

Lost Dispatch

Chapter Five Activities

1. Cora Lee's journal mentions a wounded soldier who was upset he was not able to deliver an important dispatch. What are some of the obstacles to overcome in trying to deliver a message before, during and after a battle? Read your local newspaper for accounts of how commanding officers communicate today, in war-torn countries.
2. Victoria finds out first-hand some of the unpleasant aspects of being a Civil War soldier. List some of the hardships she experienced concerning food, clothing and camping accommodations.
3. Hardtack was a staple food among Civil War soldiers. Find a recipe for it or create something similar on your own. Plan a sparse meal that the soldiers might eat after a long day of marching. Look through the grocery ads in your newspaper for the items needed. Add the cost.
4. A soldier's life was not very exciting until right before a battle. How did they combat boredom? What types of activities did they engage in to pass the time?
5. Coming back into camp, Victoria hears a harmonica playing. What other types of instruments could soldiers easily carry with them? What types of tunes might they play?

Aligning the Newspaper with National Curriculum Standards

Activities related to *The Lost Dispatch*, and reading the newspaper, may achieve these National Curriculum Standards.

Language Arts Standards

- Students read a wide range of print and nonprint texts to build an understanding of texts, of themselves and of the cultures of the United States and the world; to acquire new information; to respond to the needs and demands of society and the workplace; and for personal fulfillment. Among these texts are fiction and nonfiction, classic and contemporary works.
- Students apply a wide range of strategies to comprehend, interpret, evaluate and appreciate texts. They draw on their prior experience, their interactions with other readers and writers, their knowledge of word meaning and of other texts, their word identification strategies and their understanding of textual features (e.g., sound-letter correspondence, sentence structure, context and graphics).
- Students adjust their use of spoken, written and visual language (e.g., conventions, style and vocabulary) to communicate effectively with a variety of audiences and for different purposes.
- Students employ a wide range of strategies as they write, and use different writing process elements appropriately, to communicate with different audiences for a variety of purposes.
- Students apply knowledge of language structure, language conventions (e.g., spelling and punctuation), media techniques, figurative language and genre to create, critique and discuss print and nonprint texts.

- Students conduct research on issues and interests by generating ideas and questions and by posing problems. They gather, evaluate and synthesize data from a variety of sources (e.g., print and nonprint texts, artifacts and people) to communicate their discoveries in ways that suit their purpose and audience.
- Students develop an understanding of, and respect for, diversity in language use, patterns and dialects across cultures, ethnic groups, geographic regions and social roles.
- Students use spoken, written and visual language to accomplish their own purposes (e.g., for learning, enjoyment, persuasion and the exchange of information).

Social Studies Standards: II. Time, Continuity and Change

Social studies programs should include experiences that provide for the study of the ways human beings view themselves in and over time, so that the learner can:

- Demonstrate an understanding that different people may describe the same event or situation in diverse ways, citing reasons for the differences in views.
- Demonstrate an ability to use, correctly, vocabulary associated with time such as past, present, future and long ago; read and construct simple timelines.
- Identify examples of change and recognize examples of cause and effect relationships.
- Compare and contrast different stories or accounts about past events, people, places, or situations, identifying how they contribute to our understanding of the past.
- Identify and use various sources for reconstructing the past, such as documents, letters, diaries, maps, textbooks, photos and others.
- Demonstrate an understanding that people in different times and places view the world differently.
- Use knowledge of facts and concepts drawn from history, along with elements of historical inquiry, to inform decision-making about, and action-taking on, public issues.
- Demonstrate an understanding that different scholars may describe the same event or situation in different ways, but must provide reasons or evidence for their views.
- Identify and use key concepts such as chronology, causality, change, conflict and complexity to explain, analyze and show connections among patterns of historical change and continuity.
- Identify and describe selected historical periods and patterns of change within and across cultures, such as the rise of civilizations, the development of transportation systems, the growth and breakdown of colonial systems and others.
- Identify and use processes important to reconstructing and reinterpreting the past, such as using a variety of sources, providing, validating and weighing evidence for claims, checking credibility of sources and searching for causality.
- Develop critical sensitivities such as empathy and skepticism regarding attitudes, values and behaviors of people in different historical contexts.

- Use knowledge of facts and concepts drawn from history, along with methods of historical inquiry, to inform decision-making about, and action-taking on, public issues.

Mathematics Standards

Standard 6: Problem Solving

Mathematics instructional programs should focus on solving problems as part of understanding mathematics so that all students:

- Build new mathematical knowledge through their work with problems.
- Develop a disposition to formulate, represent, abstract and generalize in situations within, and outside, mathematics.
- Apply a wide variety of strategies to solve problems and adapt the strategies to new situations.
- Monitor and reflect on their mathematical thinking in solving problems.