

The Pacific Theater during World War II



I. Lesson Objectives:

By the end of this lesson, students will be able to:

Identify the major events and key individuals in the Pacific Theater during World War II.

Understand the causes and consequences of the war in the Pacific.

Analyze the strategies and tactics employed by both the Allied and Axis powers.

Evaluate the impact of the Pacific Theater on the outcome of World War II.

Apply critical thinking skills to assess the ethical and moral dilemmas faced by individuals during the war.

II. Massachusetts Education Frameworks Standards:

History and Social Science Framework (2018):

USII.3: Analyze the causes and consequences of World War II.

USII.5: Evaluate the role of the United States in World War II.

USII.8: Understand the global consequences of World War II.

III. Materials and Artifacts:

Textbooks or online resources on World War II

Museum maps of the Pacific Theater during World War II

Primary and secondary sources related to the Pacific Theater

Aircraft, armored vehicles and artifacts on display related to the Pacific Theater

Video presentations

IV. Procedure:

Introduction to the Pacific Theater:

Opening:

Begin the lesson by engaging students in a class discussion about World War II. Ask them what they already know about the war and if they are familiar with the Pacific Theater.

Share the lesson objectives with students.

Background Information:

Provide a brief overview of the causes and key events leading to World War II, with a specific focus on the Pacific Theater.



Discuss the significance of the attack on Pearl Harbor and its impact on the United States' entry into the war.

Show museum map and visuals to help students visualize the Pacific Theater and the major battles that took place.

Key Events and Strategies:

Divide students into small groups and assign each group a specific aircraft, artifact, event or battle in the Pacific Theater.

Provide the necessary resources for research and ask students to create a timeline or infographic highlighting the key details of their assigned event/battle.

Strategies and Tactics:

Introduce the strategies and tactics employed by both the Allied and Axis powers in the Pacific Theater drawn from signage in the museum.

Provide examples and explain how the geography of the region influenced military decisions.

Impact on World War II:

Discuss the decision of the United States to drop nuclear bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki and how it effected the outcome of World War II.

Examine the consequences of the war, including the reshaping of international relations and the emergence of the United States as a global superpower.



AHM's P-40 B Tomahawk
This is the world's last flying American fighter that survived the attack on Pearl Harbor.



AHM's Dauntless SBD Dive-Bomber. This bomber aircraft was pivotal in the Battle of Midway and other Pacific Battles.



AHM's LVT(A)-4. Landing Vehicle Tracked. This is the only one of this type on display in North America. Important armored vehicle that enabled soldiers to drive over reefs to get to the islands.