

## **Section 5: The Dropping of the Atomic Bomb on Japan**

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American history grade 10

Lesson designed for 50 minutes but can be extended.

Major theme: Dropping of the bomb on Japan

Essential Question: Should the atomic bomb have been dropped?

Objective: The students have an understanding of the context involving the dropping of the atomic bomb on Japan to end WWII. They will be comparing the pros and cons of the decision and then form their own conclusion on whether the bomb should have been dropped or not.

Opening engagement activity: Students will be shown video on the dropping of the atomic bomb on Hiroshima to end WWII.

[www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com) .”The Day that Shook the World: Dropping the bomb on Hiroshima.” This video is an excerpt from the second installment in the documentary series composed and presented by the British Broadcasting Corporation in 2009 “Days that Shook the World.”

Additional activities: Students will view Powerpoint and take notes on the pros and cons of dropping the bomb. (See attachment). Students will also read excerpts from Barefoot Gen by Keiji Nakazawa. The pages shown will be in regard to the dropping of the bomb.

Post assessment: Students will have completed handout about the pros and cons of dropping the bomb and then be asked to develop their own conclusion supported by evidence from the Powerpoint.

They will then share their viewpoints with the class.

To further lesson, the class can be split in two and a mini-debate on the issue can be developed. One side would argue for and the other against the dropping of the bomb. Students would be expected to come prepared to argue for either side, and they will only be assigned to their teams at the beginning of the class session.