



WI. VETERANS MUSEUM

Art from History

Grade Level: 3-5

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Students will:

- work on their reading, researching, and writing skills
- learn about the different types of sources (primary, secondary, etc.)
- practice information gathering and processing
- better their information organization skills
- develop their analytical skills
- practice evaluating and integrating information
- learn to generate information
- better their understanding of lasting outcomes
- practice communicating information and participation skills
- learn to reinterpret information and express it creatively
- develop their emotional understanding skills to better understanding opinions, thoughts, and experiences of the people who made the primary sources (letters, pictures, etc.)

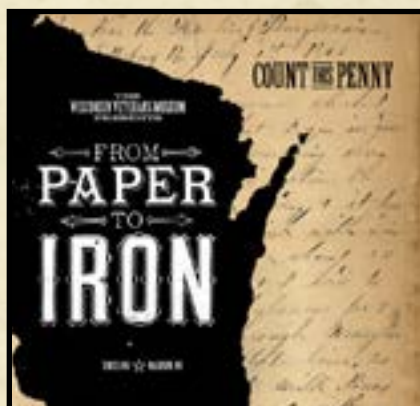
BACKGROUND

Count This Penny is a musical group that came to the Wisconsin Veterans Museum for inspiration to write new music. The group looked at, read, and were inspired by primary sources from the Civil War. They wrote new songs by reinterpreting these primary sources. The goal of this activity is for students to use primary sources and create any sort of art that they would like (i.e. a song, a poster, a skit, etc.).

Click on the pictures or follow these links to hear the band discuss the process:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7sZRAjZrbJk>

<https://www.wisconsinlife.org/story/count-this-penny/>



DIRECTIONS

1. Watch the video as a class. Ask the following questions:
 - What do you think might be challenging about using someone's letters or diary for inspiration?
 - What do you think the band learned from reading the letters and turning them into songs?
 - Do you think you can make a personal connection with a person who died a long time ago?
2. Look at the transcribed primary sources from the Veterans Museum collections.
 - [Rupert Cornelius](#)
 - [Willard Diefenthaler](#)
 - [Kermit Bliss](#)
 - [Lawrence Bongle](#)
 - [Elizabeth Baehr](#)
 - [Milo Flaten](#)
 - [Martin Gutekunst](#)
 - [John Gill](#)
 - [Violet Owen](#)
 - [Dolores Raczynski](#)
3. Have each student (or small groups of students) pick out a primary source or someone's collection of primary sources to read through.

Questions they should consider as they are doing their research include:

- What do I like about this person's story?
 - What do I dislike about this person's story?
 - What surprises me about his/her story?
 - Is there one line, sentence, or phrase that jumps out at me when I'm reading?
 - Is there a story that he/she tells that is very interesting?
 - Does he/she describe a place where he/she goes with lots of detail?
4. Students should reinterpret the primary sources into one of the following art forms:
 - Drawing
 - Skit
 - Poem
 5. Students should present their art for the class and briefly explain how they came up with their ideas.

OPTIONAL LEARNING EXTENSION

Turn the finished pieces into a classroom exhibit. Have students write labels for their pieces that include information about their soldiers and a quote or two that they used for inspiration.

RESOURCES

- Wisconsin Veterans Museum Research Center: <https://www.wisvetsmuseum.com/research/>
- Oral Histories: <https://www.wisvetsmuseum.com/oral-histories/>
- Medal of Honor Recipients: <https://www.wisvetsmuseum.com/research/medal-of-honor-recipients/>
- Wisconsin Life: <https://www.wisconsinlife.org/story/count-this-penny/>

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