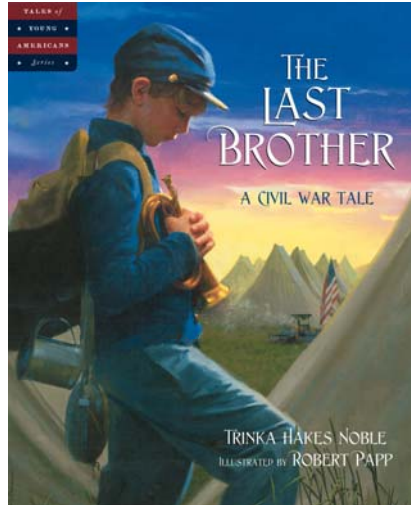


# Teacher's Guide



## **The Last Brother A Civil War Tale**

Author: Trinka Hakes Noble

Illustrator: Robert Papp

Guide written by Cheryl K. Grinn

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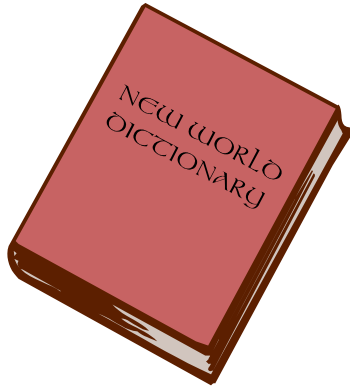
# WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?

The book *The Last Brother* is the story of just one of the many battles fought during the Civil War. You will enjoy reading this story.

Some of the terms used in this book may not be familiar to you. They are the terms that were used during that time.

Use a dictionary to find the meaning of the following words.

1. regiment \_\_\_\_\_
2. brigade \_\_\_\_\_
3. artillery \_\_\_\_\_
4. battery \_\_\_\_\_
5. caisson \_\_\_\_\_
6. bayonet \_\_\_\_\_
7. hardtack \_\_\_\_\_
8. fatback \_\_\_\_\_
9. reveille \_\_\_\_\_
10. entrenched \_\_\_\_\_



## MAKE IT BETTER

I saw a big dog. I saw a large red furry dog. Which of these sentences give you a better picture of the dog? Of course, the one with more descriptive words. A word that describes a noun is called an adjective. You will find many adjectives that help make the story *The Last Brother* exciting.

Use *The Last Brother* to find the adjective specific for each noun.

1. \_\_\_\_\_ beds
2. \_\_\_\_\_ jam
3. \_\_\_\_\_ boys
4. \_\_\_\_\_ quilt
5. \_\_\_\_\_ uniforms
6. \_\_\_\_\_ charger
7. \_\_\_\_\_ shells
8. \_\_\_\_\_ stew
9. \_\_\_\_\_ town
10. \_\_\_\_\_ farms



## Soldier Math

Read the courageous story of a young boy in *The Last Brother*.

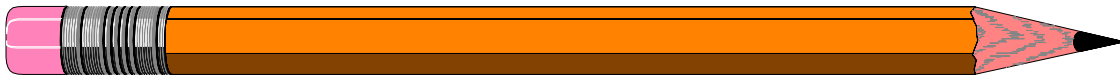
Solve the following math problems.

1. Gabe practiced the bugle for 3 hours each morning and 2 hours each evening. How many hours did he practice each week? \_\_\_\_\_

2. If there are 40 men in a company and 8 companies of men, how many total men are there? \_\_\_\_\_

3. Food was very important on the battlefield to keep the soldiers healthy. If 320 soldiers each ate 3 pounds of food a day, how many pounds of food would be needed to feed the troops for one week?  
\_\_\_\_\_

4. There are 4 soldiers per tent. How many tents would be needed to sleep 320 soldiers? \_\_\_\_\_



## Civil War Crossword

You will find the answers to this puzzle in the book *The Last Brother*. Read and enjoy this book while searching for these answers.

|   |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |
|---|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| C | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |       |       |       |
| I | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |       |       |       |
| V | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| I | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |       |       |       |
| L | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |       |       |       |
| W | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |       |       |       |       |       |       |
| A | _____ | _____ | _____ |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |
| R | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |       |       |       |

1. The ridge across from Seminary Ridge
2. Foot soldiers
3. What Dany and Gabe did to get into the army
4. To happen quickly
5. President during the Civil War
6. What a canteen carries
7. What soldiers are in
8. Opposite of “charge”

# When Did It Happen?

## Sequencing

Read the story of Gabe and his adventures during the Civil War in *The Last Brother*.

Cut out these sentences from the story and glue them on a separate piece of paper in the order they appear.

-----  
Gabe meets Orlee.  
-----

-----  
John and Tuck are killed in the war.  
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-----  
Orlee warns Gabe of danger.  
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-----  
Gabe's "retreat" saves lives.  
-----

-----  
Gabe and Orlee trade food.  
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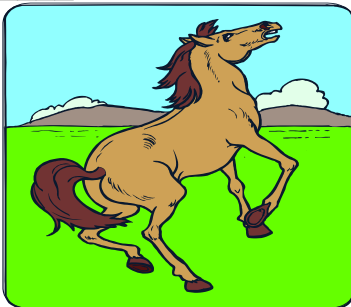
-----  
Gabe and Davy volunteer for the Union Army.  
-----

# FACT OR OPINION?

Enjoy reading the Civil War story *The Last Brother*. Use this story to decide if each statement below is a fact or an opinion.

A fact is a statement that can be proved. An opinion is what someone thinks.

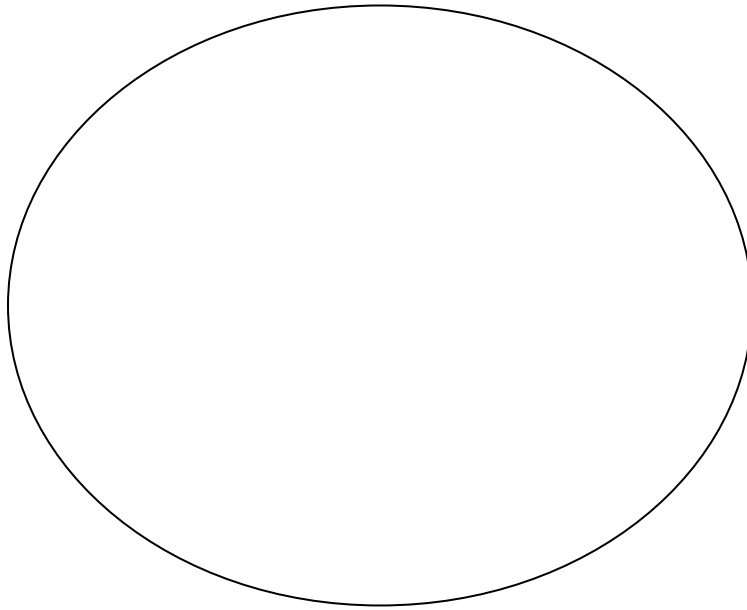
- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. Pickett's Charge took place in July 1863.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. It's fun to pick blackberries.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. Culp's Hill is north of Cemetery Ridge.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. Gettysburg is seven miles from the Mason-Dixon Line.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. Gabe shouldn't have run off with Davy.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. Lancer was the best horse in the war.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. Lancer knew all of the commands.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8. Hardtack tastes better than fatback.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 9. Orlee was from the South.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 10. Gabe was a better bugler than Orlee.



# Bugler's Award

A bugler served an important role in the Civil War. Learn about this important job and who did it in *The Last Brother*.

Design a medal to award to a young Civil War Bugler.



# Gabe's Courage

Learn about the courage of a young boy in *The Last Brother*. It is a tale of one battle during the Civil War and one boy's role in the war.

List 3 instances of Gabe's courage.

1. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

List 3 times you have had courage.

1. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

# CIVIL WAR DIORAMA



Read and enjoy the Civil War story in *The Last Brother*. Picture in your head a scene that you liked from the book.  
Plan and make a diorama of that scene.

## Diorama Materials

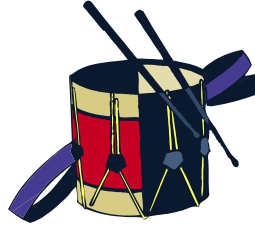
Shoebox or similar small box

Paper, paints, markers

3-D materials, twigs, plastic figures

Add a sign that tells what your diorama shows

Use the space to draw a sketch of the diorama you will make.



# Make a Civil War Drum

Gabe was a bugler for the Union Army in *The Last Brother*. The army also used young boys to be drummers in the war.

Make a Civil War drum.

## **Materials**

Large round oatmeal box or coffee can

## **Procedure**

1. Measure around the can or box. Use the plain side of a paper grocery bag and cut a strip of paper to fit around your drum. Make sure it covers from top to bottom.
2. Use paint, crayons, or markers to make a design on your paper.
3. Glue your design onto your container.
4. Put the top on your drum.
5. Use drumsticks or pencils to drum.

Try beating different rhythms that would be good for the soldiers to march to.

Write your best marching rhythm below.

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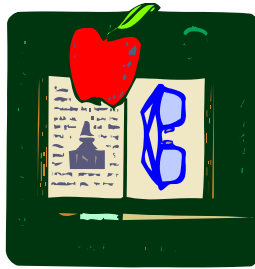
# One Country, Two Flags



The Civil War divided our country into two parts, the Union (North) and the Confederacy (South). The book *The Last Brother* tells the story of a boy and his experience in one battle during the war.

Both the Union and the Confederacy carried different flags during the war.

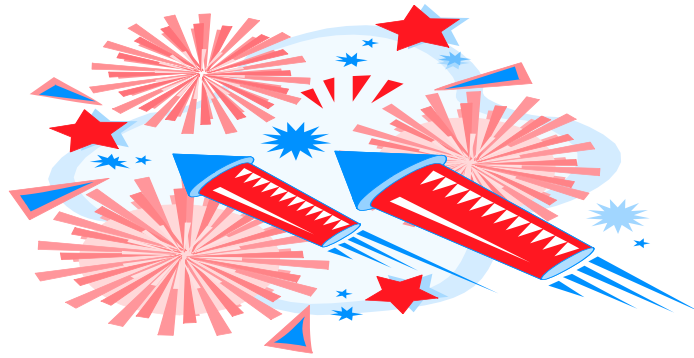
Research the different flags. Draw and label each flag below.



# Gabe's Journal

*The Last Brother* tells the story of a young boy, Gabe, during the Civil War, especially the events of just one major battle. After you have read the book, write a journal entry describing what happened to Gabe after this battle.

This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and extend across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.



# The War is Over!!

A letter from Gabe to Orlee

A friendship was formed between Gabe and Orlee in *The Last Brother*. The boys came from two very different backgrounds, as you will find out in the book.

Pretend the Civil War has ended and Gabe is writing Orlee to tell him what happened after Pickett's Charge.

Dear Orlee,

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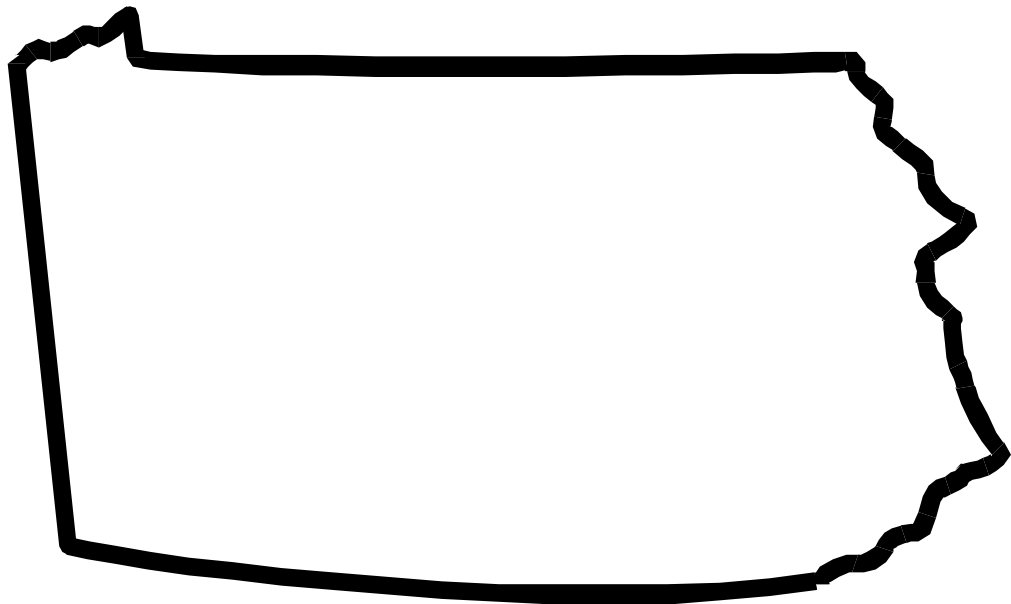
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# PLACE THE BATTLEFIELDS

The setting for *The Last Brother* is a battlefield near Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. You will need to use the book to help you locate the following places.

Gettysburg  
Seminary Ridge  
Cemetery Ridge  
Little Round Top  
Big Round Top  
Cemetery Hill  
Culp's Hill



# SECRET MESSAGES

Secret messages were an important way for the troops to communicate during the Civil War. Remember, they didn't have phones! Discover one young boy's experience during the war in the book *The Last Brother*.

Below are the international Morse code characters.

A.-- B---... C--.---. D--.. E. F...-. G---. H.... I..  
J.----- K.--.- L.-. -- .. M--- N--. O-- -- -- P.-----.  
Q---.-. R... S... T-- U...- V...-- W.--- X--.-  
Y--.-. Z---..

Use Morse code to figure out this message.

-- . . . . . . -- . . . -- . -- . . . . . -- . -- . . . . . -- .  
\_\_\_\_\_  
.  
-- . . . . . -- . . . . .  
\_\_\_\_\_

Write your own message in Morse code and have a friend solve it.

# Fancy Names

Do you have a fancy name? Find the fancy names mentioned in *The Last Battle*. You'll discover what they are when Gabe meets Onlee.

Make a list of 10 names you think are “fancy names.”

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.
- 10.

Write a paragraph explaining why you would or wouldn't want a fancy name.

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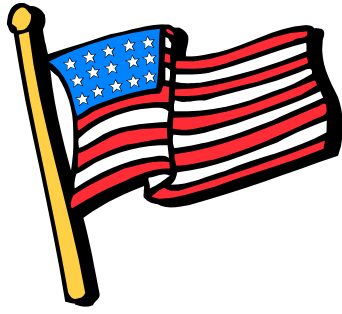
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## Boys at the Battle?

In *The Last Brother*, learn about boys who volunteered to join the army during the Civil War. There were many duties they could perform to help. Even today we hear of boys in some countries serving in armies.

Write an opinion paragraph stating what you think about boys being in the army.

1. State your opinion.
2. Write three sentences, each stating a fact that supports your opinion.
3. Write a concluding sentence that restates your opinion in a different way.

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# What Would Orlee Say?

## Perspective

*The Last Brother* is a story about one Civil War battle told from the perspective of a Northern boy. Read the story carefully.

Write an account of the same battle from the perspective of Orlee. Why might he have a different perspective than Gabe? What might they agree on?

This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and extend across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.



# Hardtack Recipe

During the Civil War food was scarce. Soldiers had to have food that was easy to carry and would not spoil. Read about some of the foods the soldiers ate in *The Last Brother*.

Try this recipe for making hardtack.

## **Ingredients**

2 cups of flour  
½ cup of water  
1 tablespoon of shortening  
6 pinches of salt

## **Procedure**

1. Mix all ingredients together. (batter will be stiff; add more water if necessary).
2. Knead batter and spread dough flat on a nongreased cookie sheet (spread to ½ inch thickness).
3. Set oven to 400 degrees. Bake for ½ hour.
4. Remove from oven and cut into 3-inch squares. Use a fork and punch holes into the dough. Punch in a 4x4 pattern.
5. Turn dough over and bake for another ½ hour.
6. Turn oven off and leave oven door closed. Leave hardtack in the oven until cool.

Enjoy eating your Civil War hardtack!

# The Battle of Pickett's Charge

During the Civil War, songs were sung around the campfire at night. It was a chance for the soldiers to think about home instead of the war. Discover one young boy's war experience in *The Last Brother*.

Write a song or poem about the Civil War and Pickett's Charge.

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal blue ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

# Finding Story Elements

Read *The Last Brother* carefully. Find the following story elements in the book.

**Title** \_\_\_\_\_

**Author** \_\_\_\_\_

**Illustrator** \_\_\_\_\_

**Two main characters** \_\_\_\_\_

**Describe each of the main characters** \_\_\_\_\_

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**Describe the problem encountered** \_\_\_\_\_

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**Describe the solution or solutions to the problem** \_\_\_\_\_

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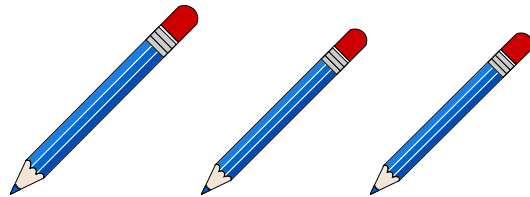
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## Then vs. Now

Wars have gone on throughout history. In *The Last Brother* you will learn about a battle that took place in the American Civil War. There are big differences between this war and current conflicts throughout the world.

Make a Venn diagram comparing the war in Iraq and the American Civil War.

# The Last Brother

## Answer Sheet

**What Does It Mean** 1) a military unit consisting of at least two battalions 2) a military unit consisting of a variable number of battalions 3) a large caliber firing weapon such as a cannon 4) basic tactical artillery unit 5) a large box used to hold ammunition 6) a knife adapted to fit the muzzle end of a rifle 7) a hard biscuit 8) dried and salt-cured pork fat 9) the sounding of a bugle early in the morning to awaken soldiers 10) to provide trenches for the purpose of defending

**Descriptive Words** 1) feather 2) blueberry 3) barefoot 4) patchwork 5) blue 6) chestnut 7) busting 8) fish 9) peaceful 10) tidy

**Soldier Math** 1) 35 hours 2) 320 3) 6,720 4) 80

**Civil War Crossword** 1) cemetery 2) infantry 3) volunteered 4) instant 5) Lincoln 6) water 7) army 8) retreat

**When Did It Happen** 1) Josh and Tuck killed 2) Gabe and Davy volunteer 3) Gabe meets Orlee 4) Gabe and Orlee trade food 5) Orlee warns Gabe of danger 6) Gabe's retreat call saves lives

**Fact or Opinion** 1) F 2) O 3) F 4) F 5) O 6) O 7) F 8) O 9) F 10) O

**Secret Message** The Last Brother Lives