Lives in Wartime

Compare how the Civil War changed daily life in Alabama.

SS24.AS.11d "Compare and contrast how the Civil War affected the lives of different groups of Alabamians, including enslaved people and women."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two details about enslaved Alabamians and circle two details about white women. Write 1 and 2 beside two hardships both groups faced so you can compare their experiences.

War Beyond the Battlefield

1 In 1861, Alabama joined the Confederacy, and war unsettled work far beyond battlefields. Planters expected enslaved people to grow food and cotton while many white men left for the army. Enslaved workers also faced forced construction or transport work for Confederate forces. On farms and in towns, white women managed crops, stores, and households, often with fewer supplies and less help. Both groups carried heavier workloads, but they did not choose their work on equal terms: slavery gave owners power to assign tasks and separate families, while white women remained legally free.

2 As Union troops advanced into parts of Alabama, some enslaved people escaped to their lines, hoping to find protection or family members. Others could not leave safely and faced punishment if caught trying. Some Black men joined the United States military, but enslaved women also made dangerous journeys with children or sought ways to keep families together. White women, too, fled fighting or struggled to feed children when armies took food and animals. Their losses could be severe, yet a white woman was not legally owned or sold. War made survival uncertain for both groups, though the risks differed.

3 The Emancipation Proclamation took effect in 1863 in Confederate-held territory, including Alabama, but freedom depended on Union power reaching the people still held in slavery. By the war's end in 1865, slavery was ending in Alabama. Formerly enslaved families sought wages, schooling, and relatives separated by sale, even as violence and unfair labor deals threatened their choices. White women also rebuilt farms and households, sometimes without husbands or sons who had died. They faced hardship and could not vote, but they did not have to establish their legal freedom. The same war changed both groups' lives without erasing unequal rights and risks.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did wartime work change for both enslaved Alabamians and white women? Explain one difference in who controlled their work.

2. Why did some enslaved people and some white women leave their homes as Union troops advanced? Compare the dangers they faced.

3. Both groups tried to protect their families during the war. How did slavery create a danger for enslaved families that white families did not face?

4. After the war, what did formerly enslaved families and white women both have to rebuild? How did their starting points differ?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a five- or six-sentence museum label comparing how the Civil War changed daily life for enslaved Alabamians and white women. Include one shared hardship, two differences tied to slavery or legal freedom, and a change after the war, using at least three specific details from the passage.

Lives in Wartime

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline two details about enslaved Alabamians and circle two details about white women. Write 1 and 2 beside two hardships both groups faced so you can compare their experiences. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did wartime work change for both enslaved Alabamians and white women? Explain one difference in who controlled their work.	**Both groups took on heavier workloads. Owners could assign enslaved people to farm or Confederate support work, while legally free white women managed farms, stores, and households.**
2	Why did some enslaved people and some white women leave their homes as Union troops advanced? Compare the dangers they faced.	**Some enslaved people fled toward Union lines for protection or to find family, while some white women fled fighting. Enslaved people also risked punishment if caught escaping.**
3	Both groups tried to protect their families during the war. How did slavery create a danger for enslaved families that white families did not face?	**Enslaved families could be separated by sale, while white families faced wartime hardship but could not legally be sold.**
4	After the war, what did formerly enslaved families and white women both have to rebuild? How did their starting points differ?	**Both had to rebuild their lives and livelihoods. Formerly enslaved families sought paid work and relatives after gaining freedom, while white women rebuilt farms and households without having to establish their legal freedom.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

During Alabama's Civil War, both enslaved people and white women carried heavier workloads. Enslaved people could be ordered to grow crops or work for Confederate forces, while white women managed farms, stores, and households. Some people in both groups fled danger, but enslaved families risked punishment for escaping and could be separated by sale. White women struggled when armies took food, yet they were not legally owned. As Union power spread, enslaved Alabamians sought freedom, and some Black men joined the United States military. After the war, formerly enslaved families searched for relatives and paid work, while white women rebuilt homes and farms.

Accept comparisons grounded in the passage that distinguish shared wartime hardships from the legal risks of slavery. Students may describe different experiences within either group rather than treating all members as having identical lives.