

Real Cool History Detectives - Exploring the American Civil War miniseries Parents' Guide

Overview of miniseries:

November through January - 14 weeks, 7 new and 7 refreshed podcast episodes, and 14 matching blog posts with activities

New Podcast Episodes in this miniseries:

November 6: Our Divided Country - The Beginning of the Civil War

November 20: Abraham Lincoln - Leader Extraordinaire

December 4: Civil War Submarines and Hot Air Balloons

December 18: Robert E. Lee the (real) Man without a Country

January 1: Harriet Beecher Stowe - Author and Abolitionist

January 15: Stonewall Jackson and William T. Sherman

January 29: Clara Barton - Angel of the Battlefield

Featured Podcast Episodes from the Archives in this miniseries:

November 13 - Episode 8: Swing Low, Sweet Chariot - Harriet Tubman (Underground Railroad)

November 27 - Episode 11: Thank You, Sarah! Special Thanksgiving/Civil War era episode.

December 11 - Episode 23: Do You Hear the Drums? (youngest Civil War Soldiers)

December 25 - Episode 24: We Fought too! (girls who fought in the Civil War)

January 8 - Episode 51: Civil War Outlaws

January 22 - Episodes 4: His Name was Mudd - part 1 of the Double Feature about the doctor who set John Wilkes Booth's leg and was found guilty of treason.

February 5 - Episode 5: His Name was Mudd - part 2.

Resources Provided in this Miniseries:

Podcast episodes (listed above)

Weekly blog posts containing discussion questions, geography connections, and a variety of interactive activities for elementary through jr. high school students.

Links and suggested learning activities for older students.

WEEK 1 has several steps to prepare for the rest of the miniseries.

1. Print out (or save to your computer) the Civil War Timeline. Printing this resource out on card stock or printer paper is highly recommended. This will allow your students to add notations/pictures/pages of other events/people to it.
2. Print out and assemble the Real Cool History Detectives Badge and Notebook.
3. Print this guide or save it to your device for future reference.
4. Familiarize yourself with the miniseries overview of content and let your students know what they will be learning.

Suggested Use and Instructions for Weekly Recurring Activities:

(Please note: there may be other activities each week, as well as the ones listed below. Our team is working together to bring fresh ideas, so be on the lookout for that. The activities listed below will be in each week's activities.)

Weekly scavenger hunt for primary and intermediate students.

1. Before listening to the podcast each week, print out the scavenger hunt page you would like to use with your student(s).
2. Read through all of the clues they are going to be listening for, before the episode begins.
3. As they hear the clues, the students will mark it off of their page and complete the activity.

Each week, there is a printable Quote Clue Card.

1. Print off each Quote Clue Card and help your student write out the quote from the podcast episode.
2. Place the cards in a safe place.
3. In Week 14, the students will be using these cards to crack a code and win a prize.

Beginning in Week 2, there will be a series of activities for upper elementary* through high school students to complete. (These activities will come with their own separate instructions.)

Description: Character study posters of three important figures of the Civil War Period. Each of these projects will cover four weeks. Each week, the student will get a piece of the larger project to work on for that week.

Weeks 2-5: Abraham Lincoln

Week 6-9: Harriet Tubman

Weeks 10-13: Stonewall Jackson

*These activities may be completed by families with lower elementary students as well but will need to be completed in a group setting with parents or older siblings helping younger as needed.