BUILDING A MORE PERFECT UNION
PART II
OVERVIEW
In this lesson, students will learn about United States citizens’ rights and responsibilities. Using Anna Coleman Ladd and her experiences in World War I as a case study, students will analyze primary and secondary sources to create a historical narrative explaining the importance of civic engagement in society and what responsibilities Americans have to their country.

OBJECTIVES
At the conclusion of this activity, students will be able to:
› Explain U.S. citizens’ rights and responsibilities;
› Analyze sources of information and explain the significance of Anna Coleman Ladd’s work;
› Create a poster or other academic product that demonstrates student research and conclusions.

STANDARDS CONNECTIONS
CONNECTIONS TO COMMON CORE
› CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RH.6-8.1 Cite specific textual evidence to support analysis of primary and secondary sources.

CONNECTIONS TO C3 FRAMEWORK
› D2.Civ.2.6-8. Explain specific roles played by citizens (such as voters, jurors, taxpayers, members of the armed forces, petitioners, protesters, and office-holders).

DOCUMENTS USED
PRIMARY SOURCES
U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services

Photograph, [Masks by Anna Coleman Ladd], 1917–1919
Library of Congress (2017672982)
https://www.loc.gov/item/2017672982/

Photograph, Miss Maynard (Anna Coleman) Ladd, April 1, 1919
Library of Congress (2017669385)
https://www.loc.gov/item/2017669385/

Photograph, Mutiles wearing a mask made by Mrs. Anna Coleman Ladd, December 19, 1918
Library of Congress (2017683388)
https://www.loc.gov/item/2017683388/

Photograph, French soldier whose face has been mutilated, fitted with a mask by Mrs. Anna Coleman Ladd, 1918
Library of Congress (2007676087)
https://www.loc.gov/item/2007676087/

Photograph, Mrs. Anna Coleman Ladd and Mr Caudron. Mrs. A. Coleman Ladd working on portrait mask, 1918
Library of Congress (2017672656)
https://www.loc.gov/item/2017672656/

Photograph, Mrs. Anna Coleman Ladd (seated in the foreground) surrounded by her patients at her studio, Christmas Day 1918 . . . , 1918
Library of Congress (2007676091)
https://www.loc.gov/item/2007676091/

Newspaper article, “Rebuilding Human Wreckage of War”
The Nonpartisan Leader, November 11, 1918
SECONDARY SOURCES

Article, Caroline Alexander, "Faces of War," February 2007
Smithsonian Magazine
https://www.smithsonianmag.com/arts-culture/faces-of-war-145799854/

Article, "Women in World War I: Anna Coleman Ladd," 2022
Smithsonian Institution
https://www.si.edu/spotlight/women-in-wwi/anna-coleman-ladd

National Archives and Records Administration

TEACHER-CREATED MATERIALS

› Primary Source Packet
› Secondary Source Links

ACTIVITY PREPARATION

› Make one copy of the “Important Information for New Citizens” for each student.
› Organize students into groups of three or four students each.
› Make one copy of the Primary Source Packet for each group of three to four students.
› Preview the secondary source articles and select which one(s) would be most appropriate for your students. Prepare to share the link to that article.
  » Teacher Tip: These articles can be assigned to different students or groups to differentiate the lesson for students of varying reading levels.
› Create a digital folder of the Primary Source Packet and then electronically share it with students.
› Arrange the classroom for group work.

CONNECTIONS

Several lessons in this collection feature the story of individuals who have made the United States a more perfect union. Highlighting the stories of Deborah Sampson, Phillis Wheatley, Anna Coleman Ladd, Bayard Rustin, and James Toy helps create a more inclusive picture of American history.

› Gather poster supplies or coordinate laptops for students to create digital posters.

PROCEDURE

ACTIVITY ONE: CIVIC CONCEPTS (30 MINUTES)

› Ask students: What are the rights and responsibilities of U.S. citizens?
› Distribute one copy of the “Important Information for New Citizens” document to each student. Review the document with students, and ask them to rank the responsibilities of citizens from most important to least important in their groups.
› Ask groups to share the top two or three responsibilities they feel are most important and the two or three that they think are the least important.
› Lead a discussion about civic responsibility. Discussion questions:
  » Why is civic participation in society and government important?
  » What is the most important thing a citizen could do for their country?
  » What responsibilities do Americans have toward each other?

When discussing the history of people with disabilities, students may encounter language that was common to the past, but might be offensive, problematic, or out-of-date. In this lesson, they will see the term mutilé, which is French for a person with a disability. Remind students that in all discussions and written commentary, they should use modern-day terminology when speaking about people in the past.
ACTIVITY TWO: SOURCE ANALYSIS (30 MINUTES)
› Share the secondary source links (which contain background information readings) with students. Teachers may provide all three links, one link, or assign different readings to different students or groups.
› Distribute one copy of the Primary Source Packet to each student group.
› Explain to students that they will examine primary and secondary sources relating to Anna Coleman Ladd’s life and her work with World War I soldiers and veterans.
› Select one of the primary sources and analyze it with the students.
› Ask each group to divide the remaining sources amongst themselves and analyze them to determine the role and significance of Anna Coleman Ladd and her work in helping to build a more perfect union.
   » Teacher Tip: Teachers can assign sources to meet students’ needs or allow them to select sources.
› Circulate among students to provide support and offer suggestions.
› Ask students, How did Anna Coleman Ladd fulfill her responsibilities as a citizen?

ACTIVITY THREE: CREATE THE GROUP POSTER (45 MINUTES)
› Explain to students that they will create a poster based on their source analysis to answer the guiding question, What obligations do citizens have to their nation and fellow citizens?, using Anna Coleman Ladd as a case study.
› Circulate among students to provide support and offer suggestions on their posters to answer questions.

ASSESSMENT OPTIONS
› Students can complete their posters individually or in groups.
› Students can write an individual response to the guiding question that incorporates key elements from the lesson. In their response, students should reference citizens’ responsibilities and Anna Coleman Ladd’s work.
› Student groups can present their posters to the class and highlight the sources they think are most important to answering the guiding question.

STUDENTS INTERESTED IN THIS TOPIC MIGHT BE INTERESTED IN RESEARCHING THE FOLLOWING FOR AN NHD PROJECT:
› Clara Barton and the American Red Cross (1881)
› Shell Shock and the Great War (1914–1918)
› The International Red Cross and the Great War (1914–1918)
› Military prosthetics in modern warfare (2001–present)

To access a PDF containing all of the sources and materials to complete this lesson plan, go to:

NHD.ORG/250

EDSITEment!
RELATED RESOURCES
Lesson Plan: Voting Rights for Women: Pro- and Anti-Suffrage

Media Resource: 2018 Jefferson Lecture: Dr. Rita Charon

Media Resource: In the Field: War Ink
https://edsitement.neh.gov/media-resources/field-war-ink

Teacher’s Guide: Women’s History in the United States
https://edsitement.neh.gov/teachers-guides/womens-history-united-states
Photograph, (Masks by Anna Coleman Ladd), 1917–1919
Library of Congress (2017672982)
https://www.loc.gov/item/2017672982/
PRIMARY SOURCE PACKET (CON’T)

Photograph, Miss Maynard (Anna Coleman) Ladd, April 1, 1919
Library of Congress (2017669385)
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Library of Congress (2017672656)
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Photograph, Mrs. Anna Coleman Ladd (seated in the foreground) surrounded by her patients at her studio, Christmas Day 1918 . . . , 1918
Library of Congress (2007676091)
https://www.loc.gov/item/2007676091/
Rebuilding Human Wreckage of War

Recent Bulletin Tells What Red Cross Bureau of Civilian Relief Is Doing in France—A Great Work, but Only a Beginning

Mrs. Anna Coleman Ladd painting one of her portrait masks to rescue the dead. The number of these masks is not in very large numbers to resemble the faces of the fallen as near as possible. The masks are held in storage by the Red Cross.

The war in France is unique; it opens a new vista in humanitarian relations. The widespread hope of the world that will be after the war. Quick emergency work has characterized the Red Cross contributions during times of disasters, when it sheltered victims of war in Paris, went to the aid of families and brought the munition blsts at La Courvay, spread a great deal of relief and friendship and sympathetic energy over all France for the thousands of refugees forced to leave their homes and their all by the German action.

The war itself is an emergency for any peace-loving nation, and it creates constant and continuing emergencies. The more than a million refugees scattered throughout France are never permanently settled and the war is over and a great proportion of them cannot return to their homes. Some of them were given away houses and courage and hope in being helped out of the crowded cities and back to their farms. Others have returned to their homes by the Germans, they kept up their hopeful hopes and expressed themselves to the Americans who worked with them through the winter with the fact that there is no doubt that whatever may have been lost through the German occupation, the achievement in moral and spiritual reconstruction remains in innumerable value.

Caring for Refugees

The bulletin describes the task of trying to care for the old man, women and children as they fled before the German invasion in 1914; how many of them were taken back to their homes and rehabilitated as the Germans retreated; and how, again, these people fled back to Paris and northern France. France was never invaded, but the process was repeated. All these hundreds of thousands of people who had to be fed, sheltered, clothed, and educated for a long time. They need medical care, and the Red Cross has organized large numbers of nurses, trained the wounded, and organized the Red Cross to do this. The Red Cross has supplied a number of medical men to the general public, who could hardly endure looking at the unattended wounded.

By means of this Red Cross work, those who have suffered the most of all nations are able to take care of their own needs. As the bulletins advance in 1918, the Red Cross has supplied all the necessary medical care, training the wounded, and organized the Red Cross to do this. The Red Cross has supplied a number of medical men to the general public, who could hardly endure looking at the unattended, wounded.

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Photograph, Personnel—P1200 through P1299 [165-WW-429P-1224], International Film Service
National Archives and Records Administration (NAID 45532721)
https://catalog.archives.gov/id/45532721

Mrs. Anna Colman Ladd, well-known sculptor, member of the National Sculptor Society of New York, and the Boston Society of Artists is hard at work in her Paris studio aiding surgeons to remake shell torn faces of soldiers.

Much has been done in facial surgery, and the sculptor joins hands with the doctor in working on the reconstruction of the shattered faces of the wounded heroes. Often when the jaw is badly shattered and the nose is completely torn away, and the rest of the face mutilated apparently beyond all hope, these skilled doctors and surgeons come to the rescue, and perform the miracle of remaking the face as good as new. (OVER)
Photograph, Medical Department—Restoration Work—Reconstruction—Facial reconstruction. Forehead and chin are his own but the rest of his face is the creation of Mrs. Ladd, October 28, 1918
National Archives and Records Administration (NAID 45498727)
https://catalog.archives.gov/id/45498727
SECONDARY SOURCE LINKS

Article, Caroline Alexander, “Faces of War,” February 2007
*Smithsonian Magazine*
https://www.smithsonianmag.com/arts-culture/faces-of-war-145799854/

Article, “Women in World War I: Anna Coleman Ladd,” 2022
Smithsonian Institution
https://www.si.edu/spotlight/women-in-wwi/anna-coleman-ladd

Blog, Hparkins, “Anna Coleman Ladd: An Artist Who Created Hope for Wounded Soldiers;” March 11, 2020
National Archives and Records Administration