

The World War II Foundation Multidisciplinary Integrated Curriculum

"Valor & Virtue: A World War II Journey"

Part IX: Community Connections

Community Connections curriculum segment of "Valor & Virtue: A Journey Through World War II History" curriculum fosters a deeper engagement with historical narratives and cultivates a broader understanding of the war's impact on diverse communities.

Unit 1: Partnership Development (Pages 3-5)

Objective: To build educational partnerships that enhance students' learning about the diverse experiences and contributions during World War II, focusing on the stories of the Tuskegee Airmen and the Pearl Harbor attack.

Implementation:

- Establish relationships with African American cultural institutions and aviation museums to facilitate learning about the Tuskegee Airmen's legacy.
- Collaborate with local veteran organizations and museums with Pearl Harbor artifacts or exhibits to provide students with firsthand accounts and access to primary sources.

Activities:

- **Oral History Project on the Tuskegee Airmen:** Students conduct interviews with veterans or study interviews from archives, focusing on the experiences of the Tuskegee Airmen. This project aims to highlight the contributions and challenges of African American servicemen during the war.
- **Pearl Harbor Day Commemoration:** Organize an annual event in collaboration with local veterans' groups to remember the attack on Pearl Harbor. Activities could include student presentations, veteran speeches, and a moment of silence to honor those who were lost.

Unit 2: Community Engagement Events (Pages 6-8)

Objective: To engage the community in reflective and educational events that honor the experiences of World War II veterans and survivors, particularly those involved in the Tuskegee Airmen and Pearl Harbor.

Implementation:

- Host a community screening of *The Tuskegee Airmen: Return to Ramitelli* and "[Remember Pearl Harbor](#)", followed by panel discussions with historians, veterans, and family members of those who served.
- Create a public exhibition featuring student projects on the Tuskegee Airmen and Pearl Harbor, including research posters, art pieces, and multimedia presentations.

Activities:

- **Veterans Panel Discussion:** Invite World War II veterans to share their experiences, with a focus on those who can speak to the racial integration of the military and the significance of Pearl Harbor in the American memory.
- **Artistic Tribute to WWII Heroes:** Students collaborate with local artists to create a mural or art installation that pays tribute to the Tuskegee Airmen and the heroes of Pearl Harbor, showcasing the diverse contributions to the war effort.

Unit 3: Community Connections (Pages 9-11)

Objective: To utilize community resources to bring the stories of the Tuskegee Airmen and Pearl Harbor survivors into the classroom, providing students with a living connection to history.

Implementation:



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- Incorporate guest lectures from historians specializing in African American military history and the Pacific theater into the curriculum.
- Facilitate visits to local memorials or museums dedicated to World War II, with a focus on exhibits related to the Tuskegee Airmen and Pearl Harbor.

Activities:

- **Interactive Museum Visit:** Plan a field trip to a museum with exhibits on the Tuskegee Airmen or Pearl Harbor, including guided tours and interactive workshops where students can engage directly with the material.
- **Community Service Project:** Organize a service-learning project where students assist in preserving the stories of local World War II veterans, such as through digital storytelling or creating a memorial website.

By embedding these documentaries and related activities into the "Community Connections" component, the curriculum not only honors the memory of those who served in World War II but also teaches students the value of diversity, sacrifice, and resilience. This approach enriches the educational experience, making history a living, breathing subject that extends beyond the classroom and into the heart of the community.

Curriculum created by Colonel John Fenzel (USA, Ret.). CEO of The World War II Foundation from January 2024 to May 2025. All mistakes and errors are the author's own.
Edited from original format by Cindy Tatum, Curriculum Developer, Wreaths Across America.



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Lesson Plan

Part IX: Community Connections

Unit 1: Partnership Development

Objective:

To build educational partnerships that enhance students' learning about the diverse experiences and contributions during World War II, focusing on the stories of the Tuskegee Airmen and the Pearl Harbor attack.

Implementation:

Institutional Partnerships:

- **Tuskegee Airmen Legacy:**
 - Establish relationships with African American cultural institutions and aviation museums to facilitate learning about the Tuskegee Airmen's legacy.
 - Potential partners include:
 - The Tuskegee Airmen National Museum.
 - The National Museum of African American History and Culture.
- **Pearl Harbor Artifacts and Exhibits:**
 - Collaborate with local veteran organizations and museums with Pearl Harbor artifacts or exhibits to provide students with firsthand accounts and access to primary sources.
 - Examples include:
 - The Pearl Harbor Aviation Museum.
 - Local VFW and American Legion posts.

Activities:

Oral History Project on the Tuskegee Airmen:

- **Objective:** To highlight the contributions and challenges of African American servicemen during WWII.
- **Implementation:**
 - Students conduct interviews with veterans or study archived interviews, focusing on the experiences of the Tuskegee Airmen.
 - Develop a comprehensive oral history project that includes:
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 - **Video Interviews:** Record interviews with surviving veterans or their families.
 - **Transcription and Analysis:** Transcribe and analyze interviews for recurring themes and historical insights.
 - **Exhibition Creation:** Create a multimedia exhibition that showcases the oral histories through:
 - Video interviews.
 - Photos and personal artifacts.
 - Historical analysis and reflections.

Pearl Harbor Day Commemoration:

- **Objective:** To remember the attack on Pearl Harbor and honor those who were lost.
- **Implementation:**
 - Organize an annual event in collaboration with local veterans' groups.



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- Activities could include:
 - **Student Presentations:**
 - Present research projects on the strategic implications and personal stories of Pearl Harbor.
 - **Veteran Speeches:**
 - Invite local veterans who served during WWII to share their stories.
 - **Moment of Silence:**
 - Hold a moment of silence to honor those who were lost in the attack.
 - **Documentary Screening:**
 - Screen a documentary on Pearl Harbor, followed by a group discussion and reflection.

Assessment and Impact:

Oral History Project Assessment:

- **Historical Analysis:**
 - Evaluate the depth of historical analysis and understanding in interviews and exhibition materials.
- **Personal Reflection:**
 - Assess students' ability to connect personal reflections with historical narratives.
- **Collaborative Skills:**
 - Review the collaboration and communication skills displayed during the project.

Pearl Harbor Day Commemoration Assessment:

- **Event Execution:**
 - Evaluate students' ability to organize and execute the event.
- **Historical Understanding:**
 - Assess the accuracy and depth of research in student presentations.
- **Community Engagement:**
 - Review the level of community engagement and feedback from attendees.

Implementation Timeline:

Oral History Project on the Tuskegee Airmen:

- **Weeks 1-2:** Establish partnerships and identify interview subjects.
- **Weeks 3-6:** Conduct interviews and archive research.
- **Weeks 7-8:** Transcribe, analyze, and create an exhibition.
- **Week 9:** Showcase the exhibition to the community.

Pearl Harbor Day Commemoration:

- **Weeks 1-3:** Collaborate with local veterans' groups and plan the event.
- **Weeks 4-6:** Prepare student presentations and organize the agenda.
- **Week 7:** Execute the Pearl Harbor Day Commemoration event.

Extension:

- **Community Oral History Archive:**
 - Create a digital archive of oral history interviews that is accessible to the public.



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- Partner with local libraries or historical societies to expand the archive.
- **WWII History Fair:**
 - Host a WWII History Fair where students present their oral history projects and Pearl Harbor research to the broader community.

By fostering partnerships with cultural institutions and veteran organizations, the "Valor & Virtue: A Journey Through World War II History" curriculum connects students with their community and encourages a deeper understanding of the diverse experiences and contributions during WWII.



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Lesson Plan

Part IX: Community Connections

Unit 2: Community Engagement Events

Objective:

Together with students, engage the community in reflective and educational events that honor the experiences of World War II veterans and survivors, particularly those involved in the Tuskegee Airmen and Pearl Harbor.

Implementation:

Community Screening and Panel Discussions:

- **Screenings:**
 - Host a community screening of:
 - [*The Tuskegee Airmen: Return to Ramitelli*](#).
 - [*Remember Pearl Harbor*](#).
- **Panel Discussions:**
 - Follow each screening with a panel discussion featuring:
 - Historians specializing in the Tuskegee Airmen and Pearl Harbor.
 - WWII veterans who served during these events.
 - Family members of those who served.
- **Audience Engagement:**
 - Encourage the audience to ask questions and share personal stories related to the screenings.

Public Exhibition of Student Projects:

- **Exhibition Content:**
 - Create a public exhibition featuring student projects on the Tuskegee Airmen and Pearl Harbor, including:
- **Research Posters:**
 - Highlighting the historical context, challenges, and contributions of the Tuskegee Airmen.
 - Exploring the strategic significance and personal stories of Pearl Harbor.
- **Art Pieces:**
 - Original artwork inspired by the documentaries, such as:
 - Paintings or sketches depicting key moments.
 - Photographic interpretations of historical events.
- **Multimedia Presentations:**
 - Digital storytelling projects or documentaries created by students.

Activities:

Veterans Panel Discussion:

- **Objective:** Invite WWII veterans to share their experiences, with a focus on those who can speak to the racial integration of the military and the significance of Pearl Harbor in American memory.

Implementation:

- Partner with local veteran organizations to identify panelists.
- Develop a guided discussion plan that covers:



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- The challenges of racial integration during WWII.
- The significance of Pearl Harbor on American public opinion.
- Personal stories of courage, sacrifice, and unity during the war.
- Moderate the panel discussion, encouraging panelists to share unique insights and engage with the audience.

Artistic Tribute to WWII Heroes:

- **Objective:**
 - Pay tribute to the Tuskegee Airmen and the heroes of Pearl Harbor through art.
- **Implementation:**
 - **Student Collaboration:**
 - Students collaborate with local artists to create a mural or art installation.
 - The tribute should highlight the diverse contributions to the war effort, such as:
 - The bravery of the Tuskegee Airmen in overcoming racial barriers.
 - The perseverance and sacrifice of Pearl Harbor survivors.
- **Unveiling Event:**
 - Organize an unveiling event where students and artists present the mural or installation to the community.
 - Invite WWII veterans and historians to speak at the event.

Assessment and Impact:

- **Screening and Panel Discussions:**
- **Audience Engagement:**
 - Monitor the level of audience engagement through questions and personal stories shared.
- **Feedback Surveys:**
 - Conduct feedback surveys to assess the impact of the screenings and discussions on historical understanding.

Public Exhibition and Artistic Tribute:

- **Exhibition Quality:**
 - Evaluate the historical accuracy, creativity, and depth of student projects.
- **Community Response:**
 - Review feedback from the community on the exhibition and artistic tribute.

Implementation Timeline:

Community Screening and Panel Discussions:

- **Weeks 1-3:** Plan the screenings, invite panelists, and promote the events.
- **Week 4:** Host the screenings and panel discussions.

Public Exhibition and Artistic Tribute:

- **Weeks 1-2:** Collaborate with local artists and plan the exhibition content.
- **Weeks 3-4:** Create student projects, finalize the mural or installation.
- **Week 5:** Host the public exhibition and unveiling event.

Extension:

- **Documentary Series:**



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- Host a documentary series featuring films on WWII themes, such as:
 - The impact of the Tuskegee Airmen on aviation history.
 - The contributions of Navajo Code Talkers and other minority groups.
 - Follow each screening with a thematic panel discussion.
- **Inter-School Exhibition Exchange:**
 - Partner with another school to exchange WWII-themed exhibitions and artistic tributes, broadening the impact of student projects.

The "Community Connections" segment of "Valor & Virtue: A Journey Through World War II History" curriculum brings the community together to reflect on the diverse contributions during WWII. By engaging with veterans, historians, and artists, students develop a deeper understanding of the war's legacy while fostering empathy and critical thinking skills.



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Lesson Plans

Part IX: Community Connections

Unit 3: Integrating Community Resources into Learning

Objective:

To utilize community resources to bring the stories of the Tuskegee Airmen and Pearl Harbor survivors into the classroom, providing students with a living connection to history.

Implementation:

Guest Lectures from Historians:

- **Specialization in African American Military History and the Pacific Theater:**
 - Incorporate guest lectures from historians specializing in these areas into the curriculum.
- **Topics for Lectures:**
 - The role and challenges of the Tuskegee Airmen during WWII.
 - The significance of the Pearl Harbor attack and its aftermath.
- **Engagement:**
 - Encourage interactive Q&A sessions after lectures to allow students to delve deeper into the topics.

Visits to Local Memorials or Museums:

- **Focus on WWII Exhibits:**
 - Facilitate visits to local memorials or museums dedicated to WWII, particularly those with exhibits related to the Tuskegee Airmen and Pearl Harbor.
- **Preparation:**
 - Prepare students with pre-visit materials such as videos, articles, and key questions to explore during the visit.
- **Post-Visit Reflection:**
 - Conduct a post-visit debriefing where students share their insights and how the visit impacted their understanding of WWII.

Activities:

Interactive Museum Visit:

- **Objective:** Plan a field trip to a museum with exhibits on the Tuskegee Airmen or Pearl Harbor.
- **Guided Tours and Workshops:** Include guided tours led by museum educators specialized in the respective exhibits. Organize interactive workshops where students can engage directly with artifacts, documents, and other materials.
- **Student Engagement:** Students participate in hands-on activities, such as artifact analysis or role-playing exercises based on historical scenarios.

Community Service Project:

- **Objective:**
 - Organize a service-learning project where students help preserve the stories of local World War II veterans.
- **Activities:**
 - **Digital Storytelling:**

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- Students interview local veterans or their families to capture their stories through video or audio recordings.
- **Memorial Website:**
 - Develop a website where these stories are showcased, along with photographs, letters, and other personal memorabilia.
- **Collaboration:**
 - Collaborate with local historical societies or veteran organizations to identify participants and resources.

By embedding these documentaries and related activities into the "Community Connections" component, the curriculum not only honors the memory of those who served in World War II but also teaches students the value of diversity, sacrifice, and resilience. This approach enriches the educational experience, making history a living, breathing subject that extends beyond the classroom and into the heart of the community.

Impact and Evaluation:

- **Student Feedback:**
 - Gather feedback from students on their experiences and the impact of interacting with community resources and veterans.
- **Community Impact:**
 - Assess the community's response to the student projects, especially the digital storytelling and memorial website, to measure the project's reach and influence.
- **Learning Outcomes:**
 - Evaluate the effectiveness of these activities in enhancing students' historical knowledge, empathy, and engagement with local history.

Implementation Timeline:

- **Week 1-2:** Schedule guest lectures and plan museum visits.
- **Week 3-4:** Conduct museum visits and begin the community service project.
- **Week 5-6:** Continue and finalize the community service project; host a presentation or exhibition of the students' work.
- **Week 7:** Review and reflect on the entire process with students and community members.

Extension:

- **Annual Community History Day:**
 - Host an annual event where students present their projects and findings to the community, featuring guest speakers, veteran interviews, and interactive displays.
- **Inter-school Collaboration:**
 - Partner with other schools to expand the reach of the community service project, incorporating inter-school visits and shared resources.



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