

Teachers' Guide to
The Mystery of Mary Surratt
The Plot to Kill President Lincoln

Math

Louis Weichmann agreed to pay \$35 a month for his room at Mrs. Surratt's boardinghouse. If he stayed there a year, how much would he pay?

Abraham Lincoln died in 1865. How many years ago was that?

Mary Surratt was arrested and taken to prison on April 17, 1865. She was hanged on July 7, 1865. How many days passed between her arrest and her execution?

The wanted poster on page 49 shows the government offered \$50,000 for the capture of John Wilkes Booth, \$25,000 for the capture of John Surratt, and \$25,000 for the capture of David Herold. What percentage of the reward was set aside for Booth? For Surratt? And for Herold? How much was offered overall?

Almost 600,000 Americans died during the four years of the Civil War. About how many died each year? On average, how many died each day?

Science

More Civil War soldiers died of disease than of battle wounds. Why did they get so sick? Why couldn't doctors save them?

Mary Surratt's husband died as a result of drinking too much alcohol. How does alcohol harm a body?

Thought-Provokers

Who do you think visited Mary Surratt on the night President Lincoln was shot? (See page 39.)

Do you believe Mary Surratt was guilty of conspiring to kill Abraham Lincoln? Explain why or why not.