

# EXTEND YOUR STUDENTS' LEARNING:



## ACTIVITIES TO FOLLOW OUR PROGRAM “LOUDOUN’S CIVIL WAR HERITAGE”

### 1. Discussion possibilities:

- a. You will notice that Loudouners were divided on whether to stay loyal to the United States or to support secession and defend their Commonwealth of Virginia in its bid with the other Southern states for independence. Brainstorm with your class what things would make you for “the Union” and what things would make you support independence for the South. Would there be other things that swayed you one way or the other (for example, your family? Your neighbors? The people in your church?)
- b. War can at first seem exciting, romantic, or even a great adventure, but the cost and impact is devastating both on soldiers and on civilians. Based on the *Torn Apart by UnCivil War* presentation you heard in class, what are examples of the cost to soldiers? What are examples of the cost to civilians in a war zone like Loudoun?
- c. The Civil War happened right around *here*. If you are curious about the Civil War, you can learn more about it very easily, since there are Civil War sites so near our school. What Civil War historical sites are nearby and can easily be visited? What Civil War events happened near our school? [HINT: Use *The Citizen’s Guide to Loudoun in the Civil War* that you received as an attachment where there is Section 11 “Are There Good Civil War Sites to Visit in Loudoun?”, OR *Using the “Historic Loudoun County Scavenger Hunt”* OR use the *Revised Chronology of the Civil War in Loudoun County* you also received to come up with ideas.]
- d. The landscape so well known to the Civil War soldier remained constant in Loudoun County for many years. Recently, it is changing so much and at such a rapid pace that historic places from the Civil War in Loudoun may well be destroyed before we realize their importance. Are Loudoun’s people responsible for taking steps to know about and then protect historic sites in “hallowed ground” where people died during the Civil War? Looking at the section of the *Historic Loudoun Scavenger Hunt* entitled “Student Heritage Steward: Be One in the Mosby Heritage Area”, are there things our class could do to make a positive difference so that future kids won’t just read about history in books or websites?

2. **Internet Activities:** Do a search on the web to explore Loudoun and Virginia’s Civil War history. You can start by looking at <http://www.civilwar.visitloudoun.org>. A really superb website, this is Loudoun’s official Civil War Sesquicentennial web site. You can also look at Virginia’s Civil War Sesquicentennial website, [www.virginiacivilwar.org](http://www.virginiacivilwar.org) In the *Historic Loudoun County Scavenger Hunt* you will see a vetted list of useful web sites on Loudoun in the Civil War. Look for good stories, good photos, interesting people, *famous people* or interesting places.

### 3. Extending Learning Beyond Your Classroom:

#### a. **Historic Loudoun County Scavenger Hunts**

Encourage students to explore Loudoun with their families using the *Historic Loudoun County Scavenger Hunt* that you and each of them have been given. Each of the three tours (one walking, two driving) show families a variety of historical sites that have “feel” (that little shiver down your back) and illustrate the key themes and stories of the past of Virginia and Loudoun. It is not only reinforcement for what you study in Virginia Studies, but enrichment as well. It helps families understand their counties, talk about history, and have a bonding activity together. You will find that students who do the scavenger hunt have an increased interest in history in your class afterwards and their grades often improve. The sites have been carefully selected—we recommend *you* visit them, too.

#### **Getting students and their families to do the Scavenger Hunt :**

- 1) The Mosby Heritage Area Association offers students a Mosby Heritage Area t-shirt for completing any two of the three tours in the scavenger hunt booklet. It’s a good bribe, since kids like the shirt (so do parents—we’ll sell them one at cost!) We give out two shirts to the family that completes all three of the tours.
- 2) Give extra credit to students who photograph themselves at at least five of the sites in the Scavenger Hunt. You may wish to have them use the guide we’ve given you to sites in the scavenger hunt that were discussed in the *Torn Apart by UnCivil War* program such that they photograph themselves at sites they’ve heard stories from.
- 3) Have your class challenge a team-mate’s class to a scavenger hunt duel! Who can have the most students (you could even include brothers, sisters, moms, and dads!) photograph themselves at five historic sites, or who completes the most scavenger hunts? Students doing all three in the booklet could boost your numbers!

#### b. **Virginia Time Travelers Program**

This is a program sponsored by the Virginia Association of Museums to get kids to explore Virginia historic sites. Students get a “passport” and by visiting six sites, they get a “Time Travelers” t-shirt. They can get their passport and a list of participating sites statewide by going to [www.timetravelers.org](http://www.timetravelers.org) . This encourages families to include historic sites in their Virginia family travel itineraries. You can always reward this with extra credit or encourage it over spring break, holiday weekends, or summer vacation.

#### c. **. Encourage Students and their Families to Attend Local Historical Programming**

By visiting the Mosby Heritage Area Association’s website, [www.mosbyheritagearea.org](http://www.mosbyheritagearea.org), you and your students can learn of a number of upcoming historical programs. We think kids and their families will especially like “*Cavaliers, Courage, and Coffee*” in which storytellers in period dress/uniform will share stories of our local Civil War experience by lantern light at historic sites in Loudoun and nearby counties six times during the year.

#### d. **Encourage Student Reading on Local History—We recommend these paperbacks:**

Laura Elliott’s [Annie Between the States](#), a young reader’s Loudoun Civil War novel OR Stephan F. Meserve’s illustrated [The Civil War in Loudoun County--A History of Hard Times](#). Both are available at [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com) .