

Synthesizing and Integrating Sources About the Civil War

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Synthesizing and **integrating** is combining parts into a new whole.

You synthesize/integrate when you

- use what you already know to figure out the meaning of a new word
- combine several brainstorming suggestions to develop a solution to a problem
- develop a consensus of opinion based on everyone's ideas
- use information from several different sources in a project
- adapt an idea from one form to another (for example, you create a play based on a novel or a dance based on a poem)

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Essential Question: Why is the Civil War a defining moment in American history?

Directions: The essential question of this book asks why the Civil War is an important moment in American history. Think back over the stories, speeches, poems, and essays you have read in this book. Recall events, facts, or statements that you think support the idea that the Civil War was a defining moment in American history. Using the example on the next screen as a model, find three more quotations (or summarize events or ideas) that you think show how the Civil War was a defining moment. Finally, create a synthesis statement from the strongest examples you find. Feel free to use the examples in your synthesis statement.

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Quotation or Summary	Why the Civil War Was A Defining Moment
<p>“It was indeed a time of times, and nothing like it will ever be seen again in this life.” <i>from “Freedom to Slaves!” (page 63)</i></p>	<p>It ended slavery.</p>
Synthesis Statement	

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<p>“In the Civil War, which lasted four years, about 600,000 young Americans, North and South together, lost their lives.” <i>from</i> “Reflections on the Civil War” (page 32)</p>	<p>Thousands of young men lost their lives.</p>

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<p>In the story “The Pickets,” soldiers from both sides call a cease-fire and share tobacco and food.</p>	<p>Americans were fighting against each other and not an outside enemy.</p>

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<p>“Any man who paid \$300 cash to the government was excused [from the draft].” <i>from “The Great Draft Riots”</i> (page 68)</p>	<p>It was the first time that Congress instituted a draft. Draft rioters protested because rich men could pay to avoid serving in the military.</p>

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<p>“ . . . That government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth.” <i>from “The Gettysburg Address”</i> (page 77)</p>	<p>Lincoln believed that the Civil War was a defining moment because it was a test of whether America’s democratic form of government could survive.</p>

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Synthesis Statement

The Civil War was a defining moment for several reasons. It brought about the end of slavery. It was the only time Americans were fighting brother against brother. But most importantly, the Civil War was a test of the United States' dedication to democracy, or as Lincoln states in the Gettysburg Address, “government of the people, by the people, for the people.”