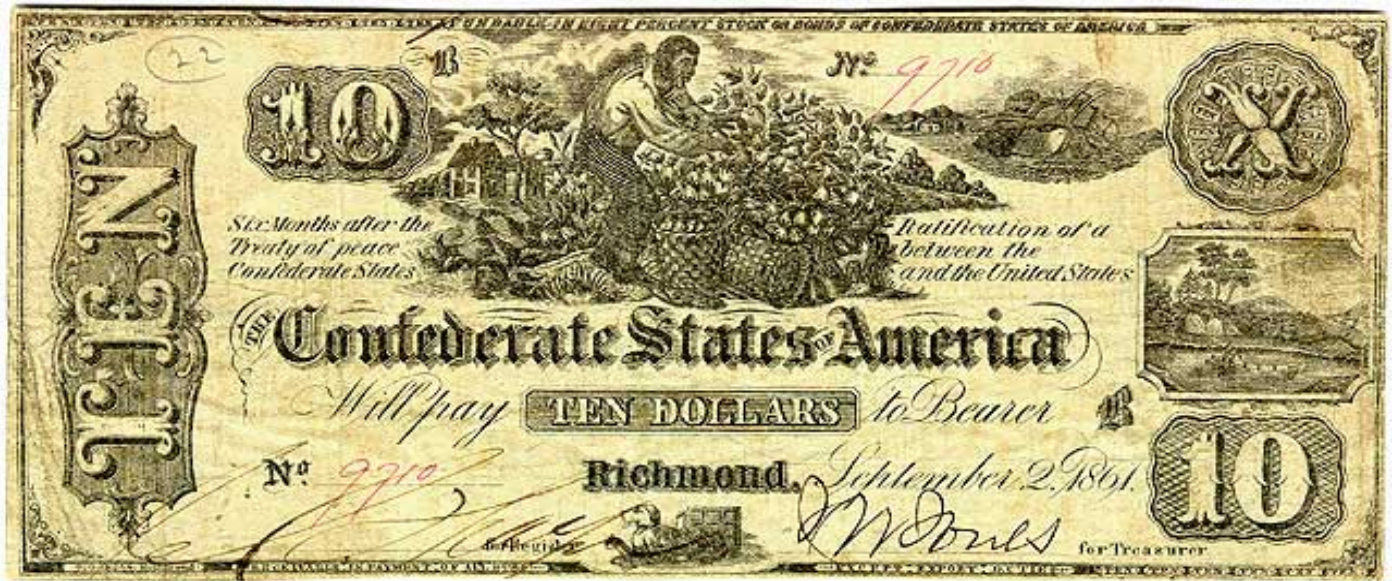


Civil War Currency

During the Civil War both the United States and the Confederate States suspended the use of gold as payment. The term “Greenbacks” was given to the legal tender notes that replaced the gold standard. After the Southern states succeeded, they created their own currency. Below are examples of money from both sides fighting the war. Please examine the primary sources and answer the questions that follow.

Confederate Currency Issued in 1861



1. What is the main picture and what does it represent?
2. Where is the capital of the Confederate States and how can you tell?
3. What is the saying above the “Confederate States of America” and what does it say about the perceived length of the Civil war?
4. If there were to be a political figure on this bill, who do you think that it should be and why?
5. Compare this to the current United States one dollar bill. What do the two say about the differences between the nations?

Union Currency
Issued 1864-1869



(Front)



(Back)

1. Who is on the bill and why do you believe he was chosen?
2. Why do you believe the above is called “Fractional Currency”?
3. What organization issued the note and after what act was passed that allowed paper currency? Where is this located on the money above?
4. What could this note be exchanged for? Where are the stipulations found?
5. In your opinion what made the United States currency more valuable than the Confederate currency? Why do you think this?
6. Why would going to paper money help the war effort?
7. Why are bills referred to as “greenbacks”?
8. Currently who is found on the following bills and why were they chosen?

\$1 \$5 \$10 \$20 \$50 \$100