

## TAH LESSON PLAN

**TITLE:** Civil War Narratives found in a Trunk from Christine Antaya

**GRADE:** 8

**LENGTH OF CLASS PERIOD:** 1-2 fifty minute classes

**INQUIRY:** The essential questions for this unit should be written on the front board.  
They are:

How did the Civil War affect the lives of American citizens, both North and South?

What was the life of a Civil War soldier like from his point of view?

What were the differences between the Northern and the Southern soldiers?

**CONTENT OBJECTIVE:** Students will examine at least one primary source narrative written by a Civil War participant.

**LANGUAGE OBJECTIVE:** Students will read a primary source narrative written by a Civil War soldier. Students will interpret the narrative through an illustration.

**MATERIALS:** Copies of the narratives taken from the following websites:  
[www.civil-war.net](http://www.civil-war.net) (Click on “letters and diaries” on the links database and choose from these for your student copies.)  
[www.civilwarhome.com](http://www.civilwarhome.com) (Click on either Civil War Potpourri or Letters from the War.)

Drawing paper; colored pencils or markers; envelopes; and a cardboard box that has been decorated to look like an old trunk.

**ACTIVITIES:**

1. Teacher prepares copies of enough narratives from the above websites so that each student will have at least one.
2. The copies should be folded and placed in individual envelopes. They should be placed in some type of box that resembles an old trunk.
3. Students can choose an envelope from the trunk and then read their narrative.
4. Students will then illustrate some aspect of the narrative and write a brief summary of what is shown in their picture.

**ASSESSMENT:** Students will answer one of the essential questions listed on the front board on an exit card.

**CT. GRADE LEVEL EXPECTATIONS:**

Compare information about the same event by using a variety of primary sources.

Prepare a descriptive report on a social studies topic and use visual forms of evidence.

**DIFFERENTIATION:** Students who are lower level readers will receive an envelope containing a passage from the book *If You Lived at the Time of the Civil War* and read that passage to be used with their illustration and brief summary.