Lesson One: The World at War

Objectives:
Using a combination of maps, newspapers, radio broadcasts, and newsreels students will receive a basic overview of World War II and how it was reported to the American people. Students will also learn how propaganda was utilized by the government to ensure each American contributed to the war effort and create their own propaganda related to current event within their community.

Materials: The World at War; Teacher's Propaganda Discussion Guide; Reporting the War Teacher's Resources; Reporting the War Worksheet; Internet access; Lesson One Quiz.

Procedures:

Activity One: Where the War Happened
1. Distribute the The World at War map to students.
2. Have students use their social studies textbooks or any other resource of your choice to complete the worksheet.

Activity Two: Reporting the War
1. Use the Reporting the War Teacher's Resources to choose one newspaper article, one radio broadcast, and one newsreel for your class to analyze.
2. Part I: As a class or in small groups, have students analyze the three news reports, using the Reporting the War Worksheet as a guide.
3. Part II: As a class, in small groups, or as individuals, have students choose one type of reporting and create a newspaper article, radio broadcast, or newsreel about a current event in their family, school, or community.
4. The Mississippi Department of Archives and History would love to see your student's World War II inspired newsreels! Contact the Outreach Programs Coordinator at 601-576-6997 or outreachprograms@mdah.ms.gov for more information.

Activity Three: Wartime Propaganda
1. Use the Teacher's Propaganda Discussion Guide to introduce your students to the meaning of propaganda.
2. View and discuss examples of World War II propaganda with your class using the provided online resources.
3. Have students identify a current event occurring within their family, school, or community and create a propaganda poster either supporting or opposing the event.

Extension Activity:

The War Online: Visit the website http://www.pbs.org/thewar/ to access film clips, interviews, photos and more used in Ken Burns’ documentary The War. The “For Educators” tab provides access to lesson plans, brief classroom activities, and a search and explore feature that allows students to create their own World War II primary source collection using resources from the website.
The World at War

Use your social studies text book or any other resource approved by your teacher to fill in the blanks about the events of World War II.

The Battle of _______ begins in July, 1940, and continues through the autumn. The battle includes bombing campaigns over the capital city of _______.

American troops and other Allied personnel invade Normandy on __________. France is liberated on __________.

On __________, Germany surrenders. Poland is invaded by Germany on __________.

On June 22, 1941, Germany invades the _______. It is called __________.

On __________, Pearl Harbor is attacked by Japan. Ten hours later, Japan invades the __________ region. German Field Marshal Rommel surrenders on __________.

The Allies' Tunisian Campaign secures the __________ region. German Field Marshal Rommel surrenders on __________.

Japan captures the Chinese capital of _______ on November 24, 1939.

The Battle of _______ begins in July, 1940, and continues through the autumn. The battle includes bombing campaigns over the capital city of _______.

By April, 1942, Japan had captured many South East Asian countries including __________.

On __________, Germany surrenders. Poland is invaded by Germany on __________.

American troops and other Allied personnel invade Normandy on __________. France is liberated on __________.

On __________, Pearl Harbor is attacked by Japan. Ten hours later, Japan invades the __________ region. German Field Marshal Rommel surrenders on __________.

The Allies' Tunisian Campaign secures the __________ region. German Field Marshal Rommel surrenders on __________.

On __________, Germany surrenders. Poland is invaded by Germany on __________.

On June 22, 1941, Germany invades the _______. It is called __________.

On __________, Pearl Harbor is attacked by Japan. Ten hours later, Japan invades the __________ region. German Field Marshal Rommel surrenders on __________.

The Allies' Tunisian Campaign secures the __________ region. German Field Marshal Rommel surrenders on __________.

Japan captures the Chinese capital of _______ on November 24, 1939.

The Battle of _______ gives the Americans a victory over Japan in __________.

American forces win the islands of __________ in March 1945, and __________ in June 1945.

Atomic bombs are dropped on _______ and _______ in August 1945. Japan surrenders on __________.
The World at War Answer Key

Use your social studies text book or any other resource approved by your teacher to fill in the blanks about the events of World War II.

The Battle of Britain begins in July, 1940, and continues through the autumn. The battle includes bombing campaigns over the capital city of London.

American troops and other Allied personnel invade Normandy on June 6, 1944. France is liberated on August 25, 1944.

On May 8, 1945, Germany surrenders. On June 22, 1941, Germany invades the Soviet Union. It is called Operation Barbarossa.

On June 22, 1941, Germany invades the Soviet Union. It is called Operation Barbarossa.

On June 7, 1941, Pearl Harbor is attacked by Japan. Ten hours later, Japan invades the Philippines.

By April, 1942, Japan had captured many South East Asian countries including Burma, Malaya, the Dutch East Indies, and Singapore.

Poland is invaded by Germany on September 1, 1939.

Japan captures the Chinese capital of Nanjing on November 24, 1939.

The Battle of Midway gives the Americans a victory over Japan in June 1942.

American forces win the islands of Iwo Jima in March 1945, and Okinawa in June 1945.

By April, 1945, Japan captures the islands of Iwo Jima in March 1945, and Okinawa in June 1945.

Atomic bombs are dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki in August 1945. Japan surrenders on August 15, 1945.

Italy surrenders on September 8, 1943.

American troops and other Allied personnel invade Normandy on June 6, 1944. France is liberated on August 25, 1944.

On May 8, 1945, Germany surrenders. On June 22, 1941, Germany invades the Soviet Union. It is called Operation Barbarossa.

On June 22, 1941, Germany invades the Soviet Union. It is called Operation Barbarossa.

On June 7, 1941, Pearl Harbor is attacked by Japan. Ten hours later, Japan invades the Philippines.

By April, 1942, Japan had captured many South East Asian countries including Burma, Malaya, the Dutch East Indies, and Singapore.

Poland is invaded by Germany on September 1, 1939.

Japan captures the Chinese capital of Nanjing on November 24, 1939.

The Battle of Midway gives the Americans a victory over Japan in June 1942.

American forces win the islands of Iwo Jima in March 1945, and Okinawa in June 1945.
**Reporting the War Teacher’s Resources**

*Many radio and newsreels from the World War II period are available from websites such as You Tube and can be found with a simple Google search. Below are specific suggestions from the Internet Archives and other online resources that are appropriate to share with students.*

**News Parade of the Year 1942 (1942) from Castle Films, 9:27**  
Newsreel of the war related events across the globe during 1942.  
http://archive.org/details/NewsParadeOfTheYear1942

**WWII News and Related Sound files from 1942**

- Track #8: 1942-06-04 MBS Captain William Graves on the Battle of Midway, 1:53  
  A broadcast by radio personality reading a first-hand account.
- Track #9: Battle of Midway Island Special Broadcast, 20:13  
  First-person accounts by military personal involved in the battle.  

**US Carrier Fight for Life (1942), 4:41**  
Newsreel of the Battle of the Coral Sea and Midway, film footage from carrier flight deck.  
http://archive.org/details/UsCarrierFightForLife

**1942 Radio News (1942)**

  War news from around the world.
- Track #41: 1942-06-04 MBS Captain William Graves on the Battle of Midway, 1:53  
  A broadcast by radio personality reading a first-hand account.
  War news from around the world.
  War news from around the world, opening with results of the Battle of Midway.  

**Voices of World War II: Experiences from the Front and at Home, University of Missouri – Kansas City Library Digital Archives**  
A variety of audio clips on this website focus on a wide-range of World War II related topics, including the various theaters of war, conditions on the home front, news reports, and music.  
http://library.umkc.edu/spec-col/ww2/main.htm
MIDWAY BATTLE RAGING

Big Forces Engaged

Sea And Air Fight Developing Rapidly

BY ASSOCIATED PRESS

HONOLULU, June 5.—American defenders, spurred by initial successes, closed battle today with a strong Japanese sea-air task force in what may be a finish fight for possession of Midway Island.

Already the island garrison had scored hits on an enemy battleship, an aircraft carrier and possibly other war vessels. Raiding planes were brought down in great number.

And, said Admiral Chester W. Nimitz, commander-in-chief of the Pacific fleet, “Our attacks on the enemy are continuing.”

This latest assault on the far island outpost, last line of defense before Hawaii itself, began shortly after dawn yesterday.

It found the American forces keyed to fighting pitch by long preparation and patently strengthened in the months since they first repulsed such an attack December 7.

No Air Raid

It found them alert and forewarned by the preceding day’s raid upon Dutch Harbor, 2,000 miles to the north. It seemed the enemy may have stepped unwittingly into a spot too hot to handle.

But it also appeared possible the Japanese did not intend this as a hit-and-run affair, like their five preceding forays against Midway.

Presence of capital ships in the attacking force and the heavy toll the defenders were able to exact in the first few hours of the operations suggested the enemy was at hand with the sole purpose of taking over the island, completely and finally.

And Midway, with the tradition of Wake Island as its guide, was (Continued on Page Two).

From The Hattiesburg American, June 5, 1942. MDAH Archives and Records Services. Used with the permission of The Hattiesburg American. Continued on next page.
The heaviest attack was made by cruisers and destroyers Dec. 7, the same day of the sneak attack on Pearl Harbor precipitating the war with the United States.

Shelling submarines and raiding planes carried on other attacks which reached five on March 10, the last one delivered prior to yesterday’s heavy assault. Marine corps aviators were decorated by Admiral Nimitz at Midway for shooting down a four-engined Japanese patrol seaplane in the March 10 attack.

Midway is the last United States outpost in the Pacific to the northwest of Hawaii, Wake and Guam having fallen to the Japanese.

WASHINGTON SPECULATES
WASHINGTON, June 5—American and Japanese fleet units apparently were engaged today in one of the greatest battles of the Pacific as a result of the enemy’s attempt yesterday to raid the strongly-garrisoned United States outpost on Midway Island.

Commenting on the communiqué issued at Pearl Harbor early today by Admiral Chester W. Nimitz, commander-in-chief of the Pacific fleet, naval experts here emphasized that Nimitz had said “attacks on the enemy are continuing.”

This seemed to indicate, it was said, that the fight which started at Midway yesterday morning had continued for many hours with both American and enemy units maneuvering for advantage in what may be a crucial engagement determining the enemy’s ability to strike at more vital points, including Pearl Harbor, the United States West Coast, Alaskas and even the Panama Canal.

The action off Midway involved not only Japanese aircraft carriers but battleships and heavy cruisers. As great as this force appeared to be, however, there remained a possibility that it was engaged in a diversionary operation and that a main force was developing an attack elsewhere.

It was the first time that Japanese battleships have been reported east of home waters.

Strategy Still Unknown

There was no immediate indication here whether a major portion of the enemy fleet was involved, but observers agreed that the presence of so large a force more than 2,000 miles from Yokohama indicated the Japanese were bent on reducing America’s growing offensive power in the Pacific and possibly bringing the war within threatening distance of the West Coast.

The Japs’ grand strategy was still to be disclosed, and Washington authorities could at best cite the possibilities on what has been announced to date.

Several Possibilities

The Midway and Dutch Harbor assaults, however, were viewed as evidence of a carefully conceived plan which may have any one of these ultimate actions in view:

1. An effort, preliminary to an attack on Russia, to destroy or conquer Alaskan bases and thereby cut a route over which aerial reinforcements might be moved to the Soviet armies in Siberia.

2. Clear the way for a new and powerful attack on Pearl Harbor, or even the western U. S. coast and Panama, by trying to knock out aerial reconnaissance and interception forces which may be based on Midway and Alaska.

3. A new attempt to cut U. S. supply lines into the southwest Pacific by forcing attacks on the guardian islands south of Hawaii, after the Japanese would hope, having diverted American forces into the North Pacific.

4. A knockout try against the bases from which Japan may be or may have been attacked, including past and future air raids on the Japanese homeland and submarine operations against Japanese shipping.

The relation of Midway and Dutch harbor to any projected attacks anywhere on the North American continent arises from the fact that they flank the vast expanse of ocean over which an assaulting fleet would almost certainly move. Planes operating south of Dutch harbor and north of Midway should be able to keep a fairly good watch over the 1,855-mile stretch of water between these two points.

Screening Operation

Even if an attack in force were made against Alaska, the Japanese fleet units participating undoubtedly would take a round-about course to their objective so that an effort to prevent reconnaissance from Midway would be a logical screening operation, and the assault on Dutch harbor would fall into the category of either a preliminary raid to test strength or an attempt to divert defense forces from the scene of the main attack.

If the enemy’s plan is to try to wipe out Midway preliminary to attacks farther east—in which case the Dutch harbor attack would have been chiefly diversionary—he may anticipate that he is in for trouble.

Yet, just as at Wake and at Bataan and Corregidor in the Philippines, if the Japanese want to take Midway at any cost and the fact that battleships, aircraft carriers and cruisers took part in yesterday’s raid suggests that they may possibly succeed in doing so.
U. S. SCORES FACTORY IN CONTINUING BATTLE WEST OF MIDWAY ISLAND

ENEMY LOSSES INCLUDE TWO OR THREE AIRCRAFT CARRIERS—ALL Planes Destroyed: Damage to One or Two Carriers: Damage to Three Battleships, Four Cruisers, Three Transports

From The Natchez Democrat, June 7, 1942. MDAH Archives and Records Services. Used with the permission of The Natchez Democrat.
U. S. FORCES PURSUING BEATEN JAPANESE FLEET

From The Columbus Commercial Dispatch, June 7, 1942. MDAH Archives and Records Services. Used with the permission of The Columbus Commercial Dispatch.
Mauled Jap Navy Runs Home

By WALTER R. CLAUSEN

PEARL HARBOR, June 8.—A once mighty Japanese naval force, perhaps the main body of the imperial fleet, today limped westward in desperate retreat from Midway Island, its proud units pounded by an American defense turned into a shattering offense.

"The enemy appears to be withdrawing," said Admiral Chester W. Nimitz, commander in chief of the Pacific fleet. "Contact was lost during last night."

The three-day battle of the central Pacific seemed to be nearing its finish in what was likely the greatest single victory of American naval history.

"Even should the Japanese make good their escape, it will be only at the cost of at least three warships sunk, 13 or, more others damaged and the virtually complete destruction of their protecting air arm. Against this formidable score, the only announced American losses in damage had been inflicted on two enemy cruisers.

Small U. S. Loss of Life

The crew of the lost U. S. destroyer, Nimitz said, was picked up by other ships "with small loss of life." The admiral was uncertain whether the report of fresh damage to Japanese cruisers referred to further hits on vessels previously damaged or represented entirely new successes.

"The splendid victory at Midway has aroused the greatest enthusiasm throughout this area," General Douglas MacArthur advised the admiral from Australia. "The prime minister of Australia has asked me to send his felicitations. My own pride and satisfaction are boundless. We will not fail."

From Lieut. Gen. J. L. Dewitt, commanding general of the western defense command and fourth army at San Francisco, came this message:

"To the commander in chief of the Pacific fleet and all his officers and men this command extends hearty congratulations on the success of your forces and desires to express its admiration for the gallant action by all arms in the decisive repulse of the enemy attack on Midway. May the final outcome be enemy annihilation.

From The Hattiesburg American, June 8, 1942.
MDAH Archives and Records Services. Used with the permission of The Hattiesburg American. Continued on next page.
Mounting Jap Disaster

Nimitz’s communique announcing the Japanese retreat augmented three previous reports telling a story of mounting disaster for the enemy. It came on a day which, the admiral said, found the Hawaiian area quiet “except for minor submarine activity,” in sharp contrast to the date six months before when Japan started war in the Pacific with its attack on Pearl Harbor.

Nimitz, in earlier communiques reported the sinking of two and perhaps three Japanese aircraft carriers and the destruction or damage of at least 13 other enemy warships.

He said that all the planes on the two definitely sunk carriers were lost and that one or two other enemy carriers were damaged with the loss of most of their planes.

Other enemy warships listed as casualties were three battleships damaged, one heavily; four cruisers damaged, two heavily; three transports damaged, and the destroyer I reported sunk in last night’s communiqué. The same announcement said it was not yet determined whether the two cruisers were in addition to the carriers reported damaged in earlier reports. Nimitz said some of the enemy warships damaged were so thoroughly battered they may not be able to reach their bases.

Text Of Communiqué

The start of last night’s communiqué:

“The enemy appears to be withdrawing. Contact was lost during last night. Additional damage was inflicted on two enemy cruisers. Until further reports can be checked it is impossible to state whether these cruisers are in addition to those reported in communiqué No. 3 or whether they were damaged cruisers included in previous reports.

“One enemy destructor was sunk. One United States destroyer was sunk by a submarine but nearby ships rescued the personnel with small loss of life.

“Except for minor submarine activity in the vicinity of the Hawaiian island chain, this section of the Pacific is quiet.”

The civilian population in Hawaii as well as army and navy officers and men were jubilant over the news of the American success.

Admiral Isoroku Yamamoto, the commander-in-chief of the Japanese navy, it was recalled, was the one who boastfully before Pearl Harbor wrote a friend:

“I am looking forward to dictating peace to the United States in the White House at Washington.”

He also had boasted he would lead his fleet into San Francisco and London.

If Yamamoto lost face in the Coral sea battle, his initial Hawaiian date to regain it proved disastrous as his warships—their not left behind on the bottom of the mid-Pacific—fled before the avengers of Pearl Harbor.

“It was on a Sunday just six months ago that the Japanese made their peacetime attack on our fleet and army activities on Guam,” said Admiral Nimitz. “At that time they created heavy damage. It is true, but their act aroused grim determination of our citizenry to avenge much treachery and it raised, not lowered the morale of our fighting men.

“Pearl Harbor has now been partially avenged. Vengeance will not be complete until Japanese sea power has been reduced to impotence. We have made substantial progress in that direction. Perhaps we will be forgiven if we claim we are about midway to our objective.”

PREDICT NEW EFFORTS

By JOHN M. HIGHTOWER

WASHINGTON, June 6. — Desperate new Japanese efforts to break the growing might of America’s air and sea power in the Pacific were predicted in informed quarters here today as the only course left open to the enemy, now clearly in the defensive.

Subsequent to the United States’ victory in the battle that started with the repulse of a huge attacking force at Midway Island last week, authorities said that the Japs must either initiate new operations somewhere along the sweeping defense line that runs from Alaska to Australia, or else by inactivity admit their eventual complete defeat even before the grand offensive of the United Nations starts rolling in the Pacific.

In Washington, Admiral Ernest J. King, commander in chief of the United States fleet, declared at a press conference that the battle just ending might decide the course of the war in the Pacific, depending on the extent of damage inflicted on the enemy.

Admiral Chester W. Nimitz, commander-in-chief of the United States Pacific fleet, had today led his men to “the greatest single victory in U. S. naval history.” Battered, thoroughly beaten, the Imperial Navy was believed to be tearing west and homeward as fast as its mauled ships could carry it. If Midway was attacked to regain Japan’s “prestige,” it was definitely certain today that the Rising Sun had better left its “prestige” where it was last week.
Badly Beaten Japanese Fleet Retreats From Midway Area

ABOUT THE WAR

Friday, June 5, 1942.

Japanese attack Midway Island in a surprise attack. Canada’s air defense minister Ralston tells of third Jap raid on Dutch Harbor and entire west coast is placed on a permanent “alert” basis.

U. S. submarine sinks three Jap ships and damages the fourth.

RAF staff night raid on Bremen with series of sweeps over northern France; terrific explosions in Pas de Calais area shake southern coast of Britain. Commandos strike Boulogne, Le Touquet.

Fighting in Russia is sporadic.

British forces in Libya maintain offensive, seize Axis strong point six miles west of Knightsbridge.

Chinese kill 2,000 Japanese in two day battle at Chhusien; American officers of Far East command reach Chungking.

Saturday, June 6, 1942.

American, Japanese planes and men of war fight grim duel in Pacific. United States forces defending Midway Island claim direct hits on Jap aircraft carrier battleship, probable damage to other ships, knock out many planes.

Japanese suffer 8,000 new casualties on Cheshiang.

President Roosevelt warns further use of gas against Chinese will bring retaliation claim Japanese airbases.

United Nations air squadrons in south Pacific blast submarines “wolf pack.”

RAF squadrons swarm across the channel in daylight offensive against Nazi-occupied northern France.

Soviet bombers smash German air-planes on Karfelin front.

Libyan situation remains unchanged with Sea of Suez still holding the edge in the fighting.

London reports that German invasion boats are moving through the Kiel canal.

Sunday, June 7, 1942.

Major Jap invasion fleet withdraws from Midway Island, pursued by U. S. Naval Air forces. Eight to twelve Japanese ships are thought to be smashed in the three-day battle.

British planes carry heavy attacks on northern French coast, bomb and machine-gun German encampment in Normandy.

British achieve success in opening phase of counteroffensive in Libya. Chinese claim Japanese thrown back at Chhusien with 1,000 killed, as Tokyo claims Chhusien is in Japanese hands.

Stormovik bombers over Baltic have sunk 10 German ships, says Moscow.

Melbourne announces second merchant ship sunk off coast of Australia, but says Jap submarine which sunk ship was itself sunk by Australian plane.

PEARL HARBOR—13 to 15 Jap ships sunk and damaged in battle with U. S. forces west of Midway Island; two or possibly three aircraft carriers sunk, other war vessels damaged badly; remnants of enemy fleet in flight.

Chinese claim Japanese thrown back at Chuhsien with 1,000 killed, as Tokyo claims Chhusen is in Japanese hands.

Stormovik bombers over Baltic have sunk 10 German ships, says Moscow.

Melbourne announces second merchant ship sunk off coast of Australia, but says Jap submarine which sunk ship was itself sunk by Australian plane.

PEARL HARBOR—13 to 15 Jap ships sunk and damaged in battle with U. S. forces west of Midway Island; two or possibly three aircraft carriers sunk, other war vessels damaged badly; remnants of enemy fleet in flight.

Wednesday, June 11, 1942.

Plenty of Japs—Chinese reports say naval units in Jap ararnada routed off Midway consisted of 56 war vessels, apart from transports, with 200 planes.

Still No Word—Naval operations off Alaska are still shrouded in secrecy. Washington indicates, however, that Japs may soon attack Dutch Harbor or some other Aleutian base.

Back at the Old Game—RAF batter Rhur area again, strikes northern France, Holland. 18 British planes are lost. No follow up of warning to evacuate French coast, but bombers hit that area.

Death at Sevastopol—Moscow claims 1,000 killed on Japanese submarine sunk off New South Wales by Allied plane, raising toll of the week to six submarines certainly sunk.

LONDON—Air Ministry announces total destruction of fully eight square miles of Cologne and widespread fire and bomb damage to rest of great Rhinelander city. Ruhr hit again.

Monday, June 8, 1942.

A massive new German offensive in the Crimea against Russia’s giant Black Sea naval base of Sevastopol has been checked with considerable enemy losses, the Soviet high command announced today.

Japanese submarines have shelled Sydney and Newcastle on Australia’s southeast shore, Gen. Douglas MacArthur announced last night.

“Keep ’em flying!”

That was the message sent today by Lieut. General Henry H. Arnold, chief of United States Army forces in Chief of United States forces.

The U.S. Army Air Force disclosed tonight that two great battles are in progress in the Pacific between American and Japanese naval forces—one west of Midway Island and the other in the Aleutian area of Alaska.

Tuesday, June 9, 1942.

WAR IN THE PACIFIC

Midway Island Count—Japanese, 17 ships sunk or damaged; Americans, 1 ship sunk or damaged, one aircraft carrier damaged.

Trouble Hunters—American bombers scour ocean for crippled warships.

Rumors of War—Admiral Ernest J. King declares United States fighting near the Aleutians; he doesn’t say what.

WAR IN EUROPE

Give Fair Warning—British warn citizens of occupied French coast to evacuate area, promising bigger R.A.F. raids and commando landings.

Toll and Trouble—Nazi rush the construction of three defense complexes along the French coastal border.

Tilt of Titans—Giant tank battle continues in Libyan desert. British artillery throws back Axis drive on Knighbridge. Defenders of Bir Hacheim repel enemy.

From The Tunica Times-Democrat June 11, 1942. MDAH Archives and Records Services. Used with the permission of The Tunica Times-Democrat.
NAME: ____________________________________________________________________ DATE: ________________

**Reporting the War**

*Part I: Using the questions below as a guide, analyze the content of the newspaper article, radio broadcast, and newsreel to determine the quality of news reports given to the American people during World War II.*

1. Who is making the report? ________________________________________________________________

2. What is the main purpose of the report? ______________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________________________

3. Where was the report made from? ___________________________________________________________

4. How soon after the event did this report occur? ________________________________________________

5. What is the tone of the report? ______________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________________________

6. Why would the American people be interested in this story or event? _______________________________
_________________________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________________________

*Part II: Using what you have learned about reporting during World War II, choose a method of reporting (newspaper article, radio broadcast, or newsreel) and report on a current event in your school, family, or community.*
**Teacher’s Propaganda Discussion Guide**

**Part I: What is propaganda?**

Propaganda is communication designed to influence people’s actions or thoughts. Because its purpose is to influence its audience in one particular direction (to support one political candidate or to purchase one type of clothing) it is one-sided and does not present different opinions, statistics, or choices that are opposed to its own. Propaganda appeals to its audience in three ways. First, it calls for an action or opinion on the part of the viewer. Second, it maintains that the action or opinion is morally right. And third, it gives the viewer the impression of belonging to an elite group, being important, or feeling good.

Propaganda has commonly been used during wartime. During World War II, the Office of War Information distributed propaganda to the American people to boost their moral, encourage them to save resources, buy war bonds, and volunteer for military service. This propaganda took the form of newspaper articles and advertisements, radio broadcasts, newsreels and movies, and posters.

*Many special literary and visual techniques are used in the creation of propaganda. Some are listed below:*

**Transfer:** using the authority of the nation, state, or science to validate a cause or viewpoint.  
- Example: Uncle Sam, representing the United States, saying “I Want You” to enlist today or a swastika crushing a church below the words “We're fighting to prevent this.”

**Testimonial:** a famous or trusted person agreeing with a viewpoint or promoting a cause or product.  
- Example: World champion boxer, Private Joe Lewis stating “We're going to do our part…and we'll win because we're on God’s side.”

**Bandwagon:** gives the idea that “everyone else is doing this or agreeing with this, why not you?”  
- Example: A woman, with her arms full of fruit and vegetables, adamantly proclaiming “Of course I can!” or Rosie the Riveter proclaiming “We Can Do It!”

**Fear:** propaganda that warns its audience that if a certain action comes to pass or if they don’t do a specific task, disaster will occur.  
- Example: A young mother with a baby in her arms and two grasping hands moving towards them, one with a swastika on it and the other with the Japanese rising sun, and the words “Keep these hands off! Buy Victory Bonds.”

**Plain Folks:** a claim by propagandists that they are “just like you.”  
- Example: A family in their Victory Garden with the words “You can use the land you have to grow the food you need.”

**Name-Calling:** this links a person or idea to a negative symbol.  
- Example: An image of an American alone in his car with the shadow of Hitler next to him and the words “When you ride alone you ride with Hitler! Join a car-sharing club today!”
Glittering Generalities: the use of words so general that they can be interpreted by different people as different things.
  - Example: Norman Rockwell’s series of the Four Freedoms.

Card-Stacking: the use of half-truths or selective disclosures.
  - Example: Price control comparisons between 1918 and 1944 that give basic statistics but without any variables.

Humor: using humor to poke fun at individuals or ideas.
  - Example: Bowling pins that look like Hitler, Mussolini, and Hirohito being knocked over by a bowling ball. The text reads “Bowl them over – more production.”

Word Play: uses catchy phrases to grab people’s attention.
  - Example: “Loose lips sink ships.”

Symbols: words and images that elicit strong responses from people.
  - Example: A swastika with the words “This is the enemy.” Similarly, a torn American flag with the words “Remember December 7th.”

Simplicity and Repetition: propaganda must be simple and easy to understand and remember.
  - Example: The message “Careless talk got there first” paired with a dead soldier, sailor, or marine.

Part II: Use one or more of the following websites to view a collection of World War II era propaganda posters distributed by the United States Government:

  World War II Poster Collection, Northwestern University Library http://digital.library.northwestern.edu/wwii-posters/index.html


Part III: Lead your class in a discussion about the posters using the following questions as a guide:

  - What is the purpose of the poster?
  - To whom is the poster speaking?
  - Who is the creator of the poster?
  - What colors, images, or words reinforce the poster’s message?
  - What emotion does the poster elicit?
  - Does the poster have an upbeat, hopeful tone or a violent, fearful tone? Which is more effective?
  - What propaganda techniques (fear, bandwagon, testimonials, etc.) does the poster use?

Part IV: Have students identify a current event occurring within their family, school, or community and create a propaganda poster either supporting or refuting the event.
Lesson One Quiz: The World at War

Choose the best answer from the multiple choice questions below.

1. Identify the Axis powers.
   a. Russia, Italy, United States
   b. Germany, Italy, Russia
   c. Germany, Japan, Italy
   d. Japan, Russia, Germany

2. Germany invaded this country in 1939.
   a. Belgium
   b. Poland
   c. the Netherlands
   d. Russia

3. The D-Day Invasion occurred on the beaches of Normandy, France beginning on
   a. June 6, 1944
   b. August 25, 1944
   c. May 8, 1945
   d. August 15, 1945

4. The last major battles fought in the Pacific were at
   a. Midway and Coral Sea
   b. The Philippines
   c. Iwo Jima and Okinawa
   d. Pearl Harbor

5. What Japanese Navy attack occurred in the days before their attack on Midway?
   a. Battle of Dutch Harbor, Alaska
   b. Battle of the Coral Sea
   c. Pearl Harbor
   d. Battle of Leyte Gulf

6. The person responsible for the victory at Midway was
   a. Admiral Ernest J. King
   b. Admiral Isoroku Yamamoto
   c. Admiral Chester W. Nimitz
   d. Admiral William Halsey
7. Of the Battle of Midway, Nimitz said the following:
   a. “Pearl Harbor has now been partially avenged.”
   b. “The attack was repulsed by local defenders in which all armed services are represented.”
   c. Midway is “a momentous victory in the making.”
   d. all of the above

8. Propaganda can come in the form of
   a. the written word
   b. art
   c. film
   d. all of the above

9. “Loose lips sink ships” is a type of propaganda known as
   a. humor
   b. word play
   c. plain folks
   d. none of the above

10. During World War II, this group distributed propaganda to Americans
    a. Office of Price Administration
    b. Department of Defense
    c. Office of War Information
    d. Office of Strategic Services

Use a separate sheet of paper to complete the short answer questions below.

1. Despite its reluctant involvement in World War I, the U.S. had held fast to its policy of isolationism until 1940. Given the unparalleled scope of World War II, do you think it would have been possible for the U.S. to return to its isolationist policies? Why or why not?

2. What was the effect of the atomic bombs dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki on the American people?

3. Think about the use of radios and newsreels during World War II and compare them to the introduction of the home television set in the 1950s. How did these media advancements impact society?

4. During World War II the Office of War Information not only distributed propaganda but also censored the media. This censorship was done at times for the safety of troops or the protection battle plans. Other times it was for the purpose of concealing mistakes or events of an especially devastating nature. Do you think that censorship has its benefits or that full disclosure by the government should be mandatory? Explain your reasoning.
Lesson One Quiz: The World at War Answer Key

1. C
2. B
3. A
4. C
5. A
6. C
7. D
8. D
9. B
10. C