

Primary Sources WWII: Lesson Plan

Grade 5

Social Studies

SS5H4: America's involvement in World War II, focuses on famous international figures and trends on the home front (e.g., rationing, roles of women and African Americans).

Language Arts

ELAGSE5SL1: Collaborative discussions to share information, resolve answers to questions, present conclusions.

ELAGSE5SL4: Make oral presentation (speak clearly) including relevant, supporting data in logical sequences

ELAGSE5RI 1, 6, 7, 9: Quote text, draw inferences; analyze different points of view; use multiple sources to answer questions; integrate information from different sources; write or present results.

Art: Responding

VA5.RE.1 Use a variety of approaches for art criticism and to critique ... the artwork of others to enhance visual literacy.

a. Interpret and evaluate works of art through thoughtful discussion and speculation about the mood, theme, and intentions of those who create works of art.

Media Arts: Connecting

MA5.CN.1

Relate artistic ideas and works with societal, cultural, and historical context to deepen understanding.

Instructor Materials

PowerPoint Presentation (uploaded as separate file)

Travel Box: artifacts and posters

Record Player

Handouts and pencils for student activity

Procedure for 50-minute class

5 min – Class gets seated at tables in groups of 3-4

10 min - Class Presentation

The Hook: What do you know about WWII? Today we are going to talk about what happened during that war right here in the United States? Do you know what primary sources?

PowerPoint has images from WWII to open the discussion with the class. Sample questions to encourage analytical skills, critical thinking, comparisons:

Look at Rosie the Riveter's face. Look at her pose. What emotion do you see? What are we supposed to think about her? Do you know women who have these kinds of jobs today? Why was Rosie doing that job during WWII?

5 min – instructions.

Pass out artifacts and instruction sheets, pencils. Instructor and classroom teacher circulate among the students to answer questions.

15 min – Small Group work

Students choose a leader, recorder and presenter. They review questions on the activity sheet (uploaded separately). Each question is labeled to suggest the skill it models.

10 min – Each table presents their results and show the class their artifact.

5 min – Summarize. Collect worksheets. Dismiss.

Essential Question: "I CAN ..."

...discuss 3 different ways that American life changed during the war years.

Evaluation: Responsibility of classroom teacher.