



Name _____

Class Period _____

Date _____

Beyond the Sources • *Civil War*

Using the information you gather on the web site, answer the following questions about the unit.

1. The two letters from a soldier in this section show changes in his attitude over a short period of time because of the war. What other kinds of changes might we see if we had a letter from him near the end of the war?

How do letters you may have written as a child differ from letters you might write today?

How does seeing what changes a person goes through during a traumatic event (like a war) help us to better understand the impact of that event?

2. Another artifact that can tell us much about a person is the stationery on which they write their letters. Today we often choose stationery to reflect our personal interests. Where do you think the Edward Davis got his stationery for the letter he wrote from Washington, D.C.?

What can that tell us about him and his beliefs about the war?

Beyond the Sources • Civil War

How do you think the stationery of a Confederate soldier might have been different?

3. The newspaper accounts in this section show us the war from a Northern viewpoint. How might an article about Fort Sumter be different if it was published in a Southern newspaper?

Which do you think would be more accurate as a source?

What might be the best way for us as historians to get the “whole story” about this event?

4. Two of the newspaper articles in this section contain listings of names. One list shows the volunteers who signed up for the war, and the other shows casualties of the Gettysburg battle. How can sources like these help us as researchers?

Why might these sources be less than completely reliable for our research?

What other sources might we need to prove that a source is correct?
