
Primary Source Comprehension: Letters and Journals

Reporting Category: Reading

Topic: Communication and Multimodal Literacies, Reading and Writing

Primary SOLs: K.2, K.10, 1.11. 2.1, 2.9, 2.10

Materials: Examples of letters and journal entries; exercises.

Directions: Students will have read to them letters and journal entries from the American Civil War in Prince William County and surrounding area in July, 1861. Students will read the text below, answer the questions listed, and match pictures with words.

Document Context: Handwritten letters were the only form of direct communication during the American Civil War. Journals were written as events transpired and were later used to create historic primary source volumes about the events of the War.

Document Text: A Civil War Soldier Makes a Meal

A local man rode his horse into our camp. He brought my fellow soldiers and I a bucket of flour and asked us if we could cook it. He went and cut the wood and Meg and I made the biscuit.

Exercise:

- 1) Who brought the flour?
- 2) What was the flour used for?
- 3) What was used to make the fire?
- 4) Draw a line to the word that matches the picture:

PRINCE WILLIAM

Historic Preservation



soldier



biscuit



cannon



horse