How Do You Piece Together the History of the Civil War?

- Ask questions
- Look closely at many sources
- Find different points of view
- Make an argument

Visit teachinghistory.org/civil-war for an interactive version of this poster with links to lesson plans, teaching materials, and websites for exploring the Civil War from many perspectives, as well as links to the images above.
Teachers,

We hope that you will use this poster to begin a conversation with students about how we know what we know about the past, and especially about our nation’s most devastating conflict—the Civil War.

As teachers, we can find a variety of sources such as statistics, maps, letters, diaries, objects, music, and images that enable us to explore the complexity of the past.

The questions on the front of this poster are designed to get students thinking about primary sources as the building blocks of history.

Use resources from teachinghistory.org to help students piece together the history of the Civil War.

Why does the Civil War still matter?
Search in History Content for quality historical resources such as website reviews, primary source materials, and multimedia presentations.

How would you teach the Civil War without a textbook?
In Best Practices, explore ways to use primary sources for thought-provoking activities that promote historical thinking and student participation.

Can you teach the Civil War without mentioning a battle?
In Teaching Materials, find lesson plan reviews, teaching guides, and ideas for teaching the Civil War, searchable by topic or grade level.

How can technology help you teach about the Civil War?
In Digital Classroom, find free resources, ideas, and examples of successful ways to use such tools as digital storytelling, social media, and mind mapping in the history classroom.

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