World War II: Lesson Plans (Overview)

Day One: (04/12/2011)

Topic: Introduction: WWII, Totalitarianism

Objective:
- Unit Goals 2, 3, 4
- NCSS: Strand V

Activities:
1. Journal Entry (10 minutes)
2. Concept Formation Lesson: Totalitarianism (60 minutes)
3. Guided Notes: Video about the political climate in Europe (20 minutes)
   a. Video to provide students with an overview of what totalitarianism is, and discuss the political environment of Europe in the early years of the war

Day Two: (04/13/2011)

Topic: Totalitarianism and Dictators

Objective:
- Unit Goals: 2, 4
- NCSS: Strand V

Activities:
1. Journal Entry (10 minutes)
2. Jigsaw/ Round Robin: (50 minutes)
   a. Students read biographies on five dictators who rose in power during WWII
      i. Hitler, Stalin, Mussolini, Tojo, and Franco
   b. Complete accompanying worksheet
3. Class Discussion (20 minutes)
   a. Recap of what totalitarianism is and how these dictators fit in.
4. Timeline
   a. Students mark on their timelines when these five dictators rose to power in their respective fronts

Day Three: (04/14/2011)

Topic: War in Europe

Objective:
Activities:
1. Journal Entry (10 minutes)
2. Lecture (20 minutes):
   a. Failed attempts at appeasement by Great Britain and France
      i. The Munich Pact (1938)
   b. Treaty of Non-Aggression between Germany and the Soviet Union
3. Dog and Pony Chart (55 minutes): while discussing the first few events, relate back to the lesson they had in February on the Treaty of Versailles. Ask students how Hitler is in clear violation of the treaty.
   a. Austria and the German Anschluss (1938)
   b. Invasion of Poland (September 1, 1939)
   c. Battle of France (May-June 1940)
   d. Battle of Britain (July-October 1940)
   e. El Alamein (1942)
   f. Brainstorm what the Allied and Axis strategies appear to be during this time
4. Timeline
   a. Students mark on their timelines these five events

**Day Four: (04/15/2011)**

Topic: War in Europe

Objective:
- SOL: VUS.11b
- NCSS: Strand IX
- Unit Goal: 2
- Unit Objective: 2

Activities:
1. Grammar Friday (20 minutes)
2. Friday Writing (25 minutes)
3. Dog and Pony chart continued (30 minutes)
   a. Invasion of the USSR and Stalingrad (August 1942-February 1943)
   b. Normandy (D-Day) (June 1944)
   c. Discuss Allied and Axis strategy
4. Timeline
   a. Students mark on their timelines when these five dictators rose to power in their respective fronts
Day Five: (04/18/2011)

Topic: The Holocaust (led by Chelsea)

Objective:
- SOL: VUS.11e
- NCSS: Strand III, Strand V
- Unit Goal: 2, 3, 4
- Unit Objective: 3

Activities:
1. Journal Entry (10 minutes)
2. Examination of literature from the Holocaust (80 minutes)
3. Students mark important dates and events in their timeline packet

Day Six: (04/19/2011)

Topic: The Holocaust (led by Chelsea)

Objective:
- SOL: VUS.11e
- NCSS: Strand III, Strand V
- Unit Goals: 2, 3, 4
- Unit Objectives: 3

Activities:
1. Journal Entry (10 minutes)
2. Examination of literature from the Holocaust (80 minutes)
3. Students mark important dates and events in their timeline packet

Day Seven: (04/20/2011)

Topic: American (1939- December 7, 1941)

Objective:
- SOL: VUS.11a
- Unit Goals: 2, 4
- Unit Objectives: 1, 2

Activities:
1. Journal Entry (10 minutes)
2. Lecture on U.S. foreign policy during the early years of the war (20 minutes)
   a. Receive military bases from Great Britain in exchange for naval warships
   b. Lend-Lease Act with Great Britain and France
i. “lending a garden hose to a next-door neighbor whose house is on fire”

3. Guided Notes: Video on Pearl Harbor (30 minutes)
   a. Students watch a video on Pearl Harbor while completing a notesheet

4. Listen to FDR’s “day that will live in infamy speech”
   a. Periodically stop the audio recording to annotate the document
   b. What was America’s response to the attack on Pearl Harbor?
      i. Discussion on how the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor was the end of arguments for isolationism

5. Students mark important dates and events in their timeline packet

**Day Eight: (04/21/2011)**

Topic: Life on the Homefront

Objective:
- SOL: VUS.11a, VUS.12a, VUS.12b, VUS.12c
- Unit Objective: 3
- Unit Goal: 4

Activities:
1. Journal Entry (10 minutes)
2. Interactive PowerPoint on propaganda during WWII (20 minutes)
   a. Look at examples of propaganda, use the Interwrite to circle or mark important components
   b. Watch short video clips (Looney Toons)
   c. Dr. Seuss
3. Students create their own piece of propaganda from the period (60 minutes)
   a. Use Glogster or other computer program that allows students to easily create propaganda style materials
   b. Propaganda must be historically relevant and follow the specific criteria outlined on their handout

See Technology Enhanced Lesson Plan for more information about this lesson on WWII Propaganda

**Day Nine: (04/22/2011)**

Topic: Life in America

Objective:
- SOL: VUS.11c, VUS.12b, VUS.12c
- Unit Goals: 1
- Unit Objective: 3

Activities:
1. Grammar Friday (20 minutes)
2. Friday Writing (25 minutes)
3. Jigsaw/Round Robin Activity (45 minutes)
   a. Students visit different stations to gain information about different minority
      groups and their participation/experiences during World War II
   b. Stations for the following: Tuskegee Airmen, Nisei Regiments, Navajo Codes,
      Mexican Americans, Internment of Japanese Americans
4. Students mark important dates and events in their timeline packet

**Day Ten: (04/26/2011)**

Topic: War in the Pacific

Objective:
- SOL: VUS.11b
- Unit Goal: 2
- Unit Objectives: 1, 2

Activities:
1. Journal Entry (10 minutes)
2. [Finish] Discussion/recap of minority participation or experience during World War II
   (20 minutes)
3. Dog and Pony Chart Activity (60 minutes)
   a. Battle of Midway (June 4-7, 1942)
   b. Iwo Jima (19 February – 26 March, 1945)
   c. Okinawa (April – June, 1945)
   d. Discussion: Allied and Axis strategies in the Pacific campaign
      i. Particular focus on island hopping

**Day Eleven: (04/27/2011)**

Topic: Manhattan Project and the Atomic Bomb

Objective:
- SOL: VUS.11b
- Unit Objective: 4
- Unit Goal: 2

Activities:
1. Journal Entry (10 minutes)
2. Lecture: Building the Atomic Bomb (the Manhattan Project), Potsdam Declaration, and
   Truman’s decision to use the bomb on Japan (20 minutes)
3. Guided Notes on Video about the Atomic Bomb being dropped on Hiroshima and
   Nagasaki (30 minutes)
4. Primary Source Document Analysis: Press release on the use of the atomic bomb -
   President Truman ([http://www.trumanlibrary.org/teacher/abomb.htm](http://www.trumanlibrary.org/teacher/abomb.htm))
5. Students mark important dates and events in their timeline packet

**Day Twelve: (04/28/2011)**

Topic: The End of World War II in the Pacific

Objective:
- SOL: VUS.11b, VUS.11d, VUS.11e
- Unit Objective: 4
- Unit Goals: 3, 4

Activities:
1. Journal Entry (10 minutes)
2. Students complete the structured academic controversy activity (60 minutes)
   a. Consider points in support and points in opposition to the use of the atomic bomb on Japan at the end of World War II.
   b. After considering both points of view, students formulate their own opinion regarding the use of the atomic bomb.
   c. Bring the class together and have the student groups share their opinions
      i. Opinions should be primarily based upon the evidence they just analyzed
3. Postwar lecture (20 minutes)
   a. The Geneva Convention
   b. The Nuremberg Trials
4. Students mark important dates and events in their timeline packet

**Day Thirteen: (04/29/2011)**

Topic: World War II Unit Examination

Objectives:
- Measure student obtainment of VUS.11 – VUS.12
- Unit Objectives: 1, 2, 4

Activities:
1. Review period (10 minutes)
   a. Students are given the first ten minutes of the class period to review their notes, study with their neighbor, or ask the teacher clarifying questions
   b. Teacher collects the World War II timeline packet that students have been working on over the course of the unit.
2. Students take the World War II unit examination