

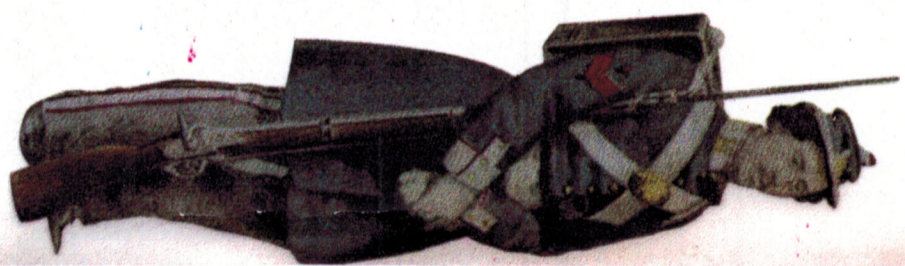
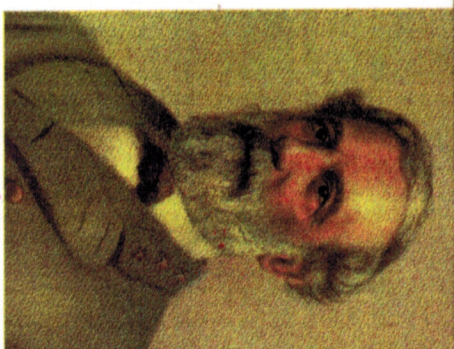
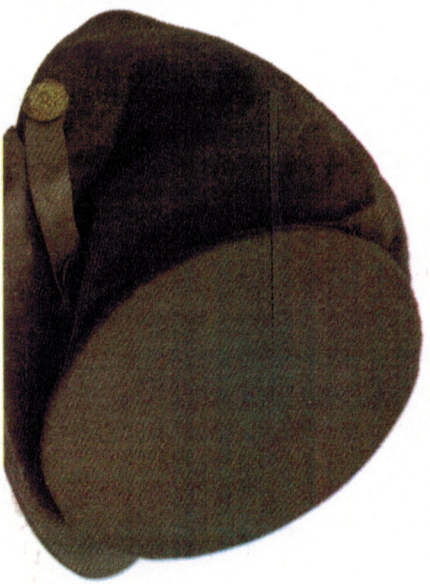
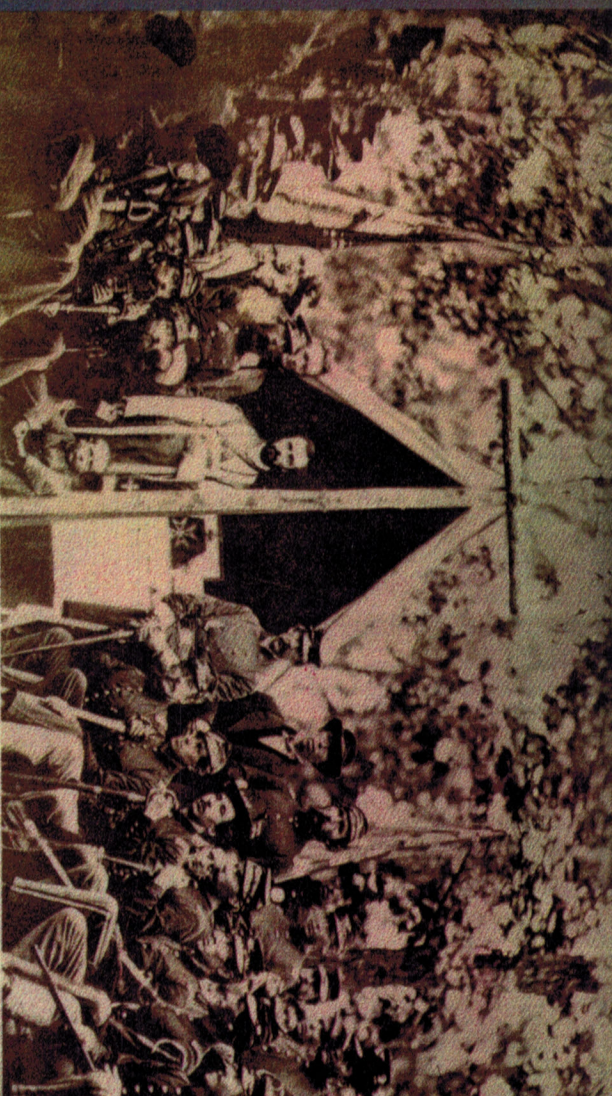
THE

# CIVIL WAR

FOUR

# KIDS

A HISTORY WITH  
21 ACTIVITIES



JANIS HERBERT



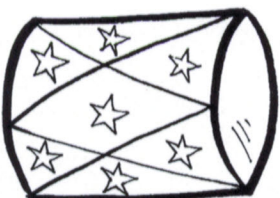
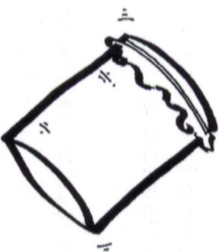
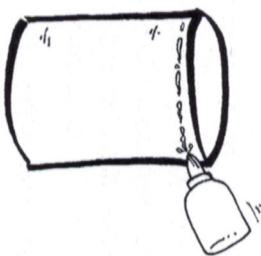
# ACTIVITY

## A Coffee Can Drum

*Eighteen was the minimum age for enlistment, but thousands of boys lied about their age to join. Many were drummers. Their drumbeats communicated orders to the troops. A certain drumbeat called men to drill. The "long roll" was a signal to march into battle. "Rally" ordered scattered forces to regroup, and there was a drum signal for "retreat." These drummer boys also gathered wood, helped set up camp, cooked, and tended the wounded.*

### What you need

- Newspaper
- White glue
- Coffee can (2-pound size or larger)
- 1/4 yard of heavy acetate cloth
- Rubber bands
- Scissors
- Water
- Paper cup
- Old paintbrush
- Construction paper
- Paints or colored markers
- 2 chopsticks



1. Spread newspaper over your workspace.
2. Spread glue around the outside edge of the top of the coffee can. Fit the acetate cloth over the top of the can, pull it down tightly, and stretch rubber bands around it to hold it in place. Let dry for an hour. Using scissors, trim off the extra cloth.
3. Mix 3 tablespoons of glue with 1 tablespoon of water in the paper cup. Paint the mixture over the acetate cloth. Let dry for an hour. Add another coat and let dry for another hour.
4. Cut construction paper to fit around the sides of the coffee can and use paints or colored markers to decorate it. Wrap it around the can and glue into place.
5. Clean the paintbrush immediately and dispose of any extra glue mix in the garbage. Don't pour it down the sink!
6. Use wooden chopsticks as your drumsticks.



# **Signaling with Wigwag**

*At Antietam and other battles, the artillery was helped by signalmen who climbed towers to see the enemy positions. They sent signals to the army to tell them where to shoot. The signals were sent by waving flags (or torches at night) in a system called "Wigwag." It was a dangerous job because signalmen were easier targets.*

## **What you need**

- 4 people
- A flag or an old towel attached to a stick
- Paper
- Pencil

Have two friends send the signals and the other two receive them. The pair reading the message should write down the signal numbers and later decode them into letters.

Only 5 different signals will be used to represent the 26 letters of the alphabet. Use the chart on the next page to determine which signals you should use for each letter of your message.

**Starting position (also used between letters):**  
Hold the flagstaff with one hand at the bottom and the other in the middle. Hold the flag above your head in an upright position. Pause at the starting position for three seconds between letters.

**Signal 1:** From the starting position, wave the flag to your right, stopping at your waist, then bring it back up to the starting position.

**Signal 2:** From the starting position, wave the flag to your right, all the way to the ground, then return to the starting position.

**Signal 3:** From the starting position, wave the flag to your left, stopping at your waist, then bring it back up to the starting position.

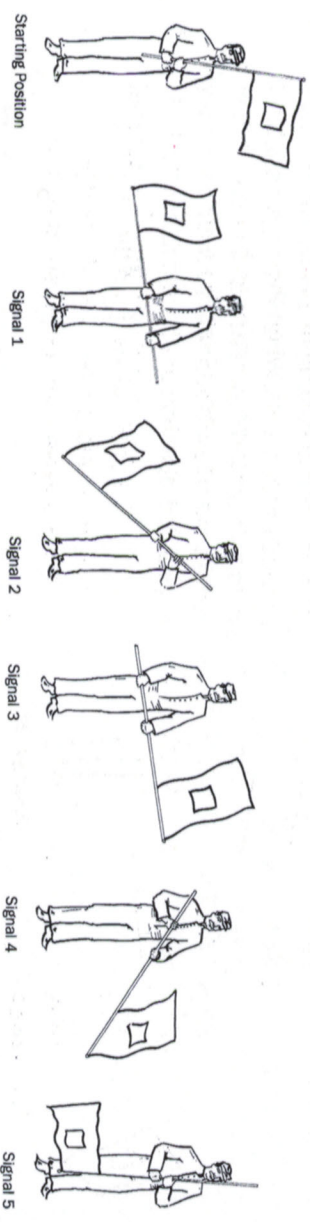
**Signal 4:** From the starting position, wave the flag to your left, all the way to the ground, then return to the starting position.

**Signal 5:** From the starting position, lower the flag in front of you all the way to the ground, then return to the starting position.

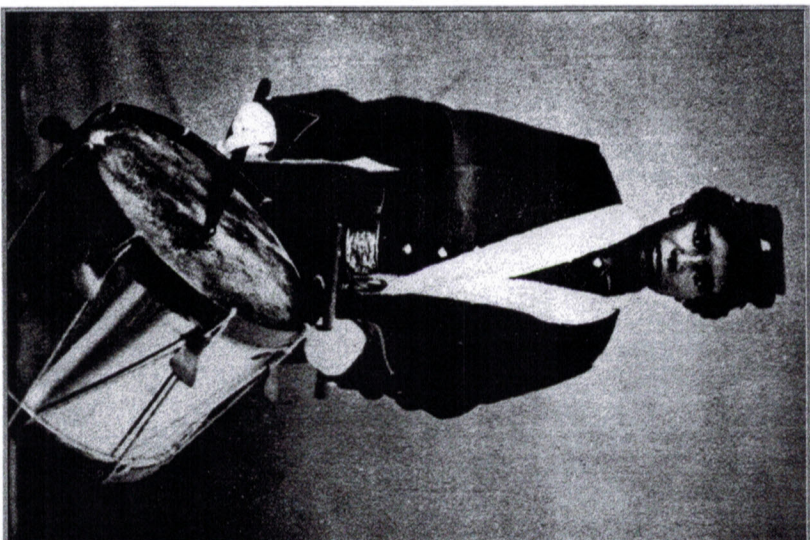
A sample message, "Aim Right," would require these signals:

- A    Signal 1
- I    Signal 5 + Signal 4
- M    Signal 5 twice + Signal 3
- R    Signal 5 three times + Signal 3
- I    Signal 5 + Signal 4
- G    Signal 5 + Signal 2
- H    Signal 5 + Signal 3
- T    Signal 5 four times

Even this simplified version of Wigwag can be pretty complicated. It will help to write down your signals ahead of time and then make them slowly so that the team reading them can keep up.







*Drummer boy Taylor*

## Black Soldiers



During the war nearly 180,000 black men served in the Union army and 10,000 in the Union navy. Thirty-seven thousand of them would die. Twenty-one black soldiers would receive the Congressional

Medal of Honor.



## In Deep Water

*Half a day was wasted while Burnside tried to get his men across the bridge. No one seemed to know that there was a spot nearby where the river was shallow enough to wade. When it's muddy or dark, it's hard to tell the depth of water. Here's one way to measure the depth of a pond or river.*

ADULT SUPERVISION IS RECOMMENDED

### What you need

- Ball of string
- Ruler
- A heavy rock
- Pond, pool, or other body of water

Unravel a long piece from the ball of string and tie a knot in it every 12 inches. Tie the end of the string around the rock. From a safe place over the water, such as a dock, toss the rock in and lower it until it settles on the bottom. Pull the string back up. Measure the depth of the water by the length of the wet part of the string.

- A Signal 1
- B Signal 2
- C Signal 3
- D Signal 4
- E Signal 5
- F Signal 5 quickly followed by Signal 1
- G Signal 5 + Signal 2
- H Signal 5 + Signal 3
- I Signal 5 + Signal 4
- J Signal 5 twice
- K Signal 5 twice + Signal 1
- L Signal 5 twice + Signal 2
- M Signal 5 twice + Signal 3
- N Signal 5 twice + Signal 4
- O Signal 5 three times
- P Signal 5 three times + Signal 1
- Q Signal 5 three times + Signal 2
- R Signal 5 three times + Signal 3
- S Signal 5 three times + Signal 4
- T Signal 5 four times
- U Signal 5 four times + Signal 1
- V Signal 5 four times + Signal 2
- W Signal 5 four times + Signal 3
- X Signal 5 four times + Signal 4
- Y Signal 5 five times
- Z Signal 5 five times + Signal 1

# ACTIVITY

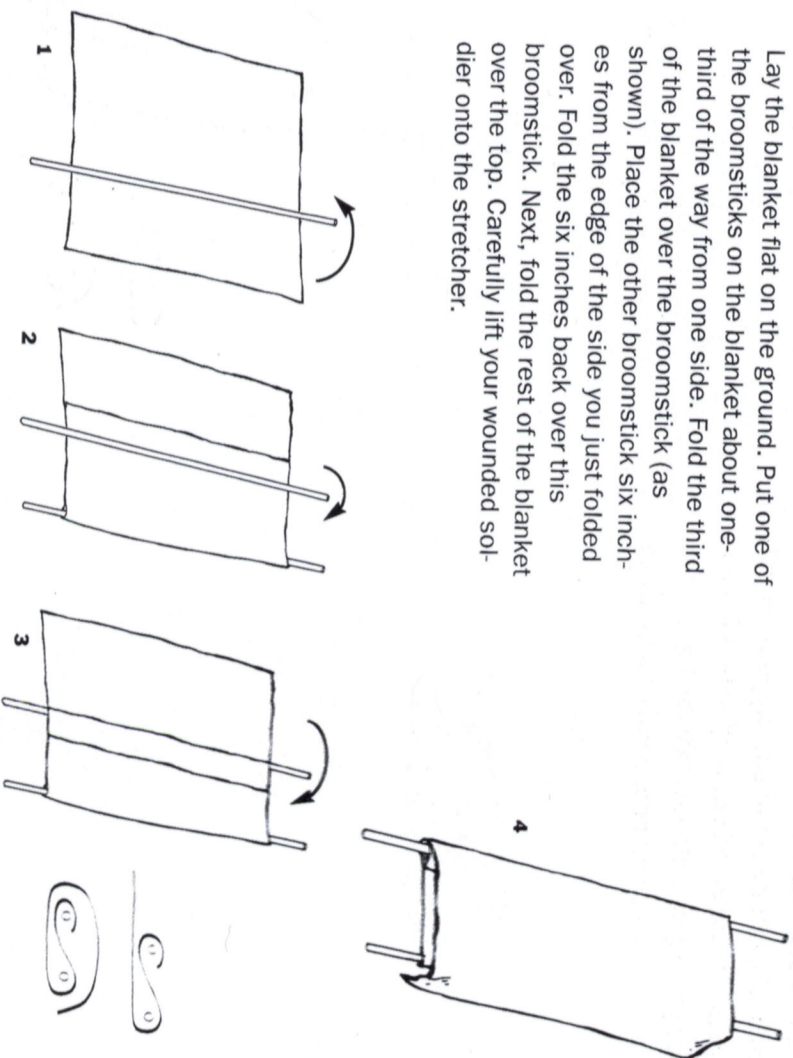
## A Makeshift Stretcher

### What you need

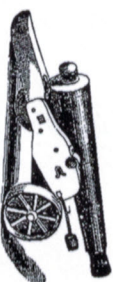
An old blanket

Two sturdy broomsticks

Lay the blanket flat on the ground. Put one of the broomsticks on the blanket about one-third of the way from one side. Fold the third of the blanket over the broomstick (as shown). Place the other broomstick six inches from the edge of the side you just folded over. Fold the six inches back over this broomstick. Next, fold the rest of the blanket over the top. Carefully lift your wounded soldier onto the stretcher.



Libby Prison, a converted tobacco warehouse in Richmond, Virginia, housed Union officers. Using knives, a bucket, and one old chisel, a group of prisoners dug a tunnel under a wall and beneath the prison yard. When they thought they'd dug far enough, one of the men wiggled through and stuck his head out—only to find himself still several feet away from the outer wall. Confederate guards stood talking right next to him! He quickly pulled his head back in and plugged the hole. The prisoners continued to dig. Finally, the tunnel was completed and 109 men made their escape. Half were recaptured; the rest disappeared in the streets of Richmond. Some found help in the homes of Union sympathizers, and others made their way along country roads, back to the Union lines.





# ACTIVITY

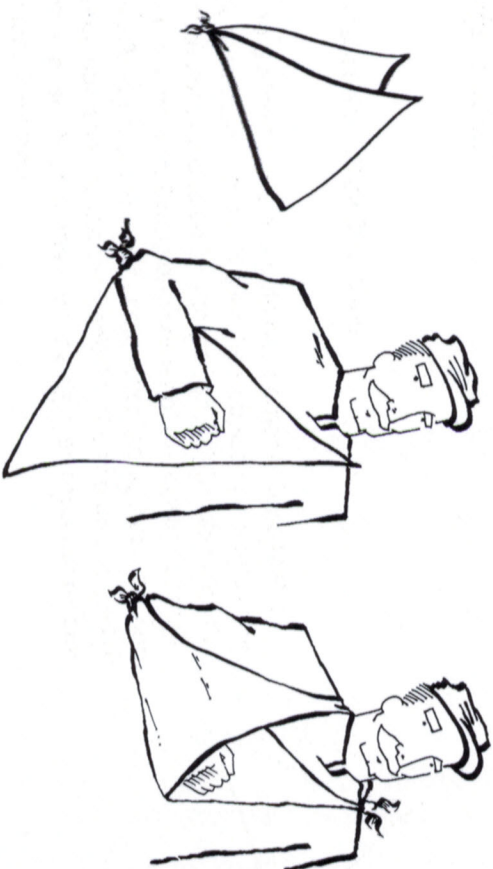
## Battlefield Bandages

*Warning—The following activities are to be used on pretend-wounded comrades in battle reenactments. Don't try to treat a real wounded person unless you've had training in first aid.*

### What you need

A square of cloth measuring 36 by 36 inches

1. Fold the cloth into a triangle. Tie a knot in one corner of it so that it makes a little pocket. Place the cloth over the wounded person's chest (as shown) with the knotted end under the person's right elbow, so that the elbow rests in the pocket. Drape one corner of the cloth over the person's left shoulder. Bring the other corner over the injured right arm, over the right shoulder, and around the neck. Tie the two ends together behind the neck. (These instructions are for a right arm wound; reverse them for a wounded left arm.)



2. You can use the cloth to wrap a head wound, too. Fold it into a triangle. Fold one edge over twice (as shown). Wrap the cloth around the patient's head, with the point hanging down the nape of the neck. Cross the other ends around the back of the head and tie them together at the forehead. Tuck the triangular point over the cloth in the back.

