VETERANS LEGACY PROGRAM CURRICULAR MATERIALS

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Introduction

Turn and Talk: What is a dog tag? Why might it be important?

Class Discussion: What do we already know about dog tags? What did you learn or hear from your partner?

Essential Questions- Think these through as we go through the lesson!

- How can we use modern technology to recreate historical artifacts, and how can this skill play an important role in preserving and communicating histories?

- How are dog tags an important piece to our nation's history?

- How can we apply our knowledge of the evolution of technology in dog tags to the future of their use by our Armed Forces?

Dog Tag Use in Military Identification

- Dog tags are used to identify a soldier.
- Dog tags are particularly important to identify in emergency, like injury or death of the soldier.
- Dog tags have changed over time.

Civil War Era

- No official "government-issued" and standardized military dog tags.

- Not being identified when wounded or killed was terrifying for many soldiers. Men would write their names on pieces of clothing or paper that they would then pin to their clothes as a nametag.

- Some, more wealthy soldiers, might buy identification badges, round metal tags, that they could sew or pin onto their uniform.
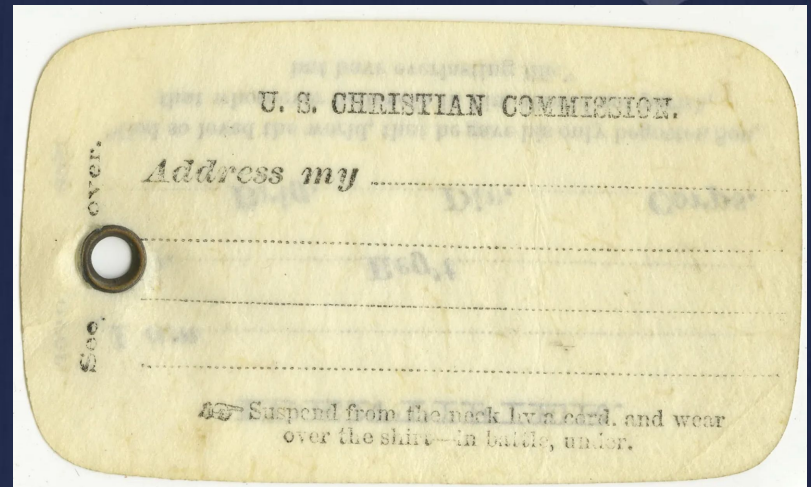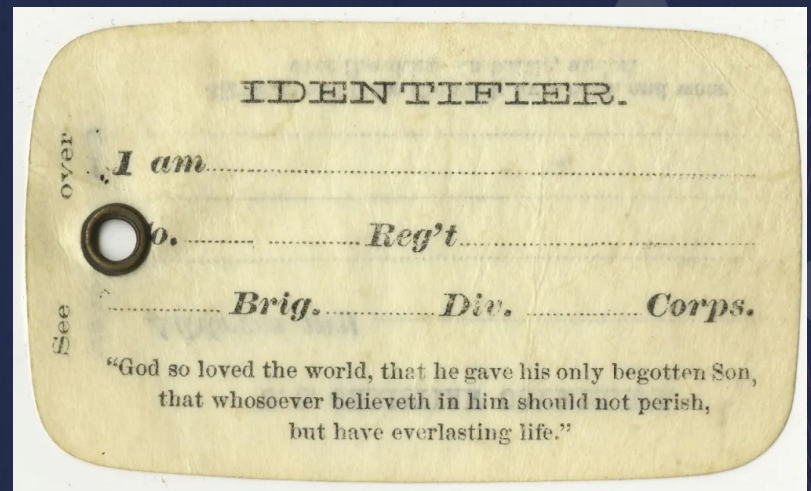
Image Source: Gettysburg College, Musselman Library; Special Collections

IDENTIFIER.

I am...............
o. .... Reg't...........
...... Brig.......... Div........... Corps.

"God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."

U. S. CHRISTIAN COMMISSION.

Address my ....

Suspend from the neck by a cord, and wear over the shirt—in battle, under.

Civil War Era

- Many soldiers made identifiers out of whatever they could in case something happened to them in the war.

- Photograph of a piece of cloth with the name I. N. Johnson written on it. The cloth has been identified as an example of civil war dog tags.

Image Source: University of North Texas Libraries; UNT Libraries Special Collections.
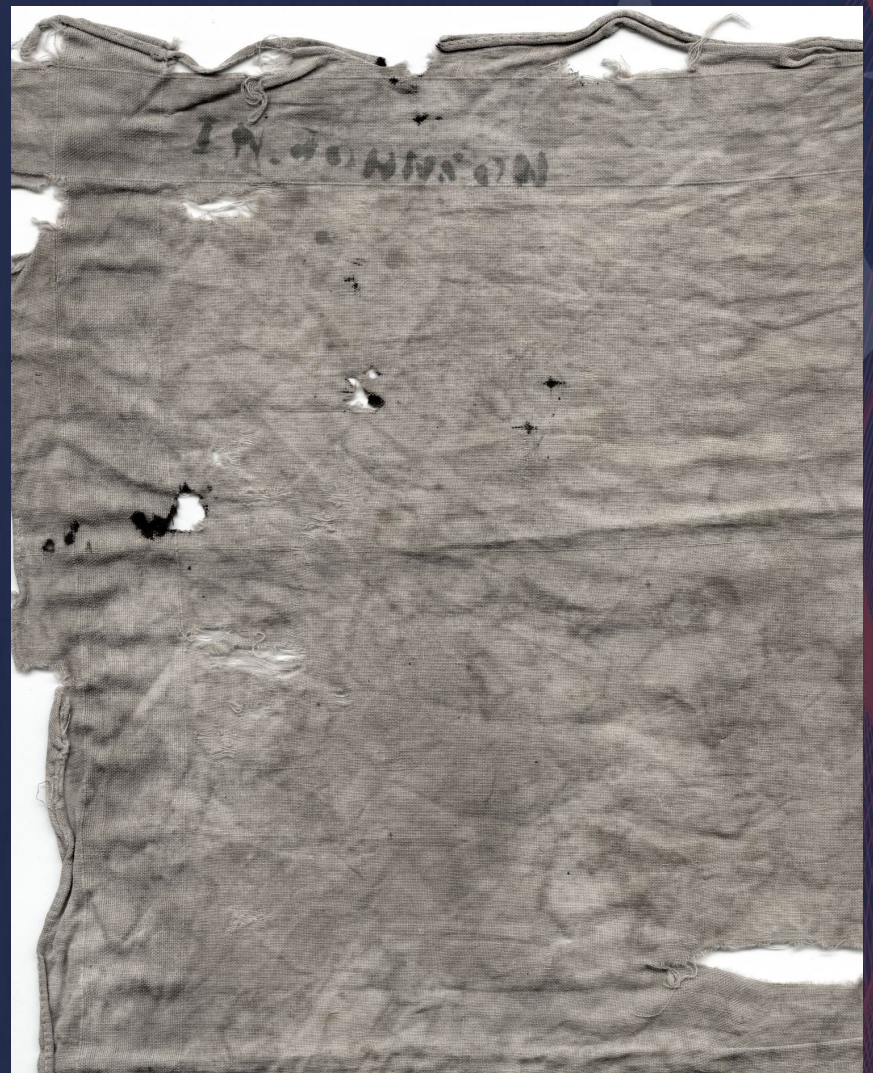
The 1st Official Dog Tags

- The devastation of the American Civil War and the identifying efforts of chaplain Charles C. Pierce during the Spanish-American War made the creation of standard ID tags a necessity for the U.S. military.

- In December 1906, the U.S. Army ordered that aluminum disc-shaped ID tags be worn by soldiers.

- The tags were stamped with a soldier's name, rank, company and regiment or corps.

- These tags were worn around the neck, under a soldier's uniform.

Image Source: U.S. Department of Defense

World War I

Image Source: U.S. Department of Defense

- During World War I, Navy tags were a bit different than Army's.
- The biggest difference was the etched print of each sailor's right index finger on the back.
- Marines had a mix of the Army and Navy style.

World War II

- Military ID tags, or dog tags, were considered an official part of the uniform.

- Instead of round circular tags, they were now a rounded rectangle, the same shape used today.

- Each was mechanically stamped with your name, rank, service number, blood type and religion, if desired.

- At this time, all military tags included a notch in one end. Historians say the notch was there due to the type of machine used to stamp the tags.

- By the 1970s, those machines were replaced, so the tags issued today are now smooth on both sides.

Image Source: U.S. Department of Defense

The Role of Technology in Historical Context

- Current technology can be used to help us understand and replicate historical artifacts, like dog tags!

- You can create modern day designs to help capture the memory and history of your veteran, and compare them with the historical dog tags we have seen in our discussion today.

Tinkercad Challenge (30 minutes)

Using Tinkercad, create a dog tag that is reflective of your assigned veteran who is memorialized in the Saint Augustine Cemetery.
- Dog tags must represent the time period that the veteran was alive.
- Dog tags must meet the criteria for 3-D printing.

Image Source: UCF Veterans Legacy Program Team

Time to Review!

1. Share your designs with your table group.
2. Discuss the time period their veteran/dog tag belongs to and what is unique about dog tags within that time period.
3. Peers write 3 "glows" and 3 "grows" down on a sticky note to provide to each of your classmates.
4. Improve your design based on the suggested feedback.
5. Save your file and raise your hand when you are ready for your teacher to print!

Wrap-up Reflections

1. Why were dog tags important to soldiers?
2. How has technology changed the way we create and use identification tags?
3. What are other types of technology that could help us learn about and remember history?

Exit Slip- Choose 1 question and write your answer on a piece of paper. Your teacher will collect when complete.

- How can we use modern technology to recreate historical artifacts, and how can this skill play an important role in preserving and communicating histories?

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- How can we apply our knowledge of the evolution of dog tags to the future of our Armed Forces?