

A Perfect Day for a Picnic?

In July of 1861, Union supporters lined the gently rolling hills of Manassas, Virginia, to witness what would become the first major battle of the Civil War. Citizens from Washington brought their families, blankets, and picnic baskets to celebrate what they thought would be a Union victory, bringing a quick end to southern foolishness. Dressed in their finest clothes, they were excited to cheer their boys on, in what must have, in some way, resembled a modern-day sporting event.

Based on your knowledge of what happened at the First Battle of Bull Run, and your knowledge of the advantages the North had over the South in the war, pretend you are a newspaper reporter interviewing one of the spectators who came to cheer on the Union. Think of how such a spectator might respond to the questions below and pen creative answers.

Reporter: It's a beautiful day! What's in the picnic basket?

Spectator:

Reporter: So, you came all the way from Washington. What do you hope to see here at the hills of Manassas?

Spectator:

Reporter: Why don't you think the Southerners have any chance?

Spectator:

Reporter (Make your own question):

Spectator: