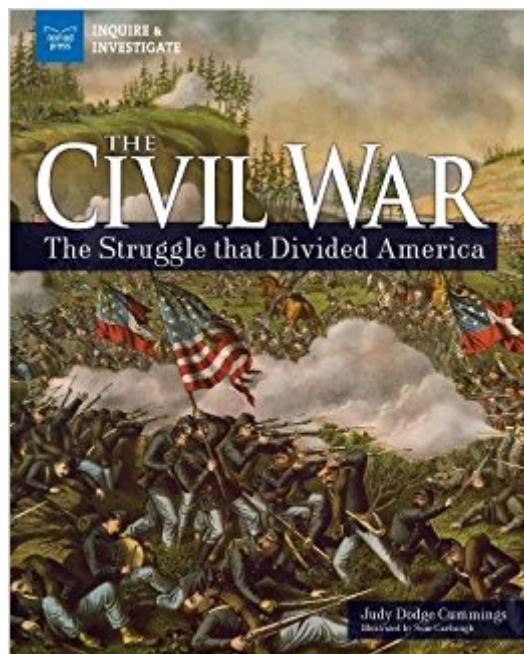


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# The Civil War: The Struggle That Divided America (Inquire & Investigate)



## Synopsis

Slavery or freedom? The question of whether to make the United States a slave country or to make all people free was the question that pitted the states against each other in a brutal battle. In *The Civil War: Investigate the War Between the States*, readers ages 12-15 explore this conflict through the eyes and ears of the men and women who were touched by the clash that left more than 700,000 soldiers dead. Following the American Revolution, slavery was enshrined in the U.S. Constitution. However, the United States still wrestled with whether it would be a country of slavery or grant freedom for all. The southern states relied on slavery's economic role, while the northern states, though also beneficiaries of the benefits of slavery, were closer to deciding that the institution should be outlawed. The rapid territorial expansion of the United States in the first half of the nineteenth century created a series of crises that upset the delicate balance of power between free and slave states, ultimately sparking the Civil War. President Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation in 1862, sounding the death knell of slavery. This act permitted African-Americans to join the fight and enslaved people fled to Northern lines. The Confederacy lost slave labor, one of its greatest war weapons. The Union implemented a strategy of total war, which achieved victory, but only after shocking carnage. The Confederate army surrendered on April 9, 1865, but celebrations in the north were short-lived. A week later, President Lincoln was assassinated. The legacies of the Civil War are far reaching and include the abolition of slavery and the endurance of a unified nation. In *The Civil War: Investigate the War Between the*, readers follow in the footsteps of two young men, Elisha Hunt Rhodes and Sam Watkins. From opposite sides, these men fought for similar reasons—adventure, country, and freedom. Readers become myth busters as they examine primary source documents to prove slavery's role in causing the war and experience the life of a soldier as they evaluate patriotic music, design models of battlefield fortifications, and explore camp life. Other activities include calculating the mathematics of death and examining the role women played in providing medical care and on the home front. The Civil War was the central crisis in American history. The issues at the heart of the conflict—race, freedom, and citizenship—still resonate today.

## Book Information

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Age Range: 12 - 15 years

Grade Level: 7 - 9

## **Customer Reviews**

The American Revolution: Experience the Battle for Independence Publishers Weekly Readers can take a hands-on approach to learning about the American Revolution in this addition to the Build It Yourself series. Each chapter begins with an "essential question" that serves as an entry point ("What factors caused American colonists to begin to resent British rule in the 1760s?"). At the end of each chapter, readers are invited to compose a thesis statement in response to the opening question. Sidebars supplement the material with vocabulary definitions, trivia, and additional information about such figures as Thomas Paine, Benedict Arnold, and Phillis Wheatley. Cartoon illustrations and 25 activities (such as preparing "firecake," the simple bread that soldiers ate on the battlefield) create a lively learning experience, though the instructional tone makes the book an unlikely candidate for casual reading.

Great Civil War Projects You Can Build Yourself: School Library Journal "Includes little-known facts that will interest children unfamiliar with the conflict and Civil War buffs alike . . . A useful resource for any Civil War Curriculum."

The Great Depression: Experience the 1930s from the Dust Bowl to the New Deal: Booklist Online . . . provides appealing and engaging support for American history students trying to make sense of the Great Depression . . . glossary, vocabulary exercises, key questions, and suggestions for games, projects, and experiments, helps make this a useful research tool and teaching resource . . .

Great Civil War Projects You Can Build Yourself: The New York Times Book Review . . . a fascinating gem of a book.

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Susan Boardman, LBG, Leadership Program Director, Gettysburg Foundation â œThis book offers a concise, objective, and accurate telling of one of the most pivotal events in American history. It will assist students in understanding that who we are as a nation today is still greatly influenced by the Civil War, along with its causes and consequences. Well done!â •

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