



World War II Lesson – Battles

Lesson written by Tina Lyons

STANDARDS:

US History Standards

Era 8 – The Great Depression and World War II (1929-1945)

- Standard 3B: The student understands World War II and how the Allies prevailed.

World History Standards

Era 8: A Half-Century of Crisis and Achievement (1900-1945)

- Standard 4B: The student understands the global scope, outcome, and human costs of the war.

LESSON:

1. Divide the class into small groups. Then assign each group a different battle from World War II to research.
2. Each group will first study the battle from the perspective of history books.
3. Each group will look at historical newspapers to determine what was reported about the battle during the war. Students should read accounts in major newspapers of the day as well as the Stars and Stripes Newspaper produced by the military.
4. Groups should try to seek out first person accounts of the battle. They may find these accounts in:
 - a. Interviews with veterans
 - b. Historical newspapers
 - c. History books
 - d. Biographies
5. Students should look for visual media from the battle. The Library of Congress and National Archives are good resources for this material.
 - a. Photos (On Fold3.com: Photos – WW II Japanese, WWII US Air Force Photos, Contributed Military Group Records)
 - b. Film
 - c. Audio interviews and news reports
6. Students can also study military records on Ancestry.com and Fold3.com:
 - a. Pearl Harbor Muster Rolls (Fold3)
 - b. U.S. World War II Navy Muster Rolls, 1938-1949 (Ancestry)
 - c. U.S. Marine Corps Muster Rolls, 1798-1958 (Ancestry)

- d. WWII European Theater Army Records (Fold3)
- e. U.S. Adjunct General Military Records, 1798-1958 (Ancestry)
- f. World War II Prisoners of War, 1941-1946 (Ancestry)
- g. WWI, WWII and Korean War: Casualty Listings (Ancestry)
- h. WWII War Diaries (Fold3)

- 7.** Students should present the battle to the class. Information about each battle should include the facts (who?, what?, when?, where?, how?). Students should also tell some personal stories from the battles (soldiers' accounts, stories of men who died, accounts of medical personnel, etc.).
- 8.** As a class, discuss the importance of each battle in the outcome of World War II.