

## RS#13.1

### Teacher Guide to the Resources

#### Document L: The Baltimore Riot, 1861

##### Background Information:

- The Baltimore Riot, or Pratt Street Riot as it is also known, occurred on April 19, 1861. While on their way to Washington, D.C., soldiers from the Sixth Massachusetts Regiment were attacked by a mob of citizens as they passed through the streets of Baltimore, Maryland. Disorder in the city lasted into the night, when the Mayor of Baltimore and the Police Commissioners ordered the railroad bridges north of the city to be burned to prevent further movements of troops through the city. Four soldiers and 12 civilians were killed, while several dozen soldiers and civilians were wounded.
- While casualties were few, it was the first bloodshed in the Civil War since there no casualties at Fort Sumter. The riot demonstrated the division in Maryland and the federal concern that Maryland would secede. Consequently, Maryland was placed under martial law and controlled by Federal troops garrisoned in the state.

##### Guided Questions/Teaching Suggestions:

Ask students:

- When did the Baltimore Riot occur?
- Based on the year, why do you think there was a riot in Baltimore?
- Currier & Ives published this lithograph in 1861. What is their viewpoint of the event? Use evidence from the print to support your response.
- Why did Currier & Ives title the lithograph, *The Lexington of 1861*?
- Based on this document, is Maryland more Northern, more Southern, or represents the middle ground?

This document could be analyzed by using visual discovery. Use the guided questions as the basis for the class discussion. Remember, questions should be spiraled from the basic level (title, date, etc.) to the analytical and critical levels of thinking.