A Soldier’s Life
Create an Envelope

CIVIL WAR ENVELOPES

1860s = How did you keep in touch with family & friends? Write a letter. What if you lived in the South, where Union blockades caused shortages of all kinds, including paper & envelopes? Writers began to use whatever was handy— the backs of forms & printed ads, blank pages in books, maps, even wallpaper. Any blank or part blank piece of paper would do.

* Why fold the pattern on the inside? To leave blank space for an address on the outside!

NEEDED
- This pattern
- Paper (brown, scrap)
- Heavy wrapping, wax...
- Pencil
- Scissors—glue stick

HOW TO
1) Cut out this pattern.
2) Trace the pattern onto your paper, cut out.
3) With your paper pattern, side up, fold flaps A + B to the center. Glue together.
4) Fold flap C up & glue to A + B.
5) Write a letter, slip it in your envelope, and give it to a friend!

NOTE Check USP envelope size limits before mailing.

WANT TO KNOW MORE?
- Smithsonian Institution
- Adversity covers
- NC Archives
- Civil War letters

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