NATIONAL MUSEUM OF THE PACIFIC WAR

FREDERICKSBURG, TEXAS

Activity Title: Overview of World War II in the Pacific

Activity Objectives: The student will understand the reasons Japan went to war with the United States and the strategy employed by the United States in crossing the Pacific to defeat Japan. The student will understand the impact of some of the prominent campaigns and battles fought in the Pacific during the war against Japan.

TEKS:

6th Grade:

113.18(b)(5)(B)(1)(A,B); (4)(F); (5)(B,C); (6)(B)

7th Grade:

113.19(b)(1)(A)

U.S. History:

113.41(c)(2)(D); (7)(A,D,E,F,G)

World History Studies:

113.42(c)(1)(F); (12)(C); (16)(A); (28)(C)

World Geography Studies:

113,43(c)(14)(C)

1. **Introduction:** To generate interest, ask the students:
   - If any of their grandparents or great-grandparents served in the Pacific during World War II. If so, it can be followed up by asking which branch of the service and what ship, type of plane, type of job, which battles, etc.
   - During WWII the current nation of Indonesia was a colony of which European country (The Netherlands)? Same question with Malaysia (Great Britain), Vietnam (France), Cambodia (France), Laos (France), Burma (Great Britain).

2. **Lesson:** Use the provided PowerPoint presentation.

3. **Post lesson:** Use the concept below for classroom discussion.

The U.S. drive across the Pacific had two commanders, Nimitz and MacArthur. As with most things when you have two people in charge there will be disagreement between the two. Make the case for either the two pronged strategy as used historically in the Pacific or a single drive under one commander.

Some items to consider which might assist you are:

1. Unity of command (one person in charge instead of two).
2. Competition for resources (supplies, men, ships, aircraft, etc.).
3. Jealousy between commanders.
4. Coordination between commanders.
5. Opposing viewpoints or objectives.
6. Enemy reaction to one versus two major thrusts.
7. Enemy uncertainty of where the next blow will land.

Vocabulary:

mandate, terminate, anchorage, condemnation, embargo, magazine(military usage),

amphibious, island-hopping, isolate

Resources: computer, projector, screen

Materials:

Technology Utilization:

Accommodations: