

# On the Homefront During the Civil War



The pain of the Civil War was something that was felt by almost every person in the country while it was happening. At home, many families were left without sons and fathers. The mothers and children had to do all the chores and work that were normally shared by the whole family. At the time, most people in the United States lived in small towns or on small farms where they grew their own food. When the men left to go fight, a large burden was put on the families they left behind, and many suffered from hunger and poverty.

Things were especially difficult in the South. Nearly everyone in the South farmed for a living, and the loss of the help was almost unbearable. Most of the fighting happened in the Southern states as well, so there was a constant danger of attacks and fighting near their homes, and no one felt safe.

While at war, the troops were in need of uniforms, food, weapons and many other supplies. Many of the women at home, on top of having to care for their families with less help, were also working to make supplies for the soldiers. It wasn't until World War II, almost 100 years later, that so many men would again become soldiers, once again requiring women to take their place while they were at war. During World War II these women became famously known as "Rosie Riveters" and had much in common with women during the Civil War.

On both sides, despite the hardships, the families did what they had to and found the strength to stay together and survive.

## Questions

If your older brother or father was away, what kind of things could you do to help?

What kind of things do you think families had to go without to help make sure the soldiers had what they needed?