

Impact of the Atomic Bomb
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Overview

This lesson will take approximately three to four class periods to implement and will be included in a larger unit on World War II, including a study of both the European and Pacific Theaters of the war. In this lesson, students will view and respond to Barefoot Gen. Prior to viewing, students will be briefed about the movie. Following viewing the film, students will be asked to respond to a statement that fits the following requirement of the Modern World History Ohio Model Curriculum for Social Studies (Revised November, 2011): *Show students the pictures of the physical devastation of communities in Europe and Asia [following World War II]. Then have them imagine how difficult it would be to rebuild homes and businesses after the bombings. Have students create journals (either paper or electronic) from the perspective of a young person living in an area destroyed by war.* Students will also be asked to respond to the following in their individual journals: Pretend you are a friend of Gen's who also survived. 1.) Describe how difficult it must have been to survive, deal with loss, deal with your nation's defeat and rebuild. and 2.) Do you believe President Truman made the right decision to drop the Atomic Bombs? Students will then be asked to share their responses with the class as part of a class discussion.

Goals/Objectives

This lesson will assist students achieving the following goals from the *Modern World History Ohio Model Curriculum for Social Studies (Revised November, 2011)*:

The first half of the 20th century was one of rapid technological advances. It was a period when the tensions between industrialized nations resulted in World War I and set the stage for World War II. While World War II transformed the balance of world power, it was the most destructive and costly war in terms of human casualties and material resources expended.

In some cases, advances in technology, communication and transportation had negative impacts (e.g., pollution, social stratification, dramatic increases in war casualties). Battlefield weapons (e.g., machine gun, poison gas, hand grenades, tanks) and the atomic bomb increased the destructive power of war.

World War II caused not only physical damage, but also social damage (e.g., refugees, casualties), cultural damage (e.g., lost works of art, residue of Nazi education), and economic damage (e.g., loss of infrastructure, loss of employment). World War II also changed the nature of warfare by introducing the use of atomic weapons. These weapons set the stage for an era of political tension.

Materials:

- 1.) Activity Handout
- 2.) Barefoot Gen Full Movie English Dub, <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d5IZwi1sFp8&feature=related>

Resources:

- 1.) Barefoot Gen Full Movie English Dub, <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d5IZwi1sFp8&feature=related>
- 2.) Hersey, John: Hiroshima
- 3.) Nakazawa, Keiji: Barefoot Gen: A Cartoon History of Hiroshima
- 4.) Roose, Diana Wickes: Teach us to Live – Stories from Hiroshima

Note: Some expletives are used throughout the film and some parts show explicit violence. Teacher may wish to seek administrative advice prior to showing the video to students. In some districts, permission slips may be required prior to students viewing.

Procedures:

Day One: Teacher introductory comments about Barefoot Gen and its author, Keiji Nakazawa, as well as the culminating activity students will be required to complete. Provide students with a handout which includes the questions they will explore. Students begin viewing the film and take pertinent notes.

Day Two: Students continue to view film and take pertinent notes.

Day Three: Class discussion and collection of journal writings. This discussion may also include asking students to share what they feel the author's view on the World War II Japanese government.

The Impact of the Atomic Bomb on Japanese Civilians

In this project, you will use what you have already learned about World War II, as well as what you learn from watching the Japanese Manga video Barefoot Gen to better understand how the dropping of the Atomic Bomb affected the lives of Japanese civilians. Following your viewing of the video, you will write a journal entry from the perspective of a friend of Gen's addressing the questions below. As you view, take pertinent notes.

1.) Describe how difficult it must have been to survive, deal with loss, deal with your nation's defeat and rebuild.

2.) Do you believe President Truman made the right decision to drop the Atomic Bombs?