



Activity	Section 7 Activity 6	
Lesson Name	Research Skills: Finding and Evaluating Newspaper Articles	
Time Allotment	1 to 2 periods	
Materials	For Teachers	For Students
	Computers, Internet Access, Copies of Activity Sheet	Computers, Internet Access, Copies of Activity Sheet, Poster board, Art supplies (markers, glue, etc.)
Lesson Summary	Students will learn how to search the <i>Chronicling America</i> website to find evidence of the past. The lesson introduces students to databases and search strategies used in historic research. Students will use the evidence they discover to create a poster that compares and contrasts newspaper articles from the Union and the Confederacy.	
Teacher Preparation	Teachers should be familiar with the <i>Chronicling America</i> website before the lesson.	
Instructional Procedure	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Use the <i>What is Chronicling America?</i> and <i>How Do I Perform an Advanced Search?</i> Podcasts to introduce the website and the lesson. (See links in Suggested Resources.) 2. Pass out the Activity Sheet. 3. Discuss with class events that occurred during the Civil War. This will give the students ideas for search topics. Alternatively, pick any period between 1836 and 1922, and brainstorm applicable topics. 4. Sample topics for the Civil War era include: Slavery, States' Rights, the Presidential Election of 1864, the Second Battle of Bull Run (Manassas), Sherman's capture of Atlanta, Abraham Lincoln, etc. 5. Students pick a topic that would have been covered in Civil War era newspapers (1861-1865) and, as individuals or in small groups, complete the Activity Sheet. Give groups the Search Tips handout to help them with their research. 6. If students have individual Internet access, allow them time to search <i>Chronicling America</i>. If not, search terms as a class and project on LCD projector. 7. Have students create posters that show their findings and 	



	present to the rest of the class.
Vocabulary	database: organized collection of information in digital form; keyword: a term used as to retrieve documents in a database or search engine; limit: to search only part of the database; newspaper: a publication reporting information and current events; news: information about recent events, a presentation of such information in a newspaper or on television; headline: display type placed over a story summarizing the story for the reader; bias: a particular tendency or inclination, especially one that prevents unprejudiced consideration of a question.
Extension	Students could have a debate about a specific topic found in the newspapers in which some students would represent the North and some would represent the South. Students could use their research as the starting point for a research paper on their chosen topic.
Differentiation	Students with reading difficulties can be paired with a peer reading partner. Students with fine motor skill issues can be assigned a scribe or use a computer.
Standards Alignment	<i>2010 Academic Content Standards</i> History: 1, 11, 19 <i>Common Core State Standards</i> RI.8.6; RI.8.9; W.8.4; W.8.9b; SL.8.2; SL.8.4; SL.8.5; RH.6-8.1; RH.6-8.2; RH.6-8.4; RH.6-8.5; RH.6-8.6; RH.6-8.8
Connections to 21st Century Skills	Critical Thinking and Problem Solving <i>Make Judgments and Decisions</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Effectively analyze and evaluate evidence, arguments, claims and beliefs Analyze and evaluate major alternative points of view Communication and Collaboration <i>Communicate Clearly</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Articulate thoughts and ideas effectively using oral, written and nonverbal communication skills in a variety of forms and contexts <i>Collaborate with Others</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Demonstrate ability to work effectively and respectfully



	<p>with diverse teams</p> <p>Information Literacy <i>Access and Evaluate Information</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evaluate information critically and competently <p>Media Literacy <i>Analyze Media</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Examine how individuals interpret messages differently, how values and points of view are included or excluded, and how media can influence beliefs and behaviors
Attachments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Activity Sheet Search Tips
Suggested Resources	<p>NDNP Podcast 2 – What is Chronicling America? http://youtu.be/Bvg73KAYTDA</p> <p>NDNP Podcast 6 – How Do I Perform An Advanced Search? http://youtu.be/rEs4YgtpqB8</p> <p>Chronicling America: Historic American Newspapers http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov</p> <p>If you cannot access YouTube, here are some alternate sites to introduce Chronicling America.</p> <p>http://edsitement.neh.gov/what-chronicling-america</p> <p>http://www.ohiohistoryhost.org/ohiomemory/odnp/resources/searching-chronicling-america</p> <p>http://ohsweb.ohiohistory.org/ondp/images/4/44/Guide_to_Using_Chronicling_America.pdf</p>
Cross Curricular Connection	English Language Arts: Researching, reading, and writing



Activity Sheet

What is your topic?

What search terms did you use to find information?

What limiters (if any) did you use?

Article 1

Title of Newspaper: _____

Location of Newspaper: _____ Date: _____ Page: ____

Title of Article: _____

Summary of Article:

Article 2

Title of Newspaper: _____

Location of Newspaper: _____ Date: _____ Page: ____

Title of Article: _____

Summary of Article:



Analysis

How are the articles similar? How are the articles different? Cite specific examples.

Were the articles biased in their reporting? Describe.

Which side argued its position better? Why?



Search Tips

To limit your search to find newspaper articles published in the Union or in the Confederacy, try using the Advanced Search to limit your search by year range and by state. In Advanced Search, you can select more than one state by clicking on multiple state names while holding down the CTRL button on your keyboard (or the Option key on a Macintosh).

Search Term Selection Tip: The North and South sometimes used different vocabulary to refer to the same events, people or places. For example, if you were looking for information about the First or Second Battles of Bull Run, use *battle bull run* as your terms when searching for information in Northern newspapers and use *battle manassas* as your search terms to find information in Southern newspapers.

The screenshot shows the Library of Congress Chronicling America search interface. The page title is "CHRONICLING AMERICA Historic American Newspapers". The search bar contains "Search Loc.gov" and a "GO" button. Below the search bar, there are tabs for "Search Pages", "Advanced Search", and "All Digitized Newspapers 1836-1922". A purple box indicates "US Newspaper Directory, 1690-Present".

The search form includes the following fields:

- Select State(s):** A dropdown menu with options: New Mexico, New York, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Carolina.
- Or Select Newspaper(s):** A list of newspapers including: All newspapers, Abbeville progress. (Abbeville, Vermilion Parish, La.), Aberdeen herald. (Aberdeen, Chehalis County, W.T.), The Abilene reflector. (Abilene, Kan.), Abilene weekly reflector. (Abilene, Kan.), The Abingdon Virginian. (Abingdon [Va.]), The Adair County news. (Columbia, Ky.), Adams County news. (Ritzville, Wash.).
- Select Year(s)*:** A date range selector with "from 1861" and "to 1865" selected.
- Or Date Range:** A radio button and two empty input fields.
- Limit Search:** A checkbox for "only front page or Specific page".
- Language:** A dropdown menu set to "All".
- Enter Search:** Three search boxes: "...with any of the words:", "...with all of the words:" (containing "battle bull run"), and "...with the phrase:". Below these is a field for "within 5 words of each other".

Buttons for "Clear" and "Search" are located at the bottom right of the search form.