

Valiant Warriress: Women of the Civil War

Teacher Resource Packet

Presented by **Rayma Volkmer**
Indian Creek Historical Fashions
Where History Comes to Life



PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Valiant Warriress: Women of the Civil War is an immersive living history program that reveals the **hidden and often untold roles of women during the American Civil War**.

From spies and soldiers to nurses and vivandières, women stepped far beyond traditional roles—risking their lives in ways history often overlooks.

Through **powerful storytelling, authentic historical interpretation, and engaging audience interaction**, students discover that the Civil War was not fought by men alone.

It was a war that changed women—and women who helped shape the war.



LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Students will:

- Identify the diverse roles women played during the Civil War
 - Understand how women challenged traditional gender expectations
 - Analyze the risks taken by women serving as soldiers, spies, and supporters
 - Explore the social and cultural impact of the war on women
 - Develop empathy through personal and historical storytelling
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CURRICULUM CONNECTIONS

This program supports:

- U.S. History (Civil War Era)

- Women’s History
 - Social Change & Reform Movements
 - Civics & Citizenship
 - Critical Thinking & Historical Perspective
 - Language Arts (listening, writing, reflection)
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PRE-PROGRAM DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What roles were women expected to have during the 1800s?
 - Why might someone risk their life to serve in secret?
 - What does courage look like in times of war?
 - How do wars change society beyond the battlefield?
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KEY VOCABULARY

- Vivandière
 - Spy
 - Disguise
 - Infantry
 - Union / Confederacy
 - Battlefield
 - Loyalty
 - Resistance
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WHAT STUDENTS WILL EXPERIENCE

During the program, students will:

- Discover real stories of women who served in disguise as soldiers
- Learn about spies who risked everything for their cause
- Explore the role of vivandières on the battlefield
- Witness how women navigated danger, secrecy, and survival

Students quickly realize:

These were not ordinary choices—these were extraordinary acts of courage.

POST-PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

Writing Prompt

“Would you have taken the risk to serve in secret? Why or why not?”

Discussion Questions

- What motivated women to take such risks?
 - How did society view women who broke traditional roles?
 - What would have been the consequences if they were discovered?
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Creative Activity

- Write a letter from a disguised soldier to their family
 - Create a short dramatic reenactment of a spy mission
 - Design a newspaper article revealing a hidden story
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EXTENSION ACTIVITIES

- Research a real woman who served in the Civil War
 - Compare women’s roles in the Civil War to today’s military roles
 - Explore how war accelerates social change
 - Discuss the concept of identity and disguise
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HUMAN CONNECTION

This program highlights the courage of individuals who chose to act when the world expected them to remain silent.

It challenges students to consider:

- What does bravery truly look like?
- How do individuals create change in difficult times?

History becomes a story of choices, risk, and identity.

GRANT FUNDING INFORMATION

Funding May Be Available

This program may qualify for funding through Humanities Nebraska.


As a **Humanities Nebraska Scholar**, Rayma Volkmer provides programming that meets the standards for humanities-based educational experiences.

How to Apply:

1. Visit Humanities Nebraska
 2. Review grant opportunities
 3. Submit an application
 4. Schedule your program upon approval
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Note for Educators

Grant funding is frequently used to bring impactful educational programming into schools, libraries, and communities.

 Assistance and supporting documentation available upon request

BOOKING INFORMATION

Programs available for:



- School Assemblies
- Classroom Presentations
- Homeschool Groups
- Library Educational Programs

Serving Nebraska, Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, and surrounding regions.

CONTACT

Indian Creek Historical Fashions

Where History Comes to Life

-  Contact to schedule your program
-  Ask about curriculum support and grant funding

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