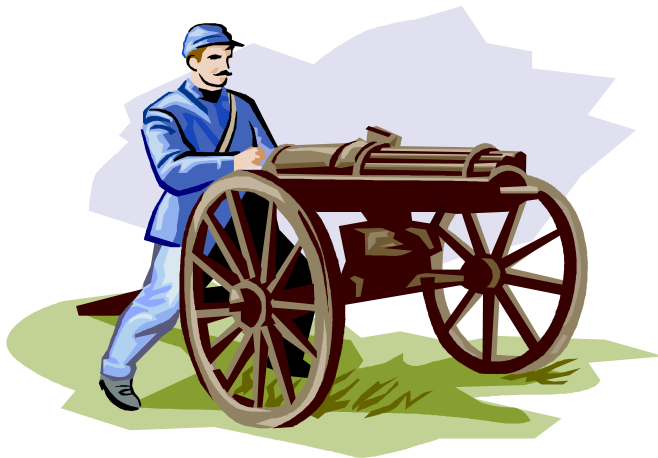
## A Soldier's Life

The Civil War was fought in 10,000 places, from Valverde, New Mexico, and Tullahoma, Tennessee, to St. Albans, Vermont, and Fernandina on the Florida coast. More than 3 million Americans fought in it, and over 600,000 men, 2 percent of the population, died in it.

American homes became headquarters, American churches and schoolhouses sheltered the dying, and huge foraging armies swept across American farms and burned American towns. Americans slaughtered one another wholesale, right here in America in their own cornfields and peach orchards, along familiar roads and by waters with old American names.

In two days at Shiloh, on the banks of the Tennessee River, more American men fell than in all the previous American wars combined. At Cold Harbor, some 7,000 Americans fell in twenty minutes. Men who had never strayed twenty miles from their own front doors now found themselves soldiers in great armies, fighting epic battles hundreds of miles from home. They knew they were making history, and it was the greatest adventure of their lives.

Learn more about the lives and experiences of a Civil War soldier...



Complete the following activities:

Watch the following:

Beginning of *Cold Mountain*

Safari Montage Video Clips:

“Introduction to Simply Murder: A Soldier’s Life was Filled with Hardship

“Our Boy: Description of the Average Soldier and Life in Camp”

Use the “Six Room Poem” graphic organizer to take notes. As you watch the videos, record details about the images, sounds and activities soldiers would have experienced. Then imagine the hopes, fears and questions the soldiers might have had in their daily lives. Reflect on your own feelings about the information—how does the knowledge affect you?

After watching the video clips go back to each room and add more ideas and details.

1. In the first room, think of the images from the video clips that have just stayed in your mind. Notice all the details about it—and then describe it as accurately as you can. Who is it? What are they doing? How are they dressed? Where are they? Who took the picture?
2. In the second room, describe the actions and daily activities of soldier’s during the Civil War. What were the positives and negatives of a soldier’s life? What were the differences and similarities between the Confederacy and the Union Army?
3. In the third room, focus on the sounds a soldier might have heard. Are there any voices? Rustling of leaves? Sound of rain? If it is silent—what kind of silence? Empty? Lonely? Peaceful?
4. In room four, write down your ideas about the hopes, fear and questions soldiers might have had. Put yourself in their shoes—would there be anything you would want to know more about? Or wonder about?
5. In room five, write any feelings **you** have about the information you have learned today.
6. Finally, in room six, look over the five rooms and select one word, or a few words, a phrase, a line, or a sentence that seems important to you and repeat it three times.

Once you have completed all these steps, look over all their rooms, and then see if you can use those ideas in a poem that illustrates and describes life as a Civil War soldier. You can rearrange the rooms into a new order, eliminate rooms, words, or sentences—you may also want to add to your ideas as the poem begins to take shape.