



Summarizing Texts

DIRECTIONS: Summarize the following text by underlining key words and phrases. Break down the larger ideas and answer the main questions *who*, *what*, *where*, *when*, and *how*. On a separate sheet of paper, write a brief summary of the text.

Matthew Brady is a celebrated American photographer, who is responsible for some of the best known photographs of the Civil War. He became interested in photography as a child, and had set up his own photography studio by the time he was eighteen. He first made a name for himself taking award-winning photographs, mostly of famous people. When the Civil War broke out, naturally he was captivated by the idea of capturing the event on film. He photographed many battlefields, and was almost captured at the First Battle of Bull Run, but seldom went to battlefields after that, since he began to lose his eyesight. Instead, he led a team of 23 photographers, each with a travelling darkroom, who captured many telling battlefield scenes. In 1862, Brady had an exhibition of scenes from the Antietam Battlefields in Washington D.C. It was the first understanding many people had of just how bloody and devastating the Civil War actually was. Brady spent over \$100,000 to produce his Civil War photographs, expecting to recoup his costs by selling them to the U.S. Government. When the Government refused to purchase them, Brady went bankrupt and lost his studio. In 1896 he was run over by a streetcar in New York City. He died penniless, but he left America with a priceless legacy – the only visual tributes to the Civil War. You have seen one of Brady's photos already and not even known it; one of his photos of Lincoln was used on the U.S. five-dollar bill.

1. WHO: _____

2. WHAT: _____

3. WHERE: _____

4. WHEN: _____

5. WHY: _____

6. HOW: _____