

## SESSION 1.2: DISCUSSION

The Civil War was a brutal war with more American lives lost than in World War I and World War II combined. It was horrific. Many, many died from diseases rather than bullets. Families were in terrible condition, because the men were gone and so was the money. Generally, those who volunteered to serve in the military thought they would get better treatment or opportunities than men who were drafted. Men who enlisted were sometimes paid a bounty, or a bonus, for joining. Those who were drafted would not get the extra money. Understanding this, look at the poster. Use the Primary Source Questions and discuss.



Source: [https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Recruiting\\_poster\\_179th\\_Pennsylvania\\_Infantry\\_Regiment.jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Recruiting_poster_179th_Pennsylvania_Infantry_Regiment.jpg)

Take a second look at the recruitment poster with these questions:

Examine it like an historian.

- What was the bounty poster's message?
- What is the purpose of this poster?
- Why would they be offering this bounty of \$100 to people? What impression do you get when you read the banner?

More than 620,000 men died in the Civil War. The bloodiest battle of all was the battle at Gettysburg where nearly 52,000 men were killed, wounded or missing in action. (That means that no one knows what happened to the person.) Because of men dying, healthy men were needed to take their place.

- If you knew thousands of people were dying, what might make you enlist anyway? Does that make you a hero?
- Also, many Americans had a large sense of duty to the country and their beliefs. If you made your poster sound like a vacation camp with hunting and fishing, do you think you might be more enticed to enlist rather than someone telling you that you might die by bullets or sickness?