

## America in Wartime Resource List for Grades 5 through 8

The Resources in this document can be used with the America in Wartime Curriculum Packet for grades 5 through 8.

### Books

#### Nonfiction and Biography

- The American Revolution by the Numbers, 2015 by Amanda Lanser (Author).  
How many soldiers crossed the Delaware River with George Washington during the American Revolution? What was the average age of the soldiers fighting in the war? Numbers, high-impact stats, and a unique infographic format combine to present the gripping story of the American Revolution.
- The Civil War, 1996 by Martin Sandler (Author).  
More than 100 photographs and illustrations from the Library of Congress bring to life to the story of the War Between the States. Civil War is a well-researched record of the camp life, the battles, and the heroic deeds of men in the Union and Confederate armies.
- The Civil War by the Numbers, 2015 by Amanda Lanser  
How many African-American soldiers fought on each side of the U.S. Civil War? How many soldiers died from disease rather than in battle? Numbers, high-impact stats, and a unique infographic format combine to present the gripping story of the Civil War.
- Courageous Women of the Civil War: Soldiers, Spies, Medics, and More (Women of Action), 2016 by M. R. Cordell (Author)  
At a time when women had few legal rights and could not vote, these figures took an active role in the Civil War by disguising themselves as men in order to fight or act as spies. They worked as nurses and found ways to assist soldiers on the battlefields. Spies included Harriet Tubman and Mary Jane Richards, who was planted in the Confederate White House to gather information.
- Fred Korematsu Speaks Up, 2017 by Laura Atkins; Stan Yogi (Author), Yutaka Houlette (Illustrator).  
Fred Korematsu liked listening to music on the radio, playing tennis, and hanging around with his friends, just like lots of other Americans. But everything changed when the United States went to war with Japan in 1941 and the government forced all people of Japanese ancestry to leave their homes on the West Coast and move to distant prison camps.
- Jefferson Barracks: Images of America, 2011 by Sandie Grassino (Author), Maj. (Ret.) Art Schuermann (Author).  
Since it was founded in 1826, Jefferson Barracks has stood for nearly two centuries as a symbol for many aspects of America's history. It played a huge role in all of the countries conflicts and

remains an important depository of the Nation's history.

- Primary Source Accounts of the Korean War (America's Wars Through Primary Sources), 2006 by John Richard Conway (Author).  
Looks at the history of the Korean War through the letters, diaries, newspaper accounts, songs, speeches and literature from the time.
- Primary Source Accounts of the Vietnam War (America's Wars Through Primary Sources), 2006 by Kim A. O'Connell (Author).  
Looks at the Vietnam War through the eyes of soldiers and others involved. The author uses letters, diaries, and other documents to give the reader a more personal view of this war.
- Primary Source Accounts of World War II (America's Wars Through Primary Sources), 2006, by John Richard Conway (Author).  
Explores World War Two through the documents of the time, from diary entries and letters to song lyrics and speeches.
- Women Heroes of the American Revolution: 20 Stories of Espionage, Sabotage, Defiance, and Rescue (Women of Action), 2015 by Susan Casey (Author).  
When you think of the American Revolution, perhaps you envision the Boston Tea Party, Paul Revere's infamous ride, or George Washington crossing the Delaware River. But there are many other, lesser-known stories of the war that engulfed women's lives as it did the lives of their fathers, husbands, and sons.
- World War I by the Numbers by Amanda Lanser (Author).  
How many miles of trenches protected the Western Front during World War I? How much did the U.S. military expand when America entered the war? Numbers, high-impact stats, and a unique infographic format combine to present the gripping story of World War I.

## Fiction

- America at War: Poems Selected by Lee Bennett Hopkins, 2008 by Lee Bennett Hopkins and Stephen Alcorn.  
More than 50 poems exploring war, from the American Revolution to the Iraq War. Includes Walt Whitman, Langston Hughes, e. e. cummings.
- Bull Run, 1995 by Paul Fleischman (Author).  
This is the story of the first great battle of the civil war told from the points of view of sixteen participants, Northern and Southern, male and female, white and black.
- Code Talker: A Novel About the Navajo Marines of World War II, 2005 by Joseph Bruchac (Author).  
This deeply affecting novel honors all of the young men from the Navajo Nation who dared to serve, and it honors the culture and language of the Navajo people.
- I Survived the Battle of Gettysburg, 1863, 2013 by Lauren Tarshis (Author).  
Witnessing the harrowing events of the Civil War from the Pennsylvania sidelines, 11-year-old Henry endures the most grueling challenges of his life throughout a hot July week when he becomes inadvertently involved in the historic battle.
- The Journal of Scott Pendleton Collins: A World War II Soldier Normandy France, 1944, 1999 by Walter Dean Myers (Author).  
A historical novel presents the thoughts of a young soldier during war while capturing the feelings of being in battle through the sights, sounds, and struggles he experiences at the battle of Normandy during World War II.

- The Journal of William Thomas Emerson, A Revolutionary War Patriot, 1998 by Barry Denenberg (Author) William, a twelve-year-old orphan, writes of his experiences in pre-Revolutionary War Boston where he joins the cause of the patriots who are opposed to the British rule, in a boy-narrated companion to the Dear America series.
- A Light in the Storm: The Civil War Diary of Amelia Martin, 1999 by Karen Hesse (Author). Captures the emotions of a young Union girl who struggles to make sense of her shattered world as she lives in a state of harsh division during the first year of the Civil War. 120,000 first printing.
- The Mostly True Adventures of Homer P. Figg, 2009 by Rodman Philbrick (Author). Homer Figg is off to follow his brother into the thick of the Civil War. Through a series of fascinating events, Homer's older brother has been illegally sold to the Union Army. It is up to Homer to find him and save him.
- My Secret War: The World War II Diary of Madeline Beck, Long Island, New York 1941, 2000 by Mary Pope Osborne (Author). Fearing the worse and hoping for the best while her father is overseas, Madeline gets a harsh taste of reality when she spots a German U-boat off the coast of her small beach town.
- When Christmas Comes Again: The World War I Diary of Simone Spencer, New York City to the Western Front 1917, 2002 by Beth Seidel Levine (Author). In April of 1917, Simone Spencer's world changes. Her beloved brother Will goes off to war, and Simone seeks a way to help. The passionate daughter of a feisty French mother and a rebellious upper-class father, Simone is not cut out for the society life she is meant to lead.
- When Will This Cruel War Be Over? The Civil War Diary of Emma Simpson, Gordonsville, Virginia, 1864, 1996 by Barry Denenberg (Author). A Confederate girl in Gordonsville, Virginia, in 1864, Emma Simpson writes about the hardships of growing up during a turbulent time, as the Civil War tears her family and her nation apart.

### Magazines, Journals, Miscellaneous

- American Revolution by Kids Discover. The main battles and key leaders of the American Revolution are the focus of this issue, which starts off with a look at the strained relationship between the colonies and Britain at the end of the French and Indian War in 1763. The crown thought the colonies should pay Britain's war debts, and instituted the famous Tea Tax, among others, but the colonists railed against "taxation without representation"- and a series of dramatic incidents, like the Boston Massacre and the Boston Tea Party, resulted in both sides formally taking up arms in 1775. <https://www.kidsdiscover.com/shop/issues/american-revolution-for-kids/>
- Civil War by Kids Discover. After years of disputes, history was made when 11 southern states seceded from the Union, which launched the Civil War. This issue brings the battles and heroes of this war to life with vivid descriptions and photos. Readers will learn about how the difference of opinion over slavery and states' rights, along with the election of Northerner Abraham Lincoln in 1860, ultimately culminated in what is called the first "modern war." <https://www.kidsdiscover.com/shop/issues/civil-war-for-kids/>
- Revolutionary Women by Kids Discover.

Women did not hold the front lines during the War of Independence, but they greatly contributed to efforts to keep soldiers fed on the battlefield, lent their voices to political debates, and generally kept the home fires burning. This evenhanded account of how women influenced the war in big and small ways, laying the groundwork for the suffrage movement that followed much later.

<https://www.kidsdiscover.com/shop/issues/revolutionary-women/>

- World War I by Kids Discover  
There was nothing “great” about the “Great War”, later named World War I. This issue describes the grim reality of soldiers’ lives, as well as the lives of civilians, during wartime. The path to war is clearly charted here, along with the developments (machine guns, poison gas, and airplanes) that made this a whole new kind of war. Trench warfare was also new, and readers will learn how the Allies dug in and hung on along the Western Front; they’ll also read about the war’s several other fronts, some as far away as East Africa.  
<https://www.kidsdiscover.com/shop/issues/world-war-i-for-kids/>
- World War II by Kids Discover  
The deadliest conflict of the 20th century is brought into sharp focus in this issue, starting with a recap of the political strong-arming that paved the way for World War II. For readers intrigued by this era of American history, the photos and accounts captured here will be hard to put down. They’ll gain a clear understanding of the events that triggered the war, learn how the Nazis and Fascists shaped themselves into the Axis Powers, and read a gripping account of Pearl Harbor. Details about Hollywood’s take on World War II, are also featured, as well as inspiring stories about the women who stepped into men’s shoes to keep the country running.  
<https://www.kidsdiscover.com/shop/issues/world-war-ii-for-kids/>

### Online Links

- Americans in Wartime Museum  
<http://www.nmaw.org/>
- Life on the Homefront during WWII  
[https://www.ducksters.com/history/world\\_war\\_ii/ww2\\_us\\_home\\_front.php](https://www.ducksters.com/history/world_war_ii/ww2_us_home_front.php)
- National Civil War Museum  
<https://www.nationalcivilwarmuseum.org/>
- National WWI Museum  
<https://www.theworldwar.org/>
- National WWII Museum  
<https://www.nationalww2museum.org/>
- The Pritzker Military Museum: This resource has an outstanding collection of artifacts and information as well as rotating exhibits you can view online  
<http://www.pritzkermilitary.org/>
- Rosie the Riveter/WWII Home Front National Historical Park  
<https://www.nps.gov/articles/the-wwii-home-front.htm>

## **Background information for the Educator**

- [Scholastic Inc: A Guide to teaching and talking about war with books to children and teens.](https://www.scholastic.com/teachers/lesson-plans/teaching-content/guide-teaching-and-talking-about-war-books-children-and-teens/)