

## **Dr. Bone and the Civil War - Grade 7**

Created by Rhonda Williams

### **Objectives**

The student will apply absolute and relative chronology through the sequencing of significant individuals, events, and time periods related to the history of the Texas during the Civil War. **TEKS §113.23. Social Studies, Grade 7. (b)(1)(B)**

The student will identify individuals, events, and issues during the Civil War, examining several letters of Dr. Bone. **TEKS §113.23. Social Studies, Grade 7. (b)(4)(A)**

The student will analyze the political, economic, and social effects of the Civil War and Reconstruction in Texas. **TEKS §113.23. Social Studies, Grade 7. (b)(5)(B)**

The student will identify civic responsibilities of Texas citizens by examining Dr. Bone's decision to serve with the Confederate army, and Minerva Bone's opinion regarding this decision. **TEKS §113.23. Social Studies, Grade 7. (b)(16)(A) & (17)(C)**

The student will compare types and uses of technology, past and present, by examining the items in Dr. Bone's medical kit and comparing it with the medical tools in use today. **TEKS §113.23. Social Studies, Grade 7. (b)(20)(A)**

The student will differentiate between, locate, and use primary and secondary sources, such as biographies from the Handbook of Texas, and written documents, such as contemporary letters, to acquire information about life in Texas during the Civil War. **TEKS §113.23. Social Studies, Grade 7. (b)(21)(A)**

The student will analyze information from these sources by sequencing, categorizing, identifying cause-and-effect relationships, comparing, contrasting, finding the main idea, summarizing, making generalizations, and drawing inferences and conclusions. **TEKS §113.23. Social Studies, Grade 7. (b)(21)(B)**

The student will identify points of view from the historical context surrounding an event and the frame of reference that influenced Dr. R.D. Bone and Minerva Bone using biographies, textbook information, and his own words from primary documents. **TEKS §113.23. Social Studies, Grade 7. (b)(21)(D)**

The student will search for bias in the contemporary letters and examine the validity of the source based on language, corroboration with other sources, and information about the authors and subjects. **TEKS §113.23. Social Studies, Grade 7. (b)(21)(F,G)**

The student will create a document using social studies material by writing a letter to Dr. Bone, based on research and experiences, incorporating main and supporting ideas, using social studies terminology correctly, and using standard grammar, spelling, sentence structure, and punctuation. **TEKS §113.23. Social Studies, Grade 7. (b)(22)(A,D)**

## **Teaching Activities**

This lesson is to be used as an extension of the material that has already been taught about the Civil War.

### **Focus Activity**

Put pictures of Dr. Bone's medical kit on the screen/overhead projector. Have students take 2 minutes to view the items, and then 5-7 minutes to answer the following questions.

- 1) List the items contained in this wooden box.
- 2) What purpose do you believe was served by these items?

Lead brief brainstorming discussion regarding actual purpose of the items. When students suggest that this is some sort of medical equipment, identify the items.

### **Document Activity**

Review with students the differences between primary and secondary sources.

Introduce R.D. Bone to the students by reading aloud a summary of Dr. Bone's biographical sketch. Show students facsimile of Dr. Bone's letter to his wife of November 10, 1861.

Pass out Document Analysis Sheet # 1 to students, and pull up the facsimile of Dr. Bone's letter of November 10th. Read excerpt from letter aloud, and then ask students to answer the questions on the Document Analysis Sheet.

Show students the facsimile of the March 23rd, 1862 letter from Minerva Bone to her husband, Dr. Bone.

Pass out Document Analysis Sheet # 2 to students and read excerpt from letter aloud. Then ask students to answer the questions on the Document Analysis Sheet.

After reading these two letters, ask students to describe some of the sacrifices made by Texans to support the Confederacy in the war.

### **Assessment Activity**

Assign the following to your students:

“You are one of Dr. Bone's children. Write a letter to your father after you found out that he was going off to war as a doctor for the Texas soldiers who had joined the Confederacy.”

The letter should contain accurate historical information about the Bones and the Civil War, so use your textbook, the Handbook of Texas, the Biographical Sketch of Dr. Bone, and the Document Analysis Sheet for background.

This assignment must be in letter form. It should be approximately 1 to 1½ pages long. Remember, in addition to the subject information, you can ask questions, give advice or instruction, and provide local or family news if appropriate. You should also respond to the questions and information included in the original letters.

Your grade will be based both on accurate content and on the use of Standard English grammar. Be as neat as possible.

**Extension Activity:**

Have students research medicine in the Civil War.

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**Materials:**

[Dr. Bone's medical kit](#)

[Outside view](#)

[Inside view](#)

[Instruments](#)

[Biographical Sketch of Dr. Bone](#)

[Dr. Robert Donnell Bone](#)

[Dr. R.D. Bone's letter to Minerva Bone of November 10, 1861](#)

Document Analysis Sheet #1

[Griselda Minerva Burk Bone](#)

[Minerva Bone's letter to Dr. R.D. Bone of March 23, 1862](#)

Document Analysis Sheet #2

Civil War in The Handbook of Texas

# Texas Tides Document Analysis Sheet # 1 - Grade 7

## Dr. Bone in the Civil War

Teaching excerpt: a letter from Dr. R. D. Bone to his wife Minerva.

West Bank of Trinity River  
Madison Co.  
Nov 10th 1861

Dear Wife,

I take a few leisure moments to write you a few lines. We caught up with the Company last night at the Camp after two days wearisome riding - Paint stood the trip finely. We are all well except sore feet - The boys are in fine spirits - very jovial and full of fun - We have to travel about 50 miles before we arrive the Rail Road - I cannot tell you anything about what I will do yet - The company want me to stay with them if I can. I shall come home if I can. If not I will do the best I can. I found my carpet sack all right - I shall go on to Navasota where I will write to you again - the roads are fine - never better -

Minerva take good care of yourself - never stay alone have company with you all the time. Kiss Watson for me. Tell him to be a good boy till Pa comes home. Be true to me. Read the Bible - and may the good Lord Bless you and Keep you from all harm till I see you.

Good Bye  
R. D. Bone

**Answer the following questions, using this letter. Underline important sentences to help answer the questions.**

What is the date of the letter? \_\_\_\_\_

Who wrote it? \_\_\_\_\_ To whom was it written? \_\_\_\_\_

According to your textbook, was Texas involved in the Civil War yet? \_\_\_\_\_

From clues given in the letter, what does the author of the letter appear to be doing?

Why do you think that this letter was written? Use quotes from the document as evidence.

Dr. Bone has mixed personal and political news and concerns in this letter.

List personal concerns \_\_\_\_\_

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List political information \_\_\_\_\_

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What have you learned from this letter about Texas History?

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## Texas Tides Document Analysis Sheet # 2 - Grade 7

Teaching excerpt: a letter to Dr. R. D. Bone from his wife Minerva.

State of Texas, Nacogdoches Co.  
March the 23 1862

Dear Dr Bone,

I received your letter yesterday evening dated the 17.... I don't know what would be for the best, but I don't want you to join the war. I don't think that is right, the way they are doing. It looks like it's too hard. I think twelve months is a long time for you to be gone. It looks mighty hard to see men leave their wives and children and homes... I hope the good lord will be on our side faster.... I am well. Watson and Winsted are well. Watson was sick last week. I reckoned it was worms that ailed him....Some times I wish you could see them and see how sweet they look and they) are smart, too....It goes hard with me to do without your presence. If I could meet with you I would be happy but if we don't meet in this world, I hope and pray we will meet in a happier one, and then we will be happy I know. Honey, pray for us. Our lives are uncertain, but I hope if it is the good lord's will, we will meet again and be happy.

There is a right smart of excitement here about the war. I here that the negroes say that they are going to rise [up] when this regiment gets up here. At Jim town, I heard some say that there was thirty or forty a drilling one another up there close to a widow woman's house. She heard them talking. They said they were going to give the Jim town fellows a fight that they chat down here. There was a mighty stir made when Mr. Whitaker and Norvel was fixing to start. I think there will be danger here if any more men leave. I don't want you to join if you can help it. If you do [join], come home and see me if you can. Your precious face to me is worth everything else in this world. I want you to write as often as you can....O may the good lord be with us until we meet again. May god bless you my Dear. Good bye, my love. A kiss for you.

G. M Bone

**Answer the following questions, using this letter. Underline important sentences to help answer the questions.**

What is the date of the letter? \_\_\_\_\_

Who wrote it? \_\_\_\_\_ To whom was it written? \_\_\_\_\_

According to your textbook, was Texas involved in the Civil War yet?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

From clues given in the letter, why do you think that the author wrote this letter?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Mrs. Bone has mixed personal and political news and concerns in this letter.

List personal concerns \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

List political information \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Why do you think that this letter was written? Use quotes from the document as evidence.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

What have you learned from this letter about Texas History?  
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\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_