

Gettysburg Unit Page 1

Unit Title: Gettysburg, A Civilian Perspective

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Grade Level: 8-10 Grade

Standard: History Standard Three, Historians collect and analyze both primary and secondary sources in order to describe, compare, and interpret historical phenomena.

Essential Question: Why is Gettysburg such an important event for both the country and the civilians it impacted?

Summary: In this unit, students will learn about the Battle of Gettysburg. They will begin by learning the basic history behind the three days of battle. As they learn about the various phases of battle, they will watch clips from the movie, Gettysburg, so they can see a Hollywood depiction of battle. Following the history of the battle, students will read and learn about the civilian perspective of battle by looking at the diaries and letters of those who were there. Finally, students will write a letter from the perspective of a civilian at Gettysburg to a relative living in Delaware by using all the resources presented to describe the battle to those who were not there.

Word Wall: Army of the Potomac, Army of Northern Virginia, infantry, cavalry, offensive, defensive.

Length: 7-10 Days (60 minutes per day)



Lesson #1: The Battle of Gettysburg: A History

Essential Question: What were the key events and how did they determine the outcome of the Battle of Gettysburg?

Length: 4-5 days

Materials Needed:

1. Gettysburg Images
2. Battle of Gettysburg Reading Handout
3. Movie, Gettysburg
4. Graphic Organizer (teachers choice)

Activating Strategy: Show students a slideshow of images taken from the Battlefield in the days following the battle. Have the students describe what they see and what they think is the most important feature in the photograph. Share out and discuss as group.

Teaching Strategy: The Battle of Gettysburg, like any battle, can be difficult to explain to students of any level, especially those in middle school. The goal of this lesson is to provide the students with the basic chronology of the battle and an understanding of who the key people in the battle were, along with the key events.

1. Handout, *Battle of Gettysburg Reading Handout and the Graphic Organizer.*
2. Have students read the about the first day of battle, have them complete that section of their graphic organizer. Discuss as a whole group, question and clarify as needed.
3. Show the movie, *Gettysburg*, show only the first day battle scenes, this will help students get a visualization of what the battle may have looked like.
4. Repeat for battle days 2 and 3.

*** Some sequences and scenes in the movie can be long, but interesting. Teacher should use own judgment in how they want to break up the movie scenes. ***

Summarizing Strategy: Use *graphic organizer* to layout the key events for each day, and summarize each day of battle.

Lesson #2: Civilians at Gettysburg

Essential Question: How did the Battle of Gettysburg impact the lives of civilians living in the town?

Length: 2-3 days

Materials Needed:

1. Jennie Wade Story
2. Civilian Accounts
3. Letter Directions
4. Letter Rubric

Activating Strategy: Project the picture of Jennie Wade in front of the room and read to your class the story of Jennie Wade. She was the only civilian killed at Gettysburg.

Teaching Strategy:

1. Handout, The Account of Tillie Pierce, along with the graphic organizer. This account is on the longer side, so it would be best to read as a class. Be sure to ask probing questions and clarify as needed.
2. Pass out the remaining accounts into groups. Give each group 10 minutes with each account, have them read the account and write down the main points of each account. Then rotate until all groups have seen all accounts.

Summarizing Strategy:

1. Letter to Relative. Students will write a letter to a relative in Delaware explaining the battle and its impact on their life as a civilian in Gettysburg. See attached documents.

Lesson #3: The Gettysburg Address

Essential Question: What is the meaning behind the Gettysburg Address

Length: 1 day

Materials Needed:

1. Profile of Private Culp
2. Gettysburg Address
3. Burying the Confederate Dead
4. The New Gettysburg Address

Activating Strategy: Show students an image of Private Culp on a screen in front of the room. Read the students a profile of his life and death. On a piece of paper have the students write a eulogy to Private Culp.

Teaching Strategy:

1. Have the students read the *Gettysburg Address* with partners. Have them answer the guiding questions. Review as a class.
2. As a class read, *Burying the Confederate Dead*, and clarify and question as they read along.

Summarizing Strategy: Have students write their own Gettysburg Address that embraces both the Confederate and Union soldiers.

Unit Materials

Activating Photos







The Battle of Gettysburg

This most famous and most important Civil War Battle occurred over three hot summer days, July 1 to July 3, 1863, around the small market town of Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. It began as a skirmish but by its end involved 160,000 Americans. Before the battle, major cities in the North such as Philadelphia, Baltimore and even Washington were under threat of attack from General Robert E. Lee's Confederate Army of Northern Virginia, which had crossed the Potomac River and marched into Pennsylvania. The Union Army of the Potomac under its very new and untried commander, General George G. Meade, marched to intercept Lee.

On Tuesday morning, June 30, an infantry brigade of Confederate soldiers searching for shoes headed toward Gettysburg (population 2,400). The Confederate commander looked through his field glasses and spotted a long column of Federal cavalry heading toward the town. He withdrew his brigade and informed his superior, Gen. Henry Heth, who in turn told his superior, A.P. Hill, he would go back the following morning and "get those shoes."

Day 1

Wednesday morning, July 1, two divisions of Confederates headed back to Gettysburg. They ran into Federal cavalry west of the town at Willoughby Run and the skirmish began. Events would quickly escalate. Lee rushed 25,000 men to the scene. The Union had less than 20,000. After much fierce fighting and heavy casualties on both sides, the Federals were pushed back through the town of Gettysburg and regrouped south of the town along the high ground near the cemetery. Lee ordered Confederate General R.S. Ewell to seize the high ground from the battle weary Federals "if practicable." Gen. Ewell hesitated to attack thereby giving the Union troops a chance to dig in along Cemetery Ridge and bring in reinforcements with artillery. By the time Lee realized Ewell had not attacked, the opportunity had vanished.

Meade arrived at the scene and thought it was an ideal place to do battle with Lee's Army. Meade anticipated reinforcements totaling up to 100,000 men to arrive and strengthen his defensive position.

Confederate General James Longstreet saw the Union position as nearly impregnable and told Lee it should be left alone. He argued that Lee's Army should instead move east between the Union Army and Washington and build a defensive position thus forcing the Federals to attack them instead. But Lee believed his own army was invincible and he was also without his much-needed cavalry, which served as his eyes and ears during troop movements. Cavalry leader Jeb Stuart had gone off with his troops to harass the Federals. Stuart's expedition would turn out to be for the most part a wild goose chase, which left Lee at a disadvantage until he returned.

Day 2

Lee decided to attack the Union Army's defensive position at the southern end of Cemetery Ridge, which he thought was less well defended. About 10 a.m. the next morning, Thursday, July 2, Gen. Longstreet was ordered by Lee to attack. But Longstreet was quite slow in getting his troops into position and didn't attack until 4 p.m. that afternoon thus giving the Union Army even more time to strengthen its position. When Longstreet attacked, some of the bitterest fighting of the Civil War erupted at places now part of American military folklore such as Little Round Top, Devil's Den, the Wheat Field and the Peach Orchard. Longstreet took the Peach Orchard but was driven back at Little Round Top.

About 6:30 p.m. Gen. Ewell attacked the Union line from the north and east at Cemetery Hill and Culp's Hill. The attack lasted into darkness but was finally unsuccessful at Cemetery Hill, although the Rebels seized some trenches on Culp's Hill. By about 10:30 p.m., the day's fighting came to an end. The Federals had lost some ground during the Rebel onslaught but still held the strong defensive position along Cemetery Ridge. Both sides regrouped and counted their casualties while the moaning

and sobbing of thousands of wounded men on the slopes and meadows south of Gettysburg could be heard throughout the night under the blue light of a full moon.

Generals from each side gathered in war councils to plan for the coming day. Union commander Meade decided his army would remain in place and wait for Lee to attack. On the Confederate side, Longstreet once again tried to talk Lee out of attacking such a strong position. But Lee thought the battered Union soldiers were nearly beaten and would collapse under one final push. Lee decided to gamble to win the Battle of Gettysburg and in effect win the Civil War by attacking the next day at the center of the Union line along Cemetery Ridge where it would be least expected. To do this he would send in the fresh troops of Gen. George Pickett. Along with this, Gen. Ewell would renew the assault on Culp's hill.

Day 3

As dawn broke on Friday, July 3, about 4:30 a.m., Lee's timetable was undermined as Union cannons pounded the Rebels on Culp's Hill to drive them from the trenches. The Rebels did not withdraw, but instead attacked the Federals around 8 a.m. Thus began a vicious three-hour struggle with the Rebels charging time after time up the hill only to be beaten back. The Federals finally counter attacked and drove the Rebels off the hill and east across Rock Creek. Around 11 a.m. the fighting on Culp's Hill stopped. An eerie quiet settled over the whole battlefield.

Once again Lee encountered opposition to his battle plan from Longstreet. Lee estimated about 15,000 men would participate in the Rebel charge on Cemetery Ridge. Longstreet responded, "It is my opinion that no 15,000 men ever arrayed for battle can take that position." But Lee was unmoved. The plan would go on as ordered. Throughout the morning and into the afternoon amid 90° heat and stifling humidity the Rebels moved into position in the woods opposite Cemetery Ridge for the coming charge. Interestingly, some Union troops were moved away from Cemetery Ridge on Meade's orders because he thought Lee would attack again in the south. Several hours before, Meade had correctly predicted Lee would attack the center, but now thought

otherwise. He left only 5,750 infantrymen stretched out along the half-mile front to initially face the 15,000 man Rebel charge.

Lee sent Jeb Stuart's recently returned cavalry to go behind the Union position in order to divert Federal forces from the main battle area. Around noon, Union and Confederate cavalry troops clashed three miles east of Gettysburg but Stuart was eventually repulsed by punishing cannon fire and the Union cavalry led in part by 23 year old Gen. George Custer. The diversion attempt failed.

Back at the main battle site, just after 1 p.m. about 170 Confederate cannons opened fire on the Union position on Cemetery Ridge to pave the way for the Rebel charge. This was the heaviest artillery barrage of the war but many of the Rebel shells missed their targets and flew harmlessly overhead. The Federals returned heavy cannon fire and soon big clouds of blinding smoke and dust hung over the battlefield. Around 2:30 p.m. the Federals slowed their rate of fire, then ceased, to conserve ammunition and to fool the Rebels into thinking the cannons were knocked out - exactly what the Rebels did think. Pickett went to see Longstreet and asked, "General, shall I advance?" Longstreet, now overwhelmed with emotion, did not respond, but simply bowed his head and raised his hand. Thus the order was given.

"Charge the enemy and remember old Virginia!" yelled Pickett as 12,000 Rebels formed an orderly line that stretched a mile from flank to flank. In deliberate silence and with military pageantry from days gone by, they slowly headed toward the Union Army a mile away on Cemetery Ridge as the Federals gazed in silent wonder at this spectacular sight. As the Rebels got within range, Federal cannons using grapeshot (a shell containing iron balls that flew apart when fired) and deadly accurate rifle volleys ripped into the Rebels killing many and tearing holes in the advancing line. What had been, just moments before, a majestic line of Rebel infantry, quickly became a horrible mess of dismembered bodies and dying wounded accompanied by a mournful roar, but the Rebels continued on.

As they got very close, the Rebels stopped and fired their rifles once at the Federals then lowered their bayonets and commenced a running charge while screaming the Rebel yell. A fierce battle raged for an hour with much brutal hand to hand fighting, shooting at close range and stabbing with bayonets. For a brief moment, the Rebels nearly had their chosen objective, a small clump of oak trees atop Cemetery Ridge. But Union reinforcements and regrouped infantry units swarmed in and opened fire on the Rebel ranks. The battered, outnumbered Rebels finally began to give way and this great human wave that had been Pickett's Charge began to recede as the men drifted back down the slope. The supreme effort of Lee's army had been beaten back, leaving 7,500 of his men lying on the field of battle.

Lee rode out and met the survivors, telling them, "It is all my fault." And to Pickett he said, "Upon my shoulders rests the blame." Later when he got back to headquarters Lee exclaimed, "Too bad. Too bad! Oh, too bad!" The gamble had failed. The tide of the war was now permanently turned against the South. Confederate casualties in dead, wounded and missing were 28,000 out of 75,000. Union casualties were 23,000 out of 88,000.

That night and into the next day, Saturday, July 4, Confederate wounded were loaded aboard wagons that began the journey back toward the South. Lee was forced to abandon his dead and begin a long slow withdrawal of his army back to Virginia. Union commander Meade, out of fatigue and caution, did not immediately pursue Lee, infuriating President Lincoln who wrote a bitter letter to Meade (never delivered) saying he missed a "golden opportunity" to end the war right there.

The Tragic Story of Jennie Wade

Mary Virginia "Jennie" Wade was a 20-year-old resident of Gettysburg engaged to be married to Corp. Johnston H. Skelly of the 87th Pennsylvania. She worked as a seamstress with her mother in their home on Breckenridge Street. To make ends meet, they also took care of a 6-year-old boarder named Isaac. For safety during the first day's battle, Jennie and her family moved to the home of Jennie's sister, Georgia Wade McClellan on Baltimore Street. Her sister had given birth with great difficulty around 2:15 P.M., one hour before the Confederates rode into Gettysburg, and Jennie was caring for her. The McClellan side of the house on Baltimore Street, less than 50 yards north of Cemetery Hill, thus housed Mrs. Wade, Jennie, her brother Harry, her young boarder Isaac, her sister Georgia, and the newborn son. There was no heavy fighting in the area but a Federal picket line did run behind the little brick house, there was intermittent skirmishing between it and Confederate outposts in the Town proper. Protected by the sturdy brick walls of the house, they lived for three days in the midst of the greatest battle ever seen in this hemisphere. Jennie spent most of July 1 distributing bread to Union soldiers and filling their canteens with water. By late afternoon on July 2, the diminishing supply of bread made it apparent that more bread would be needed the next day. Jennie and her mother left the yeast to rise until the morning of the 3rd. At about 7 A.M. on the morning of July 3, the Confederate sharpshooters began firing at the north windows of the house. The prep work to bake biscuits was begun at 8 A.M. At about 8:30 A.M. while Jennie stood in the kitchen kneading dough, a Confederate musket ball smashed through a door on the north side of the house, pierced another into the kitchen, and struck Jennie in the back beneath her left shoulder blade embedding itself in her corset, killing her instantly. The cries of her sister and mother attracted Federal soldiers who carried her body to the cellar. Later she was buried in Evergreen Cemetery in a coffin some Confederate soldiers had fashioned for an officer. In the early afternoon of July 4, Jennie's mother baked 15 loaves of bread from the dough, which Jennie had kneaded.

Jennie Wade was the only civilian casualty of the battle of Gettysburg. Nor was the tragedy complete, for unbeknownst to Jennie, her fiancé Corp. Skelly had been wounded and taken prisoner at Winchester on May 13. Transferred to Virginia, he died in a hospital on July 12. News that he had died in Confederate hands came several days after the Southern Army had withdrawn from Gettysburg.



Jennie Wade

Account of Tillie Pierce

Tillie Pierce was born in 1848 and when the battle began, had lived all her life in the village of Gettysburg. Her father made his living as a butcher and the family lived above his shop in the heart of town. Tillie witnessed the entire battle and published her observations twenty-six years after the event.

Tillie attended the "Young Ladies Seminary" a finishing school near her home. She was attending school on June 26 when the cry "the Rebels are coming!" reverberated through the town's sleepy streets:

"We were having our literary exercises on Friday afternoon, at our Seminary, when the cry reached our ears. Rushing to the door, and standing on the front portico we beheld in the direction of the Theological Seminary, a dark, dense mass, moving toward town. Our teacher, Mrs. Eyster, at once said:

'Children, run home as quickly as you can.'

"It did not require repeating. I am satisfied some of the girls did not reach their homes before the Rebels were in the streets.

"As for myself, I had scarcely reached the front door, when, on looking up the street, I saw some of the men on horseback. I scrambled in, slammed shut the door, and hastening to the sitting room, peeped out between the shutters.

"What a horrible sight! There they were, human beings! Clad almost in rags, covered with dust, riding wildly, pell-mell down the hill toward our home! Shouting, yelling most unearthly, cursing, brandishing their revolvers, and firing right and left.

"I was fully persuaded that the Rebels had actually come at last. What they would do with us was a fearful question to my young mind.

"Soon the town was filled with infantry, and then the searching and ransacking began in earnest.

"They wanted horses, clothing, anything and almost everything they could conveniently carry away.

"Nor were they particular about asking. Whatever suited them they took. They did, however, make a formal demand of the town authorities, for a large supply of flour, meat, groceries, shoes, hats and (doubtless, not least in their estimations), ten barrels of whisky; or, in lieu of this five thousand dollars.

"But our merchants and bankers had too often heard of their coming, and had already shipped their wealth to places of safety. Thus it was, that a few days after, the citizens of York were compelled to make up our proportion of the Rebel requisition."

July 1: Escape to a Safe House and the first encounter with the tragedy of war

As the sounds of battle increase and the fighting nears her home, Tillie joins a neighbor as she and her children flee to her father's (Jacob Weikert) house three miles south of town near Round Top. Tillie's parents elect to stay in town:

"At last we reached Mr. Weikert's and were gladly welcomed to their home.

"It was not long after our arrival, until Union artillery came hurrying by. It was indeed a thrilling sight. How the men impelled their horses! How the officers urged the men as they all flew past toward the sound of the battle! Now the road is getting all cut up; they take to the fields, and all is in anxious, eager hurry! Shouting, lashing the horses, cheering the men, they all rush madly on.

"Suddenly we behold an explosion; it is that of a caisson. We see a man thrown high in the air and come down in a wheat field close by. He is picked up and carried into the house. As they pass by I see his eyes are blown out and his whole person seems to be one black mass. The first words I hear him say are: 'Oh dear! I forgot to read my Bible to-day! What will my poor wife and children say'

"I saw the soldiers carry him up stairs; they laid him upon a bed and wrapped him in cotton. How I pitied that poor man! How terribly the scenes of war were being irresistibly portrayed before my vision."

July 2: Officer brutality

During the battle's second day fighting shifts to the area around Little Round Top. Tillie remains in the Weikert home carrying water to passing Union troops while others bake bread for the soldiers. Towards noon she witnesses an incident at the front of the house:

"This forenoon another incident occurred which I shall ever remember. While the infantry were passing, I noticed a poor, worn-out soldier crawling along on his hands and knees. An officer yelled at him, with cursing, to get up and march. The poor fellow said he could not, whereupon the officer, raising his sword, struck him down three or four times. The officer passed on. Little caring what he had done. Some of his comrades at once picked up the prostrate form and carried the unfortunate man into the house. After several hours of hard work the sufferer was brought back to consciousness. He seemed quite a young man, and was suffering from sunstroke received on the forced march. As they were carrying him in, some of the men who had witnessed this act of brutality remarked:

'We will mark that officer for this.'

"It is a pretty well established fact that many a brutal officer fell in the battle, from being shot other than by the enemy."

July 3: The surgeon's work

Lee aims his attack at the center of the Union line. The ferocity of the battle forces Tillie and the others to flee to a farm house farther from the fighting. Late in the day, as the battle subsides, the family decides to return to the Weikert farm:

"Toward the close of the afternoon it was noticed that the roar of the battle was subsiding, and after all had become quiet we started back to the Weikert home. As we drove along in the cool of the evening, we noticed that everywhere confusion prevailed. Fences were thrown down near and far; knapsacks, blankets and many other articles, lay scattered here and there. The whole country seemed filled with desolation.

"Upon reaching the place I fairly shrank back aghast at the awful sight presented. The approaches were crowded with wounded, dying and dead. The air was filled with moanings, and groanings. As we passed on toward the house, we were compelled to pick our steps in order that we might not tread on the prostrate bodies.

"When we entered the house we found it also completely filled with the wounded. We hardly knew what to do or where to go. They, however, removed most of the wounded, and thus after a while made room for the family.

"As soon as possible, we endeavored to make ourselves useful by rendering assistance in this heartrending state of affairs. I remember Mrs. Weikert went through the house, and after searching awhile, brought all the muslin and linen she could spare. This we tore into bandages and gave them to the surgeons, to bind up the poor soldier's wounds.

"By this time, amputating benches had been placed about the house. I must have become inured to seeing the terrors of battle, else I could hardly have gazed upon the scenes now presented. I was looking out of the windows facing the front yard. Near the basement door, and directly underneath the window I was at, stood one of these benches. I saw them lifting the poor men upon it, then the surgeons sawing and cutting off arms and legs, then again probing and picking bullets from the flesh.

"Some of the soldiers fairly begged to be taken next, so great was their suffering, and so anxious were they to obtain relief.

"I saw the surgeons hastily put a cattle horn over the mouths of the wounded ones, after they were placed upon the bench. At first I did not understand the meaning of this but upon inquiry, soon learned that that was their mode of administering chloroform, in order to produce unconsciousness. But the effect in some instances were not produced; for I saw the wounded throwing themselves wildly about, and shrieking with pain while the operation was going on.

"To the south of the house, and just outside of the yard, I noticed a pile of limbs higher than the fence. It was a ghastly sight! Gazing upon these, too often the trophies of the amputating bench, I could have no other feeling, than that the whole scene was one of cruel butchery."

The battle's aftermath

Hearing that her family is safe in town, it is decided that Tillie should remain at the Weikert farm for a few days after the battle. On July 5, Tillie and some friends climb to the crest of Little Round Top and survey the battlefield below:

"By this time the Union dead had been principally carried off the field, and those that remained were Confederates.

"As we stood upon those mighty boulders, and looked down into the chasms between, we beheld the dead lying there just as they had fallen during the struggle. From the summit of Little Round Top, surrounded by the wrecks of battle, we gazed upon the valley of death beneath. The view there spread out before us was terrible to contemplate! It was an awful spectacle! Dead soldiers, bloated horses, shattered cannon and caissons, thousands of small arms. In fact everything belonging to army equipments, was there in one confused and indescribable mass."

References:

Alleman, (Pierce) Tillie, *At Gettysburg, or What a Girl Saw and Heard of the Battle* (1888, reprinted 1994); Buel, Clarence, and Robert U. Johnson, *Battles and Leaders of the Civil War*, Vol.III (1888; reprint ed., 1982); Freeman, Douglas S. *R. E. Lee: A Biography*, Vol. III (1934-45); McPherson, James M. *Ordeal by Fire: The Civil War and Reconstruction* (1982).

Elizabeth Salome "Sallie" Myers

"I was not an enlisted nurse. At the breaking out of the war I was a teacher in the public schools of Gettysburg, my native place, and the home of my maternal ancestors who were its first settlers. On May 31, 1863, I finished a nine months' term as second assistant to the principle of our schools. Of the experiences of the inhabitants of the Southern border counties of our state that Spring and Summer, I need not speak.

Business of all kinds was paralyzed and the daily reports of the coming of the rebels kept us in a constant fever of excitement. On June 26 they came, spent the night and passed through... burning bridges and spreading consternation everywhere. Little we dreamed of the far greater horrors that were in store for us.

"On Wednesday July 1, the storm broke. We were brimming over with patriotic enthusiasm. While our elders prepared food we girls stood on the corner near our house and gave refreshments of all kinds to 'our boys' of the First Corps, who were double-quicking down Washington Street to join the troops already engaged in battle west of the town. After the men had all passed, we sat on our doorsteps or stood around in groups, frightened nearly out of our wits but never dreaming of defeat. A horse was led by, the blood streaming from his head which was covered. The sight sickened me. Then a man was led by supported by two comrades. His head had been hastily bandaged and blood was visible. I turned away faint with horror, for I never could bear the sight of blood. After a while the artillery wagons began to go back and we couldn't understand that. Then came the order: 'Women and children to the cellars; the rebels will shell the town.' We lost little time in obeying the order. My home was on West High Street, near Washington (Street) and in the direct path of the retreat. From 4 to 6 we were in the cellar and those two hours I can never forget. Our cellar was a good one and furnished a refuge for many besides our own family.

"The noise above our heads, the rattling of musketry, the screeching of shells, and the unearthly yells, added to the cries of the children, were enough to shake the stoutest heart. After the rebels had gained full possession of the town, some of our men who had been captured were standing near the cellar window. One of them asked if some of us would take their addresses and the addresses of friends and write to them of their capture. I took thirteen and wrote as they requested. I received answers from all but one, and several of the soldiers revisited the place of their capture and recognized the house and cellar window. While the battle lasted we concealed and fed three men in our cellar.

"Before 6 o'clock the firing ceased and we came up from the cellar. They had begun bringing wounded and injured into town. The Catholic and Presbyterian churches, a few

doors east of my father's home were taken possession of as hospitals. Dr. James Fulton (143rd Pennsylvania Volunteers) did splendid work getting things in shape. From that time on we had no rest for weeks. 'Girls,' Dr. Fulton said, 'you must come up to the churches and help us- the boys are suffering terribly!' I went to the Catholic church. On pews and floors men lay, the groans of the suffering and dying were heartrending. I knelt beside the first man near the door and asked what I could do. 'Nothing,' he replied, 'I am going to die.' I went outside the church and cried. I returned and spoke to the man- he was wounded in the lungs and spine, and there was not the slightest hope for him. The man was Sgt. Alexander Stewart of the 149th Pennsylvania Volunteers. I read a chapter of the Bible to him, it was the last chapter his father had read before he left home. The wounded man died on Monday, July 6.

"Sgt. Stewart was the first wounded man brought in, but others followed. The sight of blood never again affected me and I was among wounded and dying men day and night. While the battle lasted and the town was in possession of the rebels, I went back and forth between my home and the hospitals without fear. The soldiers called me brave, but I am afraid the truth was that I did not know enough to be afraid and if I had known enough, I had no time to think of the risk I ran, for my heart and hands were full. One of our boys had lost a leg. He had been with us several days and had become very fond of my little sisters. Very frequently they sang for him, 'There is No Name So Sweet on Earth', at that time a popular hymn. He suffered from indigestion and one night in his restlessness, the bandages came loose. It was after midnight. The nurse, tired out, had fallen asleep and before we could find a surgeon he was so weakened by loss of blood that he died the next morning. A few days later his wife came. She was young and had never been away from home. When she heard of her husband being wounded, she started for Gettysburg, leaving a babe that he had never seen. She did not know of his death until she came to us and her grief was heartrending.

"I went daily through the hospitals with my writing materials, reading and answering letters. This work enlisted all my sympathies, and I received many kind and appreciative letters from those who could not come. Besides caring for the wounded, we did all we could for the comfort of friends who came to look after their loved ones. Many pleasant and enduring friendships were the result of this part of my work. It is a great pleasure to remember that during that long, trying summer, I was treated with the greatest courtesy and kindness by the soldiers, not one, in either army, ever addressing me except in the most respectful manner. They were men. They bore their suffering in the hospitals with the same matchless courage and fortitude with which they met the dangers and endured the hardships of army life. Their patience was marvelous. I never heard a murmur. Truly, we shall not look upon their like again.

"I would not care to live that summer again, yet I would not willingly erase that chapter from my life's experience; and I shall always be thankful that I was permitted to minister to the wants and soothe the last hours of some of the brave men who lay suffering and dying for the dear old flag."

Lieutenant-Colonel Thomas Chamberlin's account of John Burns

An incident which occurred about mid-day did much to create good feeling and stimulate the courage of the regiment. While watching and waiting, the attention of some of the men was called to an individual of rather bony frame and more than average stature who approached from the direction of the town, moving with a deliberate step, carrying in his right hand a rifle at a "trail". At any time his figure would have been noticeable, but it was doubly so at that moment, both on account of his age, which evidently neared threescore-and-ten, and the peculiarity of his dress. The latter consisted of dark trousers and waistcoat, a blue "swallow-tail" coat with brass buttons, and a high black silk hat, from which most of the original sheen had long departed, of a shape to be found only in the fashion-plates of a remote past. Presumably on account of the heat, no neckwear of any kind relieved the bluish tint of his clean-shaven face and chin. As his course brought him opposite the rear of the left battalion, he first met Major Chamberlin and asked, "Can I fight with your regiment?" The major answered affirmatively, but, seeing Colonel Wister approaching, added, "Here is our colonel; speak to him".

"Well, old man, what do you want?" demanded Colonel Wister.

"I want a chance to fight with your regiment."

"You do? Can you shoot?"

"Oh, yes;" and a smile crept over the old man's face which seemed to say, "If you knew that you had before you a soldier of the war of 1812, who fought with Scott at Lundy's Lane, you would not ask such a question".

"I see you have a gun, but where is your ammunition?"

For answer, he slapped his disengaged hand on his trousers pockets, which were bulging out with cartridges.

"Certainly you can fight with us", said the colonel, "and I wish there were many more like you".

He then advised him to go into the woods on the left, to the line of the Iron Brigade, where he would be more sheltered from sun and bullets, with an equal chance of doing good execution. With apparent reluctance, as if he preferred the open field, he moved towards the woods, and history has written the name of John Burns - for it was he - in the roll of the nation's heroes, and his deeds of that day are inseparably linked with the glories of Gettysburg!

Jacob Taughinbaugh was a boy living with his family just east of Gettysburg in 1863.

“My mother had two Negro servants. We were sure if the Confederates found them they would be taken away. Our front porch was a few feet above the ground, and at one end there was an excavation below ground where you could get to the cellar from the outside. This entranceway was separated from the rest of the space under the porch by a wall made of stones without mortar. My mother took away stones enough to let the servants crawl through, then put the stones back just as they had been. She had to take out a good many stones, too, because one of the Negroes was a great big woman. Someone had to keep a sharp lookout all the time, and as soon as a soldier was seen coming Mother would take the servants down and stow them away. Sometimes there would be men hanging around the house all day. The best she could do then was to take down some food and slip it to them through the space of one stone when none of the men was near about.”

A black resident of Gettysburg, who worked as a servant maid in a farmhouse north of Gettysburg, recalled the following encounter with Confederate soldiers

"(I) got down into the cellar, and I crawled way back in the darkest corner and piled everything in front of me. I was the only colored person there, and I didn't know what might happen to me." A Confederate officer lay wounded upstairs, and he "wanted the women to come up out of the cellar to take care of him and do some cooking, and he promised they should be well treated." Mr. Hankey, the servant maid's employer, asked the officer "Would you see a colored person protected if she was to help with the work here? He said he would, and he sent out a written somethin' or 'nother orderin' the men to keep out of the kitchen, and he had the door boarded up halfway so they could hand in things to be cooked and we could hand em' out afterward."

17 year old Jennie McCreary

I went over to Weaver's to help them roll bandages. The house was soon filled with groaning soldiers, and eventually I overcame my sick, queasy feeling and could look at wounds, bathe them, bind them without feeling sick and nervous. Tears came only once when the first soldier came to the house. He'd walked from the field almost exhausted, threw himself into a chair, looked up at us girls and said, 'Oh, girls. I have as good a home as you. If I were only there.' And then he fainted."

"A good many of our soldiers were killed in the street. I saw two dead ones lying in McCurdy's alley when I crossed the street to go home. Four of our men were carrying a wounded soldier on a stretcher down the street when a [cannon]ball came along and took the legs off the two front men. There were some Rebels killed too."

Various Accounts

At 4 a.m. on July 3, just before dawn, the loudest and most severe firing filled the entire town. The Confederates launched an attack on Culp's Hill that morning. Sarah Broadhead remembered, *"The time that we sat in the cellar seemed long, listening to the terrific sound of the strife; more terrible never greeted human ears. We knew that with every explosion and the scream of each shell, human beings were being hurried, through excruciating pain, into another world, and that many more were torn, and mangled, and lying in a torment worse...if it was God's will, I would rather be taken away than to remain to see the misery that would follow."* Sarah was also concerned about the outcome of the day. *"We knew that the Rebels were putting forth all their might, and it was a dreadful thought that they might succeed."*

Jennie McCreary did not hear the guns at dawn. She remembered that *"the third day of the battle was comparatively quiet, until about three in the afternoon, and then the cannonading began and such a cannonading no one ever heard. Nothing can be compared to it. No one who has never heard it can form any idea of how terrible it is."*

Charles McCurdy recalled July 3 in nearly the same way. *"On the morning of the third," he wrote, "there was a repetition of the experiences of the two preceding days. Soon after one in the afternoon, however, the most terrific cannonading that we had heard began. As soon as it slackened we came up from the cellar, and Father took me with him*

to the third floor of our house from which one could look from a dormer window towards the scene of the firing, a mile or more away.

Mary McAllister remembered, "The first thing we knew, a Union band began to play and I think I never knew anything sweeter, and I never felt so glad in my life."

Captain Louis C. Duncan, Medical Corps, U.S. Army:

"Allow me here to remark that the stories published, charging the people of the town with a want of hospitality toward the soldiers, are basely false. In those days of suffering I gathered bread from house to house, and the last loaf and half loaf was always cheerfully given."

"During the battle of the first day, when shells were shrieking and bursting around the hospitals, even the women were found in the midst of the wounded men as they were carried in from the field; and from that time on all through the terrible days, and afterwards down to the close, in every hospital, at all times, with a devotion that never flagged, or counted any sacrifice too great, our noble women were found, like angels of mercy, binding up wounds and administering food. Ask the many hundreds of wounded men, who filled the warehouses, halls, churches, and so many of the private dwellings, what they think of the hospitality of the people of Gettysburg."

"The Rebels, though disposed to help themselves, were generally civil, and even respectful toward the citizens."

First Lieutenant A.P. Smith

"The people of Gettysburg, like the bulk of the people of the free States, are heartily loyal. At many of the doors and windows, the ladies, lads and girls stood through that long, hot day, and passed water and food to the Union troops. The men of the Seventy-sixth will not soon forget, and I should fail in the performance of my duty, did I not mention the "nameless heroine," who, with a cup in each hand, so busily dealt out water to the thirsty boys, the tears of sympathy streaming down her lovely cheeks, as the wounded soldiers came hobbling by, until, pierced by a rebel ball, she fell dead by the side of her pail ! We regret that we cannot hand down her name to posterity, even in these humble pages. The memory of her deeds and heroic sacrifice shall remain green, though her name is unknown.

Letter to a Relative Project

After learning about the Battle of Gettysburg and reading civilian accounts on the battle, students will create a six-paragraph letter to a relative living in Delaware explaining about the battle from their perspective as well as informing the relative about the aftermath of the battle.

Paragraph One: Introduction. Students are to introduce themselves, their state (are they injured, okay, slightly ill etc) and begin to introduce the events of the last three or so days.

Paragraphs Two thru Four: Days One-Three of Battle. Students are to write about what they saw and heard during those days of battle. Each paragraph is dedicated to each day of battle. Students may be as creative as possible, however must have historic facts within each paragraph. Did they see a wounded soldier? Did they offer food or water? Did the girls offer to be nurses to the wounded? What was it like hiding in a cellar?

Paragraph Five: Aftermath of Battle. Students are to write about what it was like in the town of Gettysburg when the battle was over, how do they feel knowing the battle is over and how did they feel the moment they heard the Union had won? Are they helping with the dead/wounded? What do they see and hear?

Paragraph Six: Conclusion. Students are ending their letter to their relative, perhaps summarizing the events and asking the relative if they have witnessed any battles or soldiers marching.

A rubric is attached for grading. Each category is out of four points, with the total number multiplied by five to be a total out of 100. It is recommended students be creative in writing as well as on the style of the letter. Students may lightly color the paper to make it look old, or dip in tea to give it an antique feel. The extent of creativity is left to the instructor.

Letter to a Relative about the Battle of Gettysburg

Imagine you are a civilian living in Gettysburg at the time of battle. What would you have heard; seen or even smelled during the three days and even the days following battle? Would you have helped the wounded? Would you have tried to hide in the cellar, never to come out? Would you have given food and water to the soldiers and which soldiers would you have helped? Would you have been forced to help soldiers? Did you hear of any civilian deaths?

Using the knowledge you have gained on the three days of battle as well as the readings of the different civilian accounts you are to write a letter to a relative living in Delaware describing your experience living as a civilian during the Battle of Gettysburg. You may be creative as possible, however your letter must include historical facts you have learned.

Your letter must be six paragraphs. These paragraphs will include:

- Paragraph One: Introduction. Introduce your topic, explaining how you are (maybe you are injured or have been very busy or are okay) and what has happened the last few days.
- Paragraphs Two thru Four: Days One-Three of Battle. Each paragraph is dedicated to a day of battle. Using your knowledge, explain what happened each day of battle as well as what you saw or heard and if you hid or helped. Give as much detail as possible explaining your experience to your relative.
- Paragraph Five: Aftermath. How did you feel the moment you realized the battle was over and the Union had won the battle? What is the state of your home or town? Are you continuing to help the wounded?
- Paragraph Six: Conclusion. This is the closing to your letter. You may summarize the events; restate how you are and/or how your family is doing now that the battle is over. You might want to also ask your relative how they are doing now during the war and if

they have heard or witnessed any battles or seen soldiers marching through where they live.

Attached is a rubric explaining how you will be graded. The project is out of 100 points.

Category	4	3	2	1
Historical Accuracy	All historical information appeared to be accurate and in chronological order.	Almost all historical information appeared to be accurate and in chronological order.	Most of the historical information was accurate and in chronological order.	Very little of the historical information was accurate and/or in chronological order.
Knowledge Gained	Can clearly explain several ways in which his character "saw" things differently than other characters and can clearly explain why.	Can clearly explain several ways in which his character "saw" things differently than other characters.	Can clearly explain one way in which his character "saw" things differently than other characters.	Cannot explain one way in which his character "saw" things differently than other characters.
Length	Letter contains all 6 required paragraphs: introduction, 3 days of battle, aftermath of battle and conclusion.	Letter contains 5 of the 6 required paragraphs	Letter contains 4 of the 6 required paragraphs	Letter contains 3 or less than the required paragraphs
Spelling and Punctuation	There are no spelling or punctuation errors in the final draft. Character and place names are spelled consistently throughout.	There is one spelling or punctuation error in the final draft.	There are 2-3 spelling and punctuation errors in the final draft.	The final draft has more than 3 spelling and punctuation errors.
Focus on Topic	The entire story is related to the assigned topic and allows the reader to understand much more about the topic.	Most of the story is related to the assigned topic. The story wanders off at one point, but the reader can still learn something about the	Some of the story is related to the assigned topic, but a reader does not learn much about the topic.	No attempt has been made to relate the story to the assigned topic.

Gettysburg Unit Page 29

		topic.		
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Total Points Given: _____ x 5

Grade: _____

Private Culp



Private Culp

Wesley Culp was a native of Gettysburg and lived there until he was a teenager. He learned to hunt in the woods on Culp's Hill, which was owned by his uncle, Henry Culp. As a teen, Wesley took a job with a harness maker in Gettysburg, making leather trappings for horses and wagons. In 1858, the owner of the harness company moved his business to Princess Street in Shepherdstown, (West) Virginia, and Wesley moved there to continue working. Although Wesley made new friends in Shepherdstown, he still kept in contact with friends and family in Gettysburg.

In 1861, when the war broke out, Wesley chose to join the Confederate Army and fight alongside his new friends and neighbors as a member of Company B, 2nd Virginia Infantry Regiment. The 2nd Virginia, part of the famous "Stonewall Brigade" led by General "Stonewall" Jackson, saw its first combat during the First Battle of Manassas. Wesley survived the battle and went on to participate in the Valley Campaign of 1862, the Peninsula Campaign, the Second Battle of Manassas, Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville, the Second Battle of Winchester and Gettysburg.

Wesley's brother William, who had remained in Pennsylvania, enlisted with the Union Army and was a member of the 87th Pennsylvania Infantry. William and Wesley Culp's Regiments faced each other in combat at the Second Battle of Winchester. Fortunately, neither brother was wounded in the action. Wesley Culp came across a friend from Gettysburg on June 15, a Private Jack Skelly, who had been badly wounded and was in a Confederate hospital. Skelly gave Wesley a note to give to his fiancée, Virginia "Jennie" Wade, who was back at home in Gettysburg. But Wesley was unable to deliver the note, as he was shot and killed a short time later.

July 2, 1863: The Confederate Army attacked Culp's Hill, the "point" of the Union's fishhook-shaped line. The 2nd Virginia Infantry was a part of this attack and it can be assumed that Wesley Culp was engaged there.

July 3, 1863: Sometime during the fighting on July 3, Wesley Culp was struck and killed on or near his uncle's farm and the hill of his namesake. Members of the 2nd Virginia Infantry Regiment buried Culp, the only casualty of Company B, and supposedly marked his grave. The only remains of Private Culp to be uncovered later, however, was a rifle stock with his name carved into it.

After Gettysburg: In a sad twist of fate, Jennie Wade was the only civilian killed during the Battle of Gettysburg. An errant round struck her down and she died not knowing the fate of her fiancée, Jack Skelly. William Culp, Wesley's brother, survived the war and left his service to the Union as an officer. The story goes that he considered his brother a traitor for fighting against Pennsylvania and never spoke of him again.

The Gettysburg Address

Four score and seven years ago our fathers brought forth on this continent, a new nation, conceived in liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal.

Now we are engaged in a great civil war, testing whether that nation, or any nation so conceived and so dedicated, can long endure. We are met on a great battlefield of that war. We have come to dedicate a portion of that field, as a final resting place for those who here gave their lives that that nation might live. It is altogether fitting and proper that we should do this.

But in a larger sense, we cannot dedicate - we cannot consecrate - we cannot hallow - this ground. The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here, have consecrated it, far above our poor power to add or detract. The world will little note, nor long remember, what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here. It is for us the living, rather, to be dedicated here to the unfinished work which they who fought here have thus far so nobly advanced. It is rather for us to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us - that from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave the last full measure of devotion - that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain - that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom - and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth.

-President Abraham Lincoln, November 19, 1863

Questions:

1. What event is Lincoln referring to in the first paragraph?
2. Why is it fitting and proper that they dedicate this ground?
3. Why should does Lincoln say we cannot forget what they did here?
4. What do you think Lincoln means by "New birth of freedom"?

Burying the Confederate Dead

On November 19, 1863, President Abraham Lincoln dedicated the National Cemetery at Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, with the immortal words: "Four score and seven years ago our fathers brought forth on this continent a new nation..." These words, which will probably last as long as this Nation lasts, were spoken to dedicate a cemetery for the Union soldiers who gave their "last full measure of devotion" on Gettysburg's bloody battlefield. But what honor was accorded the Confederate dead? Where were they laid to rest?

Following the Battle of Gettysburg, the Confederate dead were buried along the roads, shoved into trenches, or consigned to common graves. The Southerners were seen as traitorous invaders and their bodies were not accorded the respect afforded the men in blue. One newspaper reporter wrote: "The poor Confederate dead were left in the fields as outcasts and criminals that did not merit decent sepulture." President Lincoln's immortal words were not spoken over their unattended, and unmarked, graves.

Reacting to the lack of proper burial for the Southern dead left at Gettysburg, the Southern states launched efforts to return the bodies of their sons to their native states after the War. In Richmond, the Hollywood Memorial Association started a fund drive to secure the money to bring the Confederate dead from Gettysburg to Richmond for reburial in Hollywood Cemetery. Their efforts proved successful; and, on June 15, 1872, a steamship docked at the wharf at Rocketts Landing on the James River with boxes containing the Confederate dead. The soldiers who left to fight for the cause they thought was just had come home.

No one will ever know for sure, but in one of the precious boxes were probably the unidentified remains of Brigadier General Richard B. Garnett, who was killed while leading his men in what history has labeled "Pickett's Charge." This charge, which took place in the afternoon of July 3, 1863, started when General George E. Pickett ordered his men forward with the cry, "Charge the enemy and remember old Virginia."

With muskets firing, flags waving, bayonets fixed and swords pointing forward, the flower of Southern manhood moved forward, ever forward. The fighting was bitter as the Confederates flung themselves across a stone wall which separated the two armies. The battle was desperate; the casualties appalling; and the Union's fate hung on the outcome.

But it was the Confederacy that died on that stone wall as the men in gray were repulsed by the Union forces. Their charge had failed. General Garnett, who was ill on the day of the charge, led his men into what was described as a mission to "hell or

glory." As he plunged with his men through a hail storm of lead, Garnett was ripped apart by grape shot and was left unidentified on Gettysburg's field.

The honor these dead Confederates were denied in life, they found in death. On June 20, 1872, fifteen wagons were assembled at Rocketts Landing to carry the boxes containing the remains of the Confederate dead. Each wagon was draped in mourning and was escorted by two former Confederate soldiers with their muskets reversed. The funeral procession, which included both political as well as military leaders of the recently defeated Confederate nation, wound its way up Main Street as it moved toward Hollywood Cemetery.

The buildings along the route were draped in black, and they echoed to the plaintive sound of the funeral march. As the wagons passed slowly by, "many eyes were filled with tears and many a soldier's widow and orphan turned away from the scene to hide emotion." When the procession reached the cemetery, the boxes were unloaded and buried in a section known as Gettysburg Hill. The soldiers who had escorted the bodies were ordered to "rest arms" as their comrades were laid to rest in Virginia's soil.

There was nothing comparable to the Gettysburg Address for these soldiers. There were no memorable orations; only a prayer by The Rev. Dr. Moses Hoge of Richmond's Second Presbyterian Church was spoken. The prayer contained these lines: "We thank Thee that we have been permitted to bring back from their graves among strangers all that is mortal of our sons and brothers."

Dr. Hoge prayed for those who had survived the war and then intoned, "Engrave upon the hearts of...all the young men of our Commonwealth the remembrance of the patriotic valor, the loyalty to truth, to duty, and to God, which characterized the heroes around whose remains we weep, and who surrendered only to the last enemy...death." Following the prayer, three musket volleys were fired in a final tribute to those whose bodies were laid to rest for all eternity on Hollywood's sacred hill. The sounds of the muskets echoed across the cemetery, across the River James, and they still echo today across the pages of history.

Graphic Organizers

Tic-Tac-Toe Notes

Directions: Divide your notes into 9 sections

Topic:		

Name: _____ **Date:** _____
Period: _____

Note Taker

Events

People

Topic: _____ **Source:** _____

Key Terms

Facts

Important Quotes

Name	Date Period
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Main Event Log

Directions: Keep track of the sequence of events in the story or process.

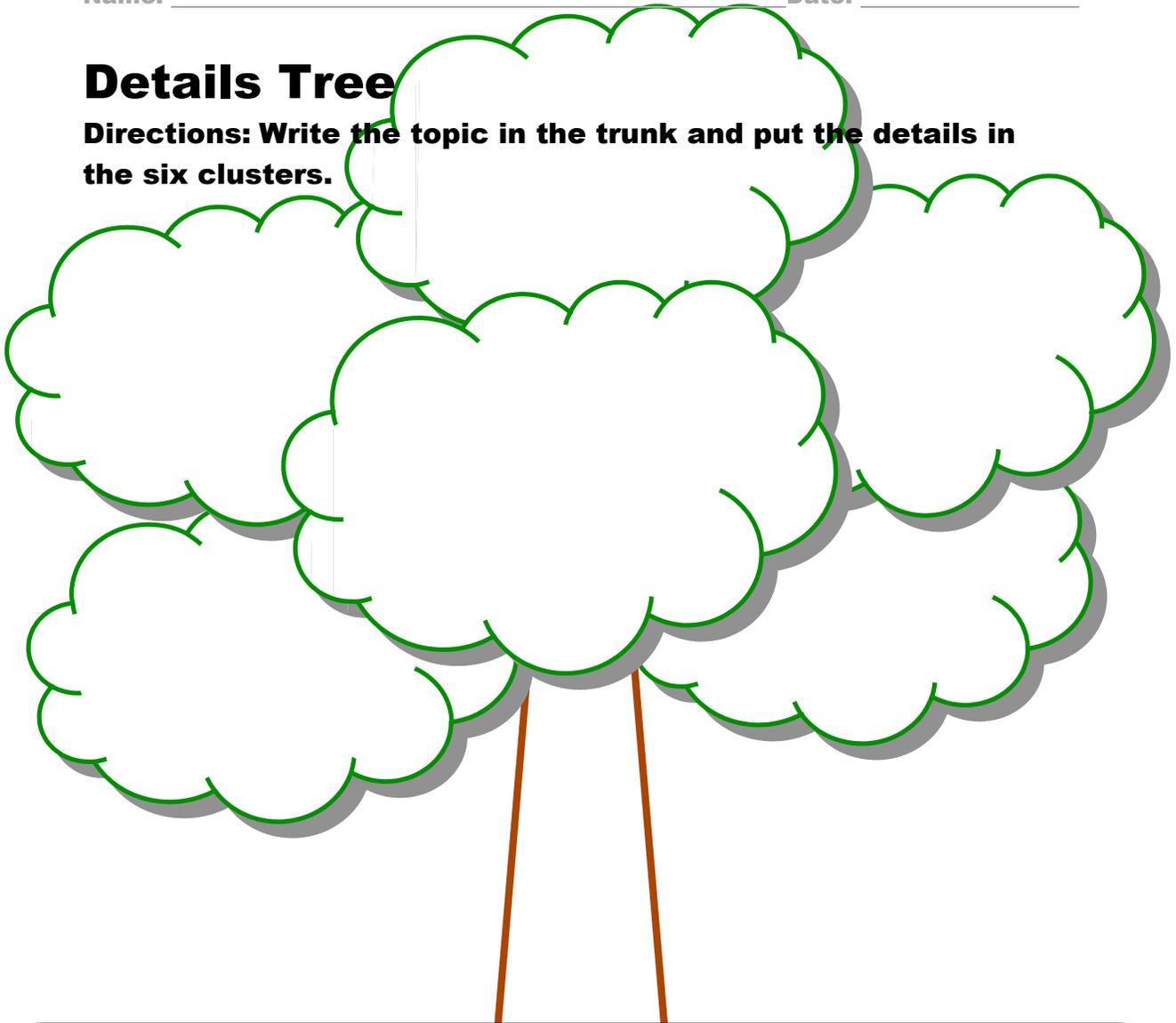
Event 1
Event 2
Event 3
Event 4
Event 5
Event 6
Event 7
Event 8
Event 9
Event 10

Event 11

Name: _____ Date: _____

Details Tree

Directions: Write the topic in the trunk and put the details in the six clusters.



A large, empty rounded rectangular box with a black border, intended for writing the topic in the trunk of the tree.

