

## A Soldier's Life

Soldiers during the Civil War had it tough! They ate salted pork, hardtack (dried hard bread), beans, rice, and coffee each day. A soldier had to carry all of his gear including clothes, dishes, canteen, rifle, ammunition, and a blanket. They had to live through the dangers of battle with little food, water, and sleep. They marched all day long in extreme temperatures and weather. And, that was if you were lucky enough to not get shot, injured, or taken prisoner. Soldiers had to follow orders from their commanders no matter what! Soldiers not only had to be tough, they had to brave too!

### A Union Soldier

Union Soldiers fought for the North. They were also known as Yankees. They woke up as soon as the sun rose to practice for battle. In between their drills, they had to do chores, eat, and clean their equipment. They also had to fix their uniform. Yankees wore blue uniforms with brass buttons and special belts and harnesses to hold their weapons. They were allowed to write letters home and play card games in between their training. The average age to join the army was 25 years old, but boys as young as 16 were enlisted by the end of the war. Union soldiers were paid about \$12 a month and were drafted to join. If you came from a wealthy family, you were able to make a large donation so you would not have to fight.



### A Confederate Soldier

Soldier for the Confederacy also lived day to day like the soldiers for the Union. They were constantly preparing for war by practicing drills, keeping their uniforms in order, and cleaning their weapons. Confederate soldiers were called Rebels, or grey backs. This is because their uniforms were made of grey wool. They had a special belt and harness to hold their weapons. They also had shiny gold buttons on their jackets. Rebels made about \$10 a month serving for the military. Like the Yankees, the Rebels had to carry a knapsack that held their personal belongings, which included a canteen, musket, and a blanket. You had to be at least 18 years old to enlist in the Confederate army.



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Name: \_\_\_\_\_

The North

The South

Compare and Contrast a Union Soldier to a Confederate Soldier.

