

Lesson plans selected to complement
The 1940s: Through the War and Beyond
March 2 – May 7, 2016

Victory Mail

From: Smithsonian National Postal Museum

Link to lesson plan: <http://postalmuseum.si.edu/VictoryMail/classroom/Elementary.html>

Subjects: Social Studies, Language Arts

Grades: 2-5

Students will receive a brief introduction to Victory Mail as it was sent during World War II, then, using a copy of the downloadable [V-Mail stationery](#), students will write and send a letter (100-300 words) detailing their daily lives to a US service person currently living overseas.

On the Home Front

From: EDSITEment, National Endowment for the Humanities

Link to lesson plan: <http://edsitement.neh.gov/lesson-plan/home-front#sect-background>

Subjects: Social Studies, Visual Art, Language Arts

Grades: 3-5

Students will be able to list specific actions taken on the home front by civilians during World War II; discuss ways in which children have been in the past and can be involved in a home front war effort in today's world; and describe how posters were used to encourage home front efforts during World War II. They will then have the opportunity to create their own posters.

Molly Learning Guide: Cooperation, Adaptability and Resourcefulness

From: American Girl

Link to lesson plan: <http://www.americangirl.com/corporate/parents-and-teachers> (Scroll down to "Molly" section.)

Subjects: Language Arts, Social Studies, Community Values

Grades: 3-5

Explore themes and issues from American Girl stories with this downloadable guide and worksheets, including a sheet on adaptability and resourcefulness during rationing. Learn about cooperation, resourcefulness, and World War II through the stories of Molly McIntire, set in 1944.

Those Were the Days, My Friend: Comparing Prices and Percentages from World War II

From: National World War II Museum

Link to lesson plan: <http://www.nationalww2museum.org/learn/education/for-teachers/lesson-plans/those-were-the-days.html>

Subjects: History, Math, Economics

Grades: 7-12

Those were the days, my friend. A loaf of bread cost 9 cents, a new car \$920. This sounds great, but what was a dollar really worth? This cross-curricular activity, in which students calculate and discuss price changes over time, combines history, economics, and math. Students will compare prices between 1942 and today by using a percentage formula, and then determine the buying power of the dollar over time.

Teachable Moments: World War II

From: Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library and Museum

Link to lesson plan:

<http://www.fdrlibrary.marist.edu/education/resources/curriculumguides.html>

Subjects: Social Studies, History, Arts

Grades: 4-12

The fourteen-part curriculum guide *Teachable Moments: World War II*, contains material appropriate for students in all grade levels from 4th-12th grade. The guide is centered on fourteen short film segments which are the core of the “teachable moments.” The segments are suitable for classroom viewing and are designed to provide a short, concise presentation of an historic topic or event. Each is supported with a transcript of the segment’s script and is accompanied by a set of short answer questions. Copies of historic primary source documents, each with its own set of in-depth questions, are provided to give students experience gathering and interpreting information from a variety of primary sources.

Negotiating and Resolving Conflict

From: PBS, Ralph Bunche: An American Odyssey

Link to lesson plan: http://www.pbs.org/ralphbunche/edu_negotiation.html

Subjects: Secondary Civics, History, Sociology, Language Arts and Communication skills

Grades: 9-12

Students will work in groups to define 'conflict,' 'negotiation,' and 'compromise,' then learn about Ralph Bunche's life and work as a mediator before identifying conflicts in their own school or community and working to resolve them.

Detroit During World War II: Women in the Workplace

From: Detroit Historical Society

Link to lesson plan: <http://detroithistorical.org/learn/teacher-portal/lesson-plans/detroit-during-wwii-women-workplace>

Grades: 9-12

Subjects: Secondary Economics, History, Sociology, and Language Arts

Students will gain perspective about industrial working women during World War II. They will recognize difficulties male workers faced working with women for the first time, formulate a position on work place discrimination during WWII, then evaluate and analyze a primary source.

Additional Resources

Roosevelt's Tree Army

Background reading on Michigan's Civilian Conservation Corps

https://www.msu.edu/course/for/101/web/CCC_Rosentreter.html

The Mitten

The Mitten is a 4-page, full-color reader that covers important topics from Michigan's past, including the Arsenal of Democracy and "Roosevelt's Tree Army," the Civilian Conservation Corps.

<http://seekingmichigan.org/learn/mitten>