



Fourth Grade Social Studies



4th Grade Social Studies Activity 3

**There will be a short video lesson of a Knox County teacher to accompany this task available on the KCS YouTube Channel and KCS TV.*

Topic: Women during the Civil War

Standard: 4.33 Evaluate the significant contributions made by women during the Civil War, including Clara Barton and Dorothea Dix.

Goal: Learn about important women during the Civil War.

Tasks: Read the text in order to identify the roles of women during the Civil War, including the contributions of Clara Barton and Dorothea Dix. Complete the Cloze Activity and Thank You Note below.

Additional Links for More Information:

- Gallopade - 4th Chapter 19 <https://www.gallopadecurriculum.com/login>
- Social Studies Weekly - Week 27 (free access)
<https://app.studiesweekly.com/online/publications/170131/units/170241#/articles/175717>
- Clara Barton Birthplace Museum <http://www.clarabartonbirthplace.org/>

Text for Students to Read: (included from Gallopade, Chapter 19)

Women in the Civil War

Women made significant contributions during the Civil War. Some were spies, while others disguised themselves as men and served with the soldiers! While most women did not actually fight on the front lines or serve as spies, they were still a big part of the war effort.



Civil War nurses

Women at home took over businesses, ran farms, and took over all of the tasks men had done before the war started. Many supported the war effort by organizing supplies, growing food, or mending clothing for troops. Other women traveled with the armies. They cooked, cleaned, and helped keep the army running.

Nursing was one of the most important ways that women helped in the Civil War. In fact, the U.S. Army created its first female nursing **corps** during the Civil War. Nurses helped with the wounded and helped keep hospitals clean and organized.

Two women who became famous for their nursing were **Dorothea Dix** and **Clara Barton**.

Vocabulary

corps: a group in the military

Dorothea Dix: Superintendent of Army Nurses



Dorothea Dix

Dorothea Dix spent her life helping others. As a young woman in the 1830s, she became interested in helping the mentally ill, who were often terribly mistreated during that time.

She offered to serve as a nurse in Washington, D.C., at the start of the Civil War. Although she had no training as a nurse, Dix was appointed Superintendent of the United States Army Nurses. She was known for her strict rules; tough, no-nonsense approach; and efficiency at getting things done. She eventually convinced the army to pay her volunteer female nurses forty cents a day. This was a lot less than male nurses earned, but at least it was a start!

Dix worked in hospitals and on battlefields. She wanted to make sure all soldiers received the best care possible, whether they were Union or Confederate.

Clara Barton: Angel of the Battlefield

During the Civil War, Clara Barton became especially well known for her efforts to help others. She wanted to help at the front lines of the war. She collected supplies and took them to the battlefields. She nursed injured soldiers. She was nicknamed “the angel of the battlefield.”

Clara Barton went on to create the American Red Cross in 1881. She and her co-workers brought food and supplies to areas where disasters took place. She directed the American Red Cross until 1904. Today, this organization still takes care of those who need help.



Clara Barton

Task #1: Cloze Activity - Use the word box and context clues to fill in the blanks for the paragraphs below. You will use each word once.

| | |
|----------|---|
| Word Box | South, sew, troops, sisters, factories, running, Civil War, home, disguised, support, sides, supplies |
|----------|---|

Cloze Activity

Women did not sit around waiting and worrying during the (1)_____. They played important roles on both (2) _____ of the war. Without the help of women, both the North and the (3) _____ would have had many more problems.

Some women (4) _____ themselves as men and fought in the battles.

Many more women worked on the battlefields as nurses. (Think about Clara Barton and Dorothea Dix.) Some women worked as spies, but most women did their part back at (5)_____.

Many Northern women entered the workforce to take over jobs that had been held by men who were now at war. Women worked in weapon (6)_____, on farms, at government offices and in hospitals. Many of the women worked to earn money to help (7)_____ the troops. Women earned about \$50 million total to help the cause. In addition, North Women's Aid Societies provided blankets, clothing, medicine, and other (8)_____ to troops. Many of these women stayed on the job even after the war was over.

In the South, the women at home worked about as hard as the men on the battlefields. Women worked long and hard to (9)_____ uniforms, flags, and blankets from fabric they found or made themselves. Women in the South also worked to produce weapons for (10)_____. They also helped tend to the wounded soldiers who returned home. Also, Southern women kept farms, plantations and homes (11)_____ as best they could despite the terrible wartime conditions.

Many have said the Civil War was a war between brothers. But given the number of women who were affected by the war, people can also say it was a war between (12)_____.

-Excerpt adapted from *Social Studies Weekly*

Task #2: Thank You Note - Think about the positive contributions of Clara Barton and Dorothea Dix during and after the Civil War. Who do you know who has made a positive impact in your life or your community? Write a thank-you note and send it to someone who you think has positively impacted you or your community.

Answer Key:

- | | |
|--------------|-------------|
| 1. Civil War | 7. support |
| 2. sides | 8. supplies |
| 3. South | 9. sew |
| 4. disguised | 10. troops |
| 5. home | 11. running |
| 6. factories | 12. sisters |