**Name:**

**Date:**

# Archeology and the Battle of Cold Harbor Student Worksheet

# Part 1

***Directions:*** Your teacher will give you a handout with two maps of troop positions at the Cold Harbor battlefield. Use the maps to answer the following questions.

**Question 1)** Use the scale at the bottom of Map 1 to find how miles troop positions and earthworks at Cold Harbor covered. Is the distance surprising or not? Why?

**Question 2)** The lines on the map represent roads and rivers. How might soldiers have used them?

**Question 3)** Compare and contrast Map 1 with Map 2. How does Map 2 help better understand soldiers’ placement throughout the landscape and their use of available resources?

**Question 4)** What other sources can scholars use to understand what the soldiers’ experience at Cold Harbor might have been like?

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# Part 2

***Directions:*** Your teacher will give you three readings about soldier’s experiences at Cold Harbor. Read through each. Use Reading 2 and 3 to answer the following questions.

**Question 1)** Metal shovels would have been extremely useful in building earthworks. What are some reasons why soldiers would not have these tools?

**Question 2)** Make a list of the supplies George mentions. Of these, which ones did the soldiers carry with them? Which ones did they have to obtain? Where would they get these resources? How did soldiers adapt the materials they had to accomplish tasks?

**Question 3)** If diaries such as George’s did not exist, what other sources could help understand what happened at Cold Harbor?

**Question 4)** Using Reading 3, list four dangers that soldiers faced during war.

**Question 5)** How do artifacts like these bullets help us to understand the battle at Cold Harbor? If you were an archeologist studying the site, what other kinds of objects would help you know more about the soldiers’ experiences?

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# Part 3

***Directions:*** Your teacher will give you a handout with five pictures. Use the images to answer the following questions.

**Question 1)** Compare and contrast Image 1, a drawing of soldiers putting up earthworks, and Image 2, a photograph of soldiers at North Anna. Based on the photograph, how accurate is the artist’s image?

**Question 2)** Describe the landscape in Image 1 and Image 2. What would camping in these areas have been like?

**Question 3)** What supplies would soldiers need to survive the three days at Cold Harbor? What natural resources are shown in Image 1 and 2? Where else might soldiers get supplies?

**Question 4)** Examine Image 3, a drawing of soldiers creating earthworks. What are materials are the soldiers using?

**Question 5)** You have learned about the dire need for both water and protection from bullets. Why might a soldier have adapted the canteen in Image 4 to use it as a shovel?

**Question 6)** Archeologists record both an artifact’s physical qualities and its context, or where it was found on a site including how deeply it was buried in the ground and what other items it was near. This canteen was found upon the battlefield but its exact context is unknown. Why is this a problem? How would having that information help us to know more about this object?

**Question 7)** Think of an object you use every day. How was it made? How do you use it? Think of other tasks that object could accomplish. Would you have to change its shape? How would you do so?

**Question 8)** The Cold Harbor landscape today looks much like it did during the Civil War. What impact does this preservation have? How does this landscape visually compare with the battlefield conditions you have been reading about?

**Question 9)** Visitors to the Cold Harbor battlefield are asked not to climb on the earthworks. Are there other factors that might threaten the mounds?

**Question 10)** If you were in charge of this site, what methods would you use to protect and preserve the earthworks?