

National Museum of Health and Medicine

To Bind the Nation's Wounds: Civil War Tour

Teachers Guide Grades 3-5

This guide will help you prepare for your visit and tour of the *Civil War Medicine* exhibit at the National Museum of Health and Medicine. It outlines the major ideas and objects that will be presented during the visit and suggests activities to help extend your museum experience into your classroom. This tour uses the following national and state social studies and science standards.

Content Standards for Life Science:

E: Understanding science and technology

F: understanding science in a social perspective

G: Science as a human endeavor through the history and nature of science

Content Standards for Social Studies: Students will be able to use primary and secondary sources through photographs and documents, discuss the effects of the Civil War in Maryland, describe the contributions of individuals in Maryland,

About Your Tour

Explore the history and science behind *Civil War* medicine. Learn about the medical and technological advancements and the people who helped to improve military medicine during the *Civil War*.

At the conclusion of this tour, the students should be able to:

1. Explain what caused the majority of deaths during the *Civil War* and why.
2. Describe a medical advancement that developed during the *Civil War*.
3. Describe the living conditions in camp life for the soldiers.
4. Name one famous doctor from the *Civil War* and his/her role.
5. Name one surgical method used during the *Civil War*.
6. List two medicines or medicinal therapies that are still used today.
7. Explain the story of Abraham Lincoln's death.

Hands-on materials used for this guided tour may include:

- Replica Civil War Surgical Kit
- Minie ball and musket ball
- Chisholm inhaler
- Hardtack
- Cast of bone with osteomyelitis
- Photos of camps, prisons and wounds from the Museum's Otis Historical Archives

Additional Activities (upon request):

- Make a Red Rover Hospital Ship
- Create Hospital Flags
- Act out a mock triage system from the Civil War
- Make a Lincoln stovepipe hat

Pre-visit Classroom Activities

- Review *Visiting Our Museum* and what the students will see on the tour.
- Have the students create a small play or story about President Abraham Lincoln and his life.
- Review major events and points about the Civil War, this should include causes (Union vs. Confederate and what states were involved).
- Have the students write two questions to ask during the tour about Civil War Medicine
- Visit one of the Museum's flickr sites available at <http://www.flickr.com/search/?q=otisarchives1&m=text> and in the search box type "civil war" -- choose a Civil War-era photograph(s) for the students to analyze — ask them to make a list of observations about the photograph (for example, clothing, housing, food, etc.) and have them write a story about the photograph, including their observations. Photos also are available on the Museum's website: www.nmhm.washingtondc.museum/collections/archives/agalleries/agalleries.html.

Vocabulary

Ambulance: an emergency vehicle used to transport the injured to a hospital

Amputation: the removal of a injured limb through surgery.

Anesthesia: a method used to block the perception of pain, often used during surgery.

Confederate: a member of the Confederate States of America (southern states)

Germ theory: The theory that disease and illness is caused by microscopic organisms called germs.

Hardtack: a type of cracker or biscuit made with flour, water and salt. This was a common food of soldiers during the Civil War.

Minie ball: a type of aero dynamic muzzle loading rifle bullet named after co-developer Claude Etienne Minie

Prosthesis: A substitute and artificial limb for the body.

Triage: A process of sorting the injured into groups by order of a combination of priority and resource efficiency; used especially where casualties are many and resources are few

US Sanitary Commission: a government agency that allowed women to raise money and supplies for union soldiers during the Civil War.

Union: a member of the United States of America (Northern states)

Notable People

- Surgeon General William Hammond
- General Daniel E. Sickles
- Dr. Julian John Chisholm
- Dr. Jonathan Letterman
- President Abraham Lincoln
- John Wilkes Booth
- Clara Barton
- Dorothea Dix

Post-Visit Activities

- Have the students research a notable person discussed during the tour and make a presentation to the class (this could be a first-person interpretation).
- Have the students write a fictional letter to a family from the perspective of a Civil War soldier in a camp. Students should include what type of food they eat, what food they miss, what supplies they need and what life is like in the camp.

- Have the students make a collage or poster of civil war medical advancements (such as the development of the ambulance system, improvements in sanitation, the ambulating train, etc.).
- As a class, make hard tack. A simple recipe can be found at <http://www.nps.gov/archive/gett/gettkidz/hardtack.htm>. Discuss the nutritional problems soldiers faced during the Civil War and the diseases that they caused.

Resources:

Websites:

- The National Museum of Health and Medicine, www.nmhm.washingtondc.museum
- The National Museum of Civil War Medicine, www.civilwarmed.org
- Civil War History, www.civilwarhome.com
- Civil War Academy, www.civilwaracademy.com
- Son of the South, www.sonofthesouth.net
- Library of Congress (Primary Sources), www.loc.gov
- National Archives and Record Administration, www.nara.gov

Books for Students:

- *Gentle Annie: The True Story of a Civil War Nurse* by Janis Herbert, 1999.
- *Eyewitness: Civil War* by John Stanchack, 2000.
- *If You Lived at the Time of the Civil War* by Kay Moore and Anni Matsick, 1994.
- *Captured: A Boy Trapped in the Civil War* by Mary Blair Immel, 2005.
- *Civil War A to Z: A Young Person's Guide to over 100 People, Places and Points of Importance* by Norman Bolotin, 2002.

Books for Teachers:

- *Civil War Medicine: Challenges and Triumphs* by Alfred Jay Bollet, 2002.
- *Gangrene and Glory: Medical Care During the American Civil War* by Frank R. Freeman, 2001.
- *Civil War Medicine (Illustrated Living History Series)* by Keither Wilbur, 1998.
- *Civil War for Kids: A History with 21 Activities* by Janis Herbert, 1999.

