



Ted Alejandre, County Superintendent

San Bernardino County

Superintendent of Schools

Transforming lives through education



RIVERSIDE COUNTY OFFICE OF EDUCATION

JUDY D. WHITE, Ed.D. County Superintendent of Schools

Tuesday, April 28

12:00pm

**History Detectives- Special Investigations
“Civil War Sabotage?” – 4th – 8th**

It was one of the worst maritime naval disasters in U.S. history. Officially, the death toll was 1,500. Unofficially, the count may have been far higher. When it mysteriously exploded on April 27, 1865, the Mississippi steamboat USS Sultana was packed with Union soldiers. The war had ended that month; at every stop more and more men clamored to board the homeward-bound ship, which blew up mid-river. However, the Was it Confederate sabotage? Securing the original investigative report and its archives allows the team to forensically examine and scientifically test theories of the boilers' failure. The team also researches the stories of a Confederate agent and spy who burned Union ships on the Mississippi and was an expert in using "coal torpedoes" and a former Union inspector's deathbed revelation.

After watching this episode, choose from the following questions and/or tasks to extend your learning

Question Box 1

- What happened to the Steamship Sultana?
- What is the central message in this program? Explain?
- What is the author trying to say through this TV program? What from the show makes you believe this?
- Which details support the key idea? Look for the Who? What? When? Where? Why? How much? How many?
- Explain the multiple theories that the history detectives were investigating as to what happened to the Sultana. Which theory seemed the most probable to you? The most far-fetched?
- What are coal torpedoes?
- What was the former Union inspector's deathbed revelation/

Question Box 2

- What is the most important thing I learned personally?
- What were some of the most interesting discoveries I made while this program?
- What were some of my most powerful learning moments in the program and what

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- made them so?
- How much did you know about the subject before we started? Explain.
- How do you feel about this program? What parts of it do you particularly like?

Box 3 (Tasks)

- The program talked about the coal torpedo. What was the coal torpedo? Research Civil War Inventions and discuss three different interesting things to have been developed over the course of the Civil War. Why did you focus on these three items?

Box 4 (Enrichment)

- (for 8th grade))The Show briefly mentions the Andersonville prison camp. Research the Andersonville Prison Camp. What kind of atrocities took place at the Andersonville Camp? Open up your history book to the section on the Civil War and see if you can find anything written on the Andersonville Camp? If it's not in there why do you think it was left out? If it is in there, how does what you researched align with your text?
- History has a tendency to deify and vilify people. We talk about people like Abraham Lincoln as if they can do no wrong. This program is a striking reminder that Abraham Lincoln for all the good he has done; he is just a person who has flaws. Write about your life describing the positive and negative things you have done. Do you think we should remember people only for the good they have done? Only for the bad they have done? A combination of both? Why?

Box 5 (Extend/Real-Life)

- There are many careers available in the maritime industry. Below you will find three videos each is one to two minutes in length. Watch each of them and write a paragraph about what you learned about the careers in the videos.
- Captains, Mates and Pilots: <https://www.careeronestop.org/videos/careeronestop-videos.aspx?videocode=53502100>
- Motorboat Mechanics: <https://www.careeronestop.org/videos/careeronestop-videos.aspx?videocode=49305100>
- Marine Engineers and Naval Architects: <https://www.careeronestop.org/videos/careeronestop-videos.aspx?videocode=17212100>
- **What if:** Imagine you are on a cruise with your family. Cruises have many activities for the travelers to participate in. For example: boat tours, gift shops, swimming, movies, dining, dancing, and theatrical shows. Keeping all of those activities in mind, brainstorm a list of careers that would be available on a cruise ship. Would you like to work in any of the careers you listed, why or why not?