EXTRA
Saturday Morning, April 13, 1861
THE WAR COMMENCED!

We are indebted to Mr. Brown, the gentlemanly telegraph operator at this place, for the following dispatches which were received last night, up to 12 o’clock.

By these dispatches it will be seen that the treason which has so long been rife at Charleston, has at last culminated in WAR! The rebels will now be treated in a different manner than they anticipated. They have brought down vengeance on their heads. The country waits with breathless anxiety to know the results of this attack. We believe the Government is sufficient for the emergency. — Without further remarks we give the dispatches:

Charleston, April 12.— The ball has opened. War is inaugurated. The batteries of Sullivan’s Island, Morris Island, and other points were opened on Fort Sumter at 4 o’clock this morning. Fort Sumter has returned the fire, and a brisk cannonading has been kept up. No information has been received from the seaboard yet. The military are under arms, and the whole of our population are on the streets and every available space facing the harbor is filled with anxious spectators. . . .

The troops are pouring into the city by the thousands. . . .

Not a casualty has yet happened to any of the forces of the nineteen batteries in position. Only seven have opened fire on Ft. Sumter; the remainder are held in reserve for the expected fleet.

Source: Fremont Journal, Fremont, Ohio, April 13, 1861.

Vocabulary

- **dispatches**: news reports
- **treason**: working to overthrow one’s own government
- **rife**: something undesirable that happens a lot
- **culminated**: to reach a decisive point
- **vengeance**: punishment in retaliation
- **inaugurated**: to begin
- **cannonading**: heavy cannon or artillery fire
Document B: *The Daily Dispatch* (Modified)

The War Begun

It will be seen that, under the military *compulsion* of the immense fleet and army which the Black Republican President has sent to *subjugate* Charleston, the Carolina forces have been forced, in self-defense, to attempt the reduction of that fort which so long has *menaced* their homes and firesides, and which Lincoln had formally notified them he was about to supply,—“peaceably if he can, *forcibly if he must,“*—a notification which, backed up by an immense naval and military force, was of course a declaration of war. . . .

The people of Charleston have been actually supplying Major ANDERSON and his officers with *provisions*, exhibiting a spirit of generosity unprecedented in the history of war. In the midst of the negotiations a fleet larger than England keeps up in the Channel, an army of three thousand soldiers . . . has been suddenly sent by the Government to attack Morris’ Island, and force provisions, and probably men, into Fort Sumter. . . .

The “*irrepressible* conflict” which has been forced upon the peaceful home and the unoffending citizens of the South, will be met by a people who will drench their native soil with the blood of their invaders, or perish, to the last man, in *vindication* of all that man holds dear.

**Source:** *The Daily Dispatch*, Richmond, Virginia, April 13, 1861.

**Vocabulary**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Definition</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>compulsion</td>
<td>being forced to do something</td>
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<tr>
<td>subjugate</td>
<td>to conquer or bring under control</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>menaced</td>
<td>threatened</td>
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<tr>
<td>provisions</td>
<td>needed supplies</td>
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<tr>
<td>irrepressible</td>
<td>impossible to restrain or control</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>vindication</td>
<td>proof that something is correct or justifiable</td>
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Guiding Questions

Document A
Answer questions 1-3 before reading the document.

1) (Sourcing) When was this article published?

2) (Sourcing) Where was the article published?

3) (Contextualization) How might where the article was published influence its content?

Answer questions 4-7 after reading the document

4) (Close reading) How does the article describe the decision to attack and the troops firing on Fort Sumter?

5) (Close reading) According to the article, how should the troops firing on Fort Sumter be treated?

6) (Close reading) Does the newspaper seem to support the Union or the Confederacy? Cite specific words or passages from the article to support your answer.

7) (Contextualization) Review your answer to Question 3. How accurate was your prediction? Explain.
Document B

Answer questions 1-3 before reading the document.

1) (Sourcing) When was this article published?

2) (Sourcing) Where was the article published?

3) (Contextualization) How might where the article was published influence its content?

Answer questions 4-7 after reading the document

4) (Close reading) How does the article describe Abraham Lincoln?

Why might the newspaper have described him this way?

5) (Close reading) According to this article, why did the troops in Charleston fire on Fort Sumter?

6) (Corroboration) How does this article’s description of the troops firing on Fort Sumter compare to the description in Document A? Cite specific examples from the article.

7) (Close reading) According to this article, what is the Confederacy fighting for?

8) (Corroboration) How does the tone of Document B compare to the tone of Document A?

8) (Contextualization) How might the locations where these newspapers were published have influenced the content of the articles?
Extension Activity

1) (Sourcing) Newspaper:

2) (Sourcing) Location:

3) (Sourcing) Date:

4) (Sourcing) Article title:

5) (Close reading) How does this article describe the attack on Fort Sumter?

6) (Contextualization) How might where the article was published have influenced its description of the attack?

7) (Corroboration) How is this account similar or different from Document A?

8) (Corroboration) How is this account similar or different from Document B?