

Life During the Civil War

Week 29 • Tuesday • Soldiers, Families, and Helpers

Reading Time

The Civil War lasted four long years, from 1861 to 1865. Soldiers in the North wore blue uniforms. Soldiers in the South wore gray. Sometimes brothers and friends ended up on different sides.

Life was hard for everyone. Soldiers marched for miles, slept in tents, and missed their families. They wrote letters home and waited eagerly for mail. Some drummer boys not much older than you marched with the army, beating drums to send signals.

Back home, women ran the farms and shops. Many became nurses who cared for hurt soldiers. One famous nurse, **Clara Barton**, was so brave and kind that she was called the Angel of the Battlefield.

Reading Questions

1. How many years did the Civil War last?

2. What colors did the North and South wear?

3. What did women do while soldiers were away?

4. Who was Clara Barton?

Vocabulary Grid

Write what each word means in your own words.

soldier

uniform

nurse

letter

signal

brave

True or False

Write T for true or F for false in each circle.

- ☐ The Civil War lasted from 1861 to 1865.
- ☐ Northern soldiers wore gray uniforms.
- ☐ Soldiers wrote letters home to their families.
- ☐ Drummer boys beat drums to send signals.
- ☐ Clara Barton was called the Angel of the Battlefield.
- ☐ Nobody helped the hurt soldiers.

Who Did What?

Match the person to their job. Write the letter in the box.

Job	Person: A) Soldier B) Nurse C) Drummer boy D) Family at home
Marched and fought in battles	
Cared for hurt soldiers	
Beat drums to send army signals	
Ran the farms and shops	

Think About It

1. Why do you think letters from home were so important to soldiers?

Fill in the Blanks

four blue gray letters nurses Clara

1. The war lasted _____ years.
2. The North wore _____ uniforms.
3. The South wore _____ uniforms.
4. Soldiers wrote _____ home.
5. Many women became _____.
6. _____ Barton was the Angel of the Battlefield.

Write a Letter Home

Pretend you are a drummer boy or a nurse during the Civil War. Write a short letter home. Tell your family what you see, what you miss, and one hope you have.

Dear _____,

Love, _____

Review

I learned...	Circle one
What soldier life was like	YES / NOT YET
How people helped at home	YES / NOT YET
Who Clara Barton was	YES / NOT YET