

The World War II Foundation Multidisciplinary Integrated Curriculum

"Valor & Virtue: A World War II Journey"

XII. "Above and Beyond"

Incorporating "[*Above and Beyond*](#)" into the adaptive learning paths enhances the curriculum by providing a unique lens through which to examine the post-World War II era, focusing on themes of volunteerism, international relations, and personal conviction. This documentary serves as a springboard for discussions and projects that explore the nuanced impacts of WWII on subsequent global events and the choices individuals make in the aftermath of conflict. Here's how it can be seamlessly integrated:

Unit 1: Incorporating Post-WWII Themes into Learning Paths (Pages 3-5)

Students could engage in comparative studies of post-WWII conflicts, examining the motivations behind international volunteerism and the impact of these efforts on global politics. This project allows for differentiation based on student interest, with some focusing on the historical aspects while others might explore the ethical implications.

- **Debate on International Volunteerism:** Facilitate a classroom debate on the ethics and effectiveness of international volunteerism, using the actions of the pilots in "Above and Beyond" as a case study. This activity encourages critical thinking and offers students the opportunity to engage with complex ethical questions, fostering skills in research, argumentation, and public speaking.
- **Research Projects on WWII Veterans' Legacy:** Assign research projects that allow students to explore the continued influence of WWII veterans in global conflicts, peacekeeping efforts, or international relations. Students can choose to present their findings in various formats, such as written reports, digital presentations, or creative multimedia projects, catering to diverse interests and strengths.

Unit 2: Technology Integration (Pages 6-8)

- Utilize digital platforms to access additional resources related to the documentary, including interviews, archival footage, and scholarly articles, providing a richer context for students' projects.
- Encourage students to use video editing software to create their own short films or digital stories that reflect on the themes of the documentary, blending historical research with personal reflection or creative expression.

Support and Resources:

- Provide scaffolds and support for students who might need assistance in understanding the documentary's content or context. This could include guided viewing questions, vocabulary lists, or background readings.
- Offer enrichment resources for students interested in delving deeper into the topics of the documentary, such as advanced readings, access to online lectures or webinars, and connections with local veterans' organizations or historians.

Assessment and Feedback:

- Design rubrics that accommodate the variety of projects and presentations students might choose, ensuring that assessments are fair and reflective of individual learning objectives.
- Implement a process for peer review and self-reflection, allowing students to engage in the evaluative process and consider their own learning journey and the development of their understanding and perspectives on the documentary's themes.



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By integrating “Above and Beyond” into the adaptive learning paths, the curriculum not only diversifies the historical narratives explored but also encourages students to reflect on the broader human experience and the legacies of war. This documentary, along with tailored activities and projects, ensures that all students can find meaningful and engaging ways to connect with World War II history, fostering a more inclusive and comprehensive educational experience.

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

XII. "Above and Beyond"

Unit 1: "[Above and Beyond](#)" - Incorporating Post-WWII Themes into Learning Paths

Grade Level: High School

Subject Area: History, Social Studies

Duration: 4 Class Periods (45 minutes each)

Overview: Incorporating [Above and Beyond](#) into adaptive learning paths enhances the curriculum by providing a unique lens to examine the post-World War II era. Students will focus on themes of volunteerism, international relations, and personal conviction, using the documentary as a springboard for discussions and projects that explore the nuanced impacts of WWII on subsequent global events and individual choices.

The Incredible Escape of Jewish-American B-17 Pilot Bruce Sundlun from Nazi-Occupied Europe in World War II. During overseas active duty beginning in June 1943 Bruce Sundlun, a Jewish-American college student, served as a B-17 Flying Fortress pilot in the England-based 384th Bomb Group of the Eighth Air Force at Grafton-Underwood Air Base. Sundlun's plane, the Damn Yankee, was shot down over Nazi-occupied Jabbeke, Belgium on 1 December 1943 after being damaged by flak and attacked by German fighter planes following the bombing of Solingen, Germany, on the "Yankee's" 13th mission over Europe. Five of his crew were killed, four others captured by the Germans. After being smuggled out of Belgium on more than 100 stolen bicycles and hidden by Catholic priests and after six months' time cooperating with the French Resistance under the code name Salamander, Bruce Sundlun made several attempts to enter neutral Spain in an effort to escape back to England. However, after deciding that there was too much danger of capture or loss in the snowy Pyrenees, Sundlun made his way, once again on stolen bicycles, north-eastward across France where he finally escaped into Switzerland.

Narrated by Kara Sundlun.

Objectives:

1. Understand the motivations behind international volunteerism and its impact on global politics in the post-WWII era.
2. Explore the legacy of WWII veterans and their continued influence on global conflicts and peacekeeping efforts.
3. Develop critical thinking, research, argumentation, and public speaking skills through debates and comparative studies.

Materials Needed:

- [Above and Beyond](#) documentary
- Computers or tablets with internet access
- Projector or TV for documentary viewing
- Debate setup (e.g., podiums, timer)
- Access to online archives and primary sources

Lesson Structure:

Day 1: Introduction and Documentary Viewing (45 minutes)

- **Introduction (10 minutes):**
 - Provide a brief overview of the themes in [Above and Beyond](#), focusing on volunteerism, international relations, and personal conviction.



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- Outline the lesson objectives and structure.
- **Documentary Viewing (35 minutes):**
 - Watch [*Above and Beyond*](#) documentary.
 - Instruct students to take notes on key themes, such as:
 - Motivations behind international volunteerism after WWII
 - Ethical implications of volunteering in post-war conflicts
 - Impact of these efforts on global politics and international relations

Day 2: Customizable Project Ideas (Comparative Studies and Debate) (45 minutes)

- **Comparative Studies Project Setup (20 minutes):**
 - Divide students into pairs or small groups to conduct comparative studies on post-WWII conflicts.
 - Provide guiding questions and resources for research:
 - What were the motivations behind international volunteerism in different conflicts?
 - How did these efforts impact global politics and international relations?
 - Allow each group to select a conflict to compare with the efforts depicted in [*Above and Beyond*](#) (e.g., Korean War, Vietnam War, Israeli-Palestinian conflict).
- **Debate Preparation (25 minutes):**
 - Introduce the debate topic: *The ethics and effectiveness of international volunteerism*.
 - Divide students into two groups (pro and con) and assign the following debate format:
 - **Opening Statements:** Each side presents their initial arguments (3 minutes each).
 - **Rebuttals:** Counter the opposing side's arguments (2 minutes each).
 - **Closing Statements:** Summarize and reinforce arguments (2 minutes each).
- Provide time for each group to conduct research and develop their arguments.

Day 3: Debate and Comparative Studies Presentations (45 minutes)

- **Classroom Debate (20 minutes):**
 - Facilitate a classroom debate on the ethics and effectiveness of international volunteerism using the actions of the pilots in *Above and Beyond* as a case study.
- **Debate Format:**
 - Opening Statements (3 minutes each)
 - Rebuttals (2 minutes each)
 - Closing Statements (2 minutes each)
 - Allow students not directly involved in the debate to ask follow-up questions and vote on the most convincing argument.
- **Comparative Studies Presentations (25 minutes):**
 - Each group presents their comparative studies on post-WWII conflicts.
 - Encourage creativity in presentation formats, such as slides, digital storytelling, or role-playing.

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Day 4: Research Projects on WWII Veterans' Legacy (45 minutes)

- **Research Project Setup (10 minutes):**
 - Assign research projects exploring the continued influence of WWII veterans in global conflicts, peacekeeping efforts, or international relations.
 - Provide guiding questions and resources for research:
 - What roles did WWII veterans play in subsequent global conflicts?
 - How did their experiences influence peacekeeping and international relations?
 - What challenges did veterans face in adapting to civilian life?
- **Research and Project Development (35 minutes):**
 - Allow students to choose the format for presenting their findings (e.g., written reports, digital presentations, creative multimedia projects).
 - Encourage them to explore primary sources like interviews, letters, and photographs.

Day 5: Research Project Presentations and Reflection (45 minutes)

- **Project Presentations (30 minutes):**
 - Each student presents their research project to the class.
 - Provide constructive feedback on the quality of research and presentation.
- **Reflection and Assessment (15 minutes):**
 - Have students write a reflection essay on the nuanced impacts of WWII on subsequent global events and the choices individuals make in the aftermath of conflict.

Assessment:

Participation: Evaluate student engagement during research, group discussions, and activities.

Project Presentation: Assess the historical accuracy, creativity, and overall quality of each student's presentation.

Reflection Essays: Grade the essays based on depth of analysis and understanding.

Extension Activities:

- **Guest Speaker Webinar:**
 - Invite a historian or WWII veteran to discuss the legacy of WWII in global conflicts and peacekeeping efforts.
- **Documentary Analysis:**
 - Have students analyze additional documentaries related to post-WWII conflicts and international relations.



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Lesson Plan

XII. "Above and Beyond"

Unit 2: Incorporating Technology Integration into "Above and Beyond"

Grade Level: High School

Subject Area: History, Social Studies

Duration: 5 Class Periods (45 minutes each)

Overview: Incorporating *Above and Beyond* into the curriculum enriches the learning path by providing a lens through which students can examine the post-World War II era, focusing on themes of volunteerism, international relations, and personal conviction. Technology integration enhances the educational experience by allowing students to access additional resources and create their own digital stories reflecting on the documentary's themes.

Objectives:

1. Utilize digital platforms to access interviews, archival footage, and scholarly articles for a richer context in student projects.
2. Create short films or digital stories that blend historical research with personal reflection or creative expression.
3. Support students with guided viewing questions, vocabulary lists, and background readings for deeper understanding.
4. Foster peer review, self-reflection, and fair assessment practices for a comprehensive learning journey.

Materials Needed:

- *Above and Beyond* documentary
- Computers or tablets with internet access
- Video editing software (e.g., iMovie, Adobe Premiere, WeVideo)
- Projector or TV for documentary viewing
- Access to online archives and scholarly articles
- Rubrics and scaffolds for assessment

Lesson Structure:

Day 1: Technology Integration and Documentary Viewing (45 minutes)

- **Introduction (10 minutes):**
 - Provide an overview of the documentary *Above and Beyond* and its themes of volunteerism, international relations, and personal conviction.
 - Outline the objectives and structure of the lesson plan.
- **Documentary Viewing (35 minutes):**
 - Watch *Above and Beyond* documentary.
 - Instruct students to take notes on key themes, such as:
 - Post-WWII era volunteerism and its impact on global politics
 - Ethical implications of volunteering in post-war conflicts
 - Personal convictions driving individual choices

Day 2: Technology Integration and Research Workshop (45 minutes)

- **Resource Exploration (20 minutes):**
 - Utilize digital platforms to access interviews, archival footage, and scholarly articles related to the documentary.



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- Provide a list of resources for students to explore, including:
 - **Interviews:** Firsthand accounts of WWII veterans or international volunteers.
 - **Archival Footage:** Video footage from the post-WWII era.
 - **Scholarly Articles:** Analysis of post-WWII conflicts and the motivations behind international volunteerism.
- **Research Workshop (25 minutes):**
 - Divide students into pairs or small groups to research the themes of *Above and Beyond* using the digital resources provided.
 - Instruct them to focus on a specific aspect of the documentary (e.g., motivations for volunteering, international relations impact).

Day 3: Creating Digital Stories and Short Films (45 minutes)

- **Story Development and Planning (20 minutes):**
 - Encourage students to use video editing software to create their own short films or digital stories reflecting on the documentary's themes.
 - Provide guidance on developing a storyline that blends historical research with personal reflection or creative expression.
 - Use storyboarding templates to outline their film.
- **Filming and Editing Workshop (25 minutes):**
 - Students begin filming and editing their digital stories using the editing software provided.
 - Ensure they incorporate a blend of historical research and personal reflection in their projects.

Day 4: Support and Resources Workshop (45 minutes)

- **Guided Support Session (20 minutes):**
 - Provide scaffolds and supports for students who might need assistance in understanding the documentary's content or context, such as:
 - **Guided Viewing Questions:** Key questions to consider during the documentary.
 - **Vocabulary Lists:** Definitions of terms related to post-WWII era conflicts.
 - **Background Readings:** Articles or books on the legacy of WWII.
- **Enrichment Resources Session (25 minutes):**
 - Offer enrichment resources for students interested in delving deeper into the documentary's topics, such as:
 - **Advanced Readings:** Scholarly articles on international volunteerism and global politics.
 - **Online Lectures and Webinars:** Expert talks on post-WWII conflicts and veterans' legacy.
 - **Local Connections:** Contact information for local veterans' organizations or historians.

Day 5: Assessment and Feedback (45 minutes)

- **Project Presentations (30 minutes):**



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- Each group presents their short film or digital story to the class.
- Encourage constructive feedback and questions.
- **Assessment and Reflection (15 minutes):**
 - Design rubrics that accommodate the variety of projects and presentations, ensuring fair and reflective assessments.
 - Implement a process for peer review and self-reflection, where students consider their own learning journey and development of understanding.

Assessment Criteria:

- **Participation:** Evaluate student engagement during research, group discussions, and activities.
- **Project Presentation:** Assess historical accuracy, creativity, and overall quality of each group's digital story or short film.
- **Reflection Essays:** Grade reflection essays based on depth of analysis and understanding.
 - Explain the adventure Bruce Sundlun went on in Europe following the crash of his B-17 plane in Belgium in December of 1943? Who helped him along the way?

Extension Activities:

- **Comparative Studies:**
 - Have students compare international volunteerism efforts depicted in [*Above and Beyond*](#) with those of other post-WWII conflicts.
- **Guest Speaker Webinar:**
 - Invite a historian or WWII veteran to discuss the legacy of WWII veterans in global conflicts and peacekeeping efforts.

Incorporating [*Above and Beyond*](#) into the adaptive learning paths not only diversifies the historical narratives explored but also encourages students to reflect on the broader human experience and the legacies of war.