

My
CIVIL WAR
Ancestor



A **Zap** The Grandma Gap Activity Book

By Janet Hovorka & Amy Slade

How To Use This Book

This activity book is designed to help create stronger bonds in modern families by encouraging the whole family to learn about their ancestors together. Greater knowledge about family history especially strengthens and empowers youth by creating self-esteem, resilience and a greater sense of control over their lives. Studying the family's past also strengthens the relationships between living family members by creating a shared experience and core identity that no one else in the world can duplicate. Young people can take the lead to accomplish the activities in this book with their family members.

It is our hope that learning about your family's past together can be a fun and exciting adventure and that this book will help all of your family members discover joy in the quest to find out more about your ancestors .

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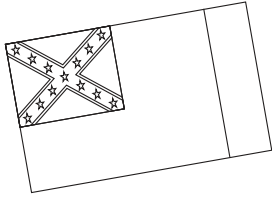
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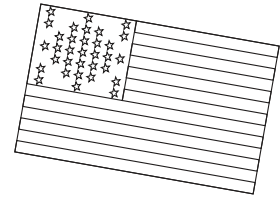
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Introduction



The American Civil War (also known as the War Between the States) divided the United States from 1861 to 1865. It began when several Southern states decided to form their own country apart from the rest of the United States. The states that remained were called the “Union” states or the “North” while the Southern States were called the “Confederate States of America” or the “South.” The greatest issue of the war was slavery and whether or not the western territories would join the United States in support of slavery like the South, or against slavery like the North. Abraham Lincoln, the president of the Union States outlawed slavery during the war, and when the Union won the war, slavery became illegal throughout the restored United States.

Studying the lives of our Civil War Ancestors can be hard. These were extreme times in our history and many people created and suffered experiences that are hard for us to understand today. However, there are many lessons to learn from this time in our past and it is better to face that history and let it give us knowledge to improve the present. Hopefully this book will spark good discussions in your family and will help you consciously create a better future for the generations to come.

You may have several Civil War ancestors. For this book, you may want to focus on the one you know the most about, but feel free to add other pages with more information about other Civil War ancestors.



Sections of this Book

The workbook starts with pages to fill in what you know about your ancestors and instructions on where to look for more information. Then there are pages with common cultural experiences which work like puzzle pieces to help fill in what the day to day lives of your ancestors were like. The pages with references that are not specific to your family members are marked at the bottom of the page with puzzle pieces. While your ancestors may be Union or Confederate, a free African American or a slave, you may not be sure that your ancestors experienced the details of this cultural knowledge, but these are common experiences during the Civil War and likely applicable to your family.