



2010 *Back to History* Lesson Plan
Summer Institute
“Dominion of War”

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Instructional Unit: Social Studies - WWII personal experience

Title of Lesson: Oral History: WWII “Portrait of the American Experience”

Grade Level: 5th

Description: Study of personal accounts through primary source oral history of American soldiers and civilians.

Standards: Social Studies Skills and Methods

1. Obtain information from a variety of print and electronic sources and analyze its reliability including:
 - a. accuracy of facts
 - b. credentials of the source

3. Differentiate between primary and secondary source

Thinking and
Organizing

4. Read information critically in order to identify:
 - a. author
 - b. author’s perspective
 - c. purpose

6. Draw inferences from relevant information

7. Organize key ideas by taking notes that paraphrase or summarize

Language Arts : Reading Process : Concepts of Print, Comprehension
Strategies and Self-Monitoring Strategies

Comprehension
Strategies

3. Make critical comparisons across texts.

Language Arts : Writing Applications

5. Produce informal writings for various purposes.

Duration: One to two weeks



Primary Source Materials:

Dayton Codebreakers. Deborah Anderson, www.daytoncodebreakers.org.

Eyewitness to History: History through the eyes of those who lived it.
www.eyewitnesstohistory.com.

Veterans History Project. American Folklife Center of the Library of Congress,
<http://www.loc.gov/vets/>.

Warm-up:

KWL chart of WWII

Take an informal survey of class to see if any students have relatives who fought in the war.

Show a 5/10 minute video clip of the war.

Instructional Strategies:

Examine primary source interviews, class discussions

Interview process, personal research, analyze oral histories and interview transcripts

Pacific Theatre/European Theatre/Home front

Lesson Notes:

1. Use attached power point slides.
2. The power point has pictures and information for the following main events/topics from WWII:
 - a. Pearl Harbor
 - b. Normandy Landing - D- Day
 - c. Code Breakers
 - d. Iwo Jima
 - e. Hiroshima
3. The power point can be used as an introduction to each topic. You can then provide each student/group an oral history for each topic. Students can also find their own oral histories for assigned events/topics.
4. Read about the event in textbook and compare with the personal account of that event/topic.



Practice:

1. Students will create a world map and show where each person was from as well as where the person fought.
2. Make a timeline to show length of service.
3. Read oral history and/or interview transcript. Analyze the oral history/transcript and write a letter home as that person.

Assessment Question:

What knowledge can you gain from reading an oral history that you cannot get from reading about an event in a textbook?

Extension Activity:

Conduct an interview of a WWII veteran.
Reader's Theatre using oral histories/transcripts
Choose another war and find oral histories and compare to WWII sources.