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NCTA TIP- Japan
Grade 9/10 Social Studies
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World War II

"What would you have done?"

- The material and information from the NCTA seminar will be implemented into my lessons and TIPS to engage and educate learners. I will use the Powerpoints from the class to further enhance my students' education. In addition, the materials and topics were chosen based on age appropriate activities, connection to current standard and curriculum guidelines, and the level of student interest.

Throughline Question:

Could of things been done different?
Was Japan a victim?
What would you have done?

Purpose:

This lesson will provide students with a deeper understanding of the decision to drop the atomic bombs on Japan at the end of WWII. Students will be given the facts that were prevalent during this most important chapter in both U.S. and World history. I want students to have a deeper understanding of the complexity, difficulty, and the effects of the dropping of the atomic bombs on Japan. Furthermore, for comprehension, students will come to their own decision whether or not the dropping of the atomic bombs was right.

Summary:

Students had been given notes and shown Powerpoints from the Asian Studies course. I then handpicked two students to put together an effective 5-minute storybook presentation on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. I gave them the questions and facts to place into their storybook. They researched the Internet, found pictures, and put together an effective Storybook presentation. After creating and perfecting their storybook, we will show it to the class to close the chapter of World War II. Students were also given a worksheet based off the storybook asking important questions that needed answered. Furthermore, students were

given a journal entry assignment in which they had to answer deeper-level thinking questions. Students will think critically and place themselves in both the American leaders and Japanese peoples shoes.

******Background Information**

Shortly following a letter from Albert Einstein to President Roosevelt in 1939, the Manhattan Project by the United States would begin. The project would lead to the creation of the atomic bomb; ultimately, leading to death of hundreds of thousands of Japanese civilians. Why were civilians the target of such a devastating weapon? Was it the belief that the Japanese would never surrender? Or were they used like mere guinea pigs for the rest of the world to see? The question of why the atomic bombs were used against Japan, and the question of why the specific cities were the targets, has a very complicated answer. Tensions between different races, ideals, and cultures played a huge role in the outcomes of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Furthermore, to complicate things more, timing, location, the oncoming Cold War, and the history of the countries also played a significant role. Japan was willing to surrender in June of 1945 (two months before we dropped the bobs on Japan). Over 60 Japanese cities had been destroyed, they were surrounded, and Russia had just declared war on Japan. They wanted to surrender as quickly as possible, while still holding onto their customs and culture. However, the United States wanted an unconditional surrender. Japanese soldiers tormented, tortured, raped, and murdered hundreds of thousands of Chinese civilians. Did that make it right for the United States to drop two atomic bombs on the country of Japan? The United States did not have to drop the bombs on two cities in Japan. The United States would have been able to convince them by dropping a bomb off the harbor of Tokyo.

******Topics of Focus:**

1. History of Racial Tension
2. Primary sources from Hiroshima & Nagasaki
3. Japanese Nationalism
4. History between United States and Japan beginning in late 1800's
5. Manhattan Project
6. Harry Truman

Estimated Duration- 3 42-minute Class periods

Materials & Resources:

2 Students	Powerpoint Notes
Worksheet	
Computer with Internet Access	Journal
Questions	
Projector	Pen/Pencil
Speakers	Computers with iPhoto

Teacher Preparation:

- Need to familiarize yourself with Hiroshima & Nagasaki
- Need to familiarize yourself with the conclusion of WWII
- Need to get 2 students who are willing to work hard to put together and effective storybook
- Need to construct questions based off storybook

******Day One:**

1. Give students notes off Powerpoint
2. Give students background information

Day Two:

1. Distribute Worksheet
2. Play Storybook (5 minutes)
3. Give students time to finish worksheet (5 minutes)
4. Collect Worksheets (2 minutes)
5. Assign students journal entry based off 3 questions (25 minutes)
 - a. Students need to have at the minimum 12 sentences

Day Three:

1. Give back Worksheets (2 minutes)
2. Go over worksheets (10 minutes)
3. Reflect on Journal entries (30 minutes)
 - a. Leads to discussion & debate

Objectives:

1. We will cover the state standards and school curriculum
2. Students will be able to teach other students through storybook
3. Students will reinforce their understanding by answering the questions based off a storybook
4. Students will reflect on important questions that were prevalent at end of WWII
5. Students will lead into a discussion and debate

Name: _____

**Atomic Bombs
Storybook Worksheet**

1. What was the name of the atomic bomb dropped on Hiroshima?
2. What was the name of the atomic bomb dropped on Nagasaki?
3. Was Nagasaki the original target? If not what was?
4. Why were Hiroshima and Nagasaki chosen? (Hint: Science)
5. Did Japan try to surrender before the atomic bombs were dropped? If so, to which country?
6. What did Japan do when they spotted the enemy aircraft hovering above the cities?
7. How hot did the temperature reach at ground zero in Hiroshima?
8. How many people instantly died in each city, Hiroshima and Nagasaki?
9. What happened to any incoming or outgoing communication in Hiroshima? Why is that?
10. What did the Japanese do at the Potsdam Declaration?
11. Did everyone in Japan want to surrender even after the dropping of the two atomic bombs? Instead of surrendering, what did many Japanese do and why?
12. What was the date of the Japanese surrender?
13. What were some common after effects for survivor of the atomic blasts?
14. Has Hiroshima recovered from the attacks? What do they do each year to commemorate?

