

Assignment Discovery Online Curriculum Pearl Harbor

Curriculum Focus

World History

Grade level

9-12

Duration

One or two class periods

Objectives

Students will

- research the events that took place at Pearl Harbor;
- write an in-depth article as though they experienced those events firsthand; and
- discuss what lessons can be learned from Pearl Harbor.

Materials

- Paper and pencils
- Computer with Internet access

Procedures

1. Set the stage for the lesson by showing a few segments of the video *Pearl Harbor*. Encourage students to imagine what it was like when the military base at Pearl Harbor was surprised by the Japanese attack.
2. Tell students that their assignment is to write a newsmagazine story about Pearl Harbor as though they were living at the time. Students can write a general article about the attack or one from the perspective of military or medical personnel. Students could also write an article from a Japanese perspective.
3. Give students enough time in class to do their research; the Web sites below have helpful information. Suggest that students download pictures from the Internet to include in their articles. And encourage them to use vivid language to make the events come alive for the reader.

<http://teacher.scholastic.com/pearl/transcript.htm>

<http://www.execpc.com/~dschaaf/phraner.html>

<http://www.history.navy.mil/faqs/faq66-3b.htm>

<http://www.ibiscom.com/pearl.htm>

<http://www.historyplace.com/worldwar2/timeline/pearl.htm>

<http://www.ibiblio.org/hyperwar/USN/rep/Pearl/Medical.html>

<http://www.navsource.org/Naval/arph.htm>

4. Have students share their articles with the class. Make sure they include in their presentations the perspective of their article and the experiences of the individuals featured.
5. Conclude the lesson by asking students what they have learned about Pearl Harbor that they can apply to the present day.

Evaluation

Use the following three-point rubric to evaluate students' work during this lesson.

3 points: Students completed their research carefully and thoroughly, wrote an informative, creative article, and were able to apply what happened at Pearl Harbor to the present day.

2 points: Students completed their research, wrote a competent article, and made some comparisons between what happened at Pearl Harbor and the present day.

1 point: Students did not complete their research, wrote an article with gaps and misunderstandings, and had a hard time applying what happened at Pearl Harbor to the present day.

Vocabulary

Battleship Row

Definition: The area where the U.S. battleships were moored and the target of the Japanese attack

Context: Eight battleships moored along Battleship Row were damaged during the attack, but after repairs six returned to service.

Pearl Harbor

Definition: A naval air base on the island of Oahu in Hawaii and the site of the surprise attack by the Japanese on December 7, 1941

Context: Immediately following the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, the United States entered World War II.

Franklin Delano Roosevelt

Definition: The President of the United States who served four terms, from November 1932 until his death in 1945

Context: On Monday, December 8, 1941, Franklin Delano Roosevelt signed the declaration of war presented by Congress.

U.S.S. Arizona

Definition: A U.S. battleship hit by the Japanese during their attack on Pearl Harbor

Context: The Japanese explosion destroyed the U.S.S. Arizona, causing her to sink to the bottom of the sea, along with 1,300 men who were onboard.

Academic Standards

This lesson plan addresses the following standards from the National Council for the Social Studies:

- VI. Power, Authority, and Governance

- IX. Global Connections
- X. Civic Ideals and Practices

Credit

Marilyn Fenichel, education writer and editor