

LESSON TWO: WOMEN IN TWO COUNTRIES: JAPAN AND AMERICA

Ohio Standards Connections

- Standard: People in Societies
- Benchmark(s): Analyze the influence of different cultural perspectives on the actions of groups.
- Indicator(s): Explain how advances in communication and transportation have impacted popular culture.
- Standard: History
- Benchmark(s)/Indicator(s): Analyze the impact of U.S. participation in World War II with emphasis on events on the home front to support the war effort, including mobilization, women and minorities in the workforce.

Assessment

- *Pre-Assessment:* Prior to completing this lesson, students will have an elementary understanding of the role of women in America and other Western societies. The students will also have a basic lesson on Japanese history that is found in our unit plan. To introduce the lesson, the students will have to complete a pretest about women in America and Japan. After taking the quiz, the teacher will go over the questions and begin a discussion by asking the following questions:
 - What was the role of women in America during the 1920s? The 1950s? The 1990s?
 - What was the role of women in Japan during the same time period?
 - What are some of the jobs women have today? Why do you think this change happened?
 - Did this change happen in both countries?

The teacher will then show a map of Japan and talk about what geographic differences could cause the difference in the way women were treated in both countries.

- *Scoring Criteria:* The students will not be formally tested on this information, but judging by the discussion the teacher will be able to determine if more knowledge needs to be offered before beginning the lesson.
- *Post-Assessment:* Students will be graded on the activities completed during this lesson including note-taking abilities, completion of a T-chart diagram comparing Japan and America and a final Power Point presentation.

Lesson Summary:

- Women during wars are often overlooked, yet they served a very important role. In this lesson, students will learn about the role of women in Japan and the United States during World War Two. The lessons will focus on women and the family and women and the workplace and the changes within each. As a final project, the students will have to create an informational brochure of women comparing both countries during the war period.

Instructional Procedures:

Day One:

- After beginning the first day with the questions listed above, the teacher will show students a picture of two women—one Japanese and one American. The teacher will ask the students what differences they notice—if any. The teacher will then begin a short lecture listing characteristics of women in both countries during World War Two. While the teacher is giving the lesson, the students will be completing a t-chart comparing the two countries. To end the lesson, the teacher will summarize the t-charts and ask the students to place them in their notebooks.

Day Two:

- During this class period, students will be making comparisons between women in both countries. Students may use their T-charts as well as additional information taken from the resources listed below. On a sheet of paper and working with a partner, students need to find the following information:
 - List 7 characteristics of Japanese women;
 - List 7 characteristics of American women;
 - List 4 similarities between both countries.
- At the end of the period, the teacher will have the students compile their information into one comprehensive list.

Day Three and Four:

- The teacher will begin the class period by reviewing the information learned in the last two lessons. The teacher will then announce that the students will be constructing an informational brochure about women in Japan and America.
- Before beginning, the students need review their notes and textbooks for information. Then place the brochure instructions on the overhead. Their brochures must include the following items:
 - Characteristics of women in both countries during World War Two;
 - At least four pictures (2 from each country);
 - At least five similarities and five differences between women in the two countries.
- At the end of day four, the teacher will collect the student projects and complete a final discussion about women.

Differentiated Instruction Strategies:

- This lesson will use the following instructional strategies to meet the needs of individual students:
 - Visual note-taking using a T-chart;
 - Compare/Contrast list of women characteristics;
 - Brochure.

Estimated Time Duration:

- Four to five, 43 minute class periods.

Materials and Resources Needed:

For the teacher:

- Lesson lecture;
- Prior knowledge of women in Japan and America;
- Worksheets provided.

For the students:

- Notebooks;
- Textbook;
- Writing utensil;
- Worksheets provided;
- An open mind.

Additional Readings and Resources (can be used for the gender brochure projects):

- Havens, Thomas R. "Women and War in Japan, 1037-1945." *American Historical Review* 80 (1975): 913-934.
 - One of the few articles I was able to locate on this topic. Although it is an older article I still found it valuable and it is available on JSTOR.
- Duus Peter, Rmon H. Myers, and Mark R Peattie. *The Japanese Wartime Empire. 1931-1945*. Princeton University Press 1996.
 - A good summary of the war effort, discusses women but only minimally.
- IEEE Virtual Museum <http://ieee-virtual-museum.org>
 - It is very difficult to find information completely focused on Japanese women during WWII. This website is one of the few that spends time discussing the various roles of women in WWII.
- American women during WWII <http://www.teacheroz.com/WWIIHomefront.htm>
 - This website is AWESOME! There are links to every aspect of women in the war imaginable. There are also a large amount of pictures and primary sources available.
- Photographs of women during WWII http://www.loc.gov/rr/print/list/126_rosi.html
 - A great website collection of women during WWII. There are many different black and white photographs as well as propaganda posters.
- Stein, R. Conrad. *The Home front during World War II in American History*. Berkeley Heights, NJ: Enslow Publishers, 2003.
 - This book is primarily focused on the home front efforts of both men and women, but still offers insight into the role of women in World War Two.
- Kerber, Linda K. and Jane Sherron De Hart. *Women's America: Refocusing on the Past, Fifth Edition*. Oxford University Press, 2000.

- This book is a wonderful resource for American women's history. It contains many articles for many different authors. There is an article on Japanese-American women as well as women workers during WWII. There are also many statistics that could easily be used in the classroom.
- Woloch, Nancy. *Women and the American Experience: A Concise History*. The McGraw-Hill Companies, Inc. 1996.
 - Another chronological description of American women's history. This book is very nice for reference and finding out quick facts. It is also very readable for high school students.

Homework Options:

- Students could work on their brochures at home and share them in class.
- Students could also complete primary document reading assignments about specific women in the war. This would be a wonderful addition to this lesson if time allows.

Interdisciplinary Connections:

- Students could read some primary documents from the time period as a connection to English.
- Lesson could also connect to Economics by showing the impact women made during WWII on the economy.

Technology Connections:

- Students could compile their own Power Points instead of a brochure.
- Students could also use the computer to complete their brochure project (e.g. for pictures, etc.).

Women during WWII

Women in Japan

Women in America

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Gender Brochures

DIRECTIONS: Working by yourself you will an informational brochure about women in Japan and the United States. You must figure out the design of your brochure, then using your notes and book find information about women during WWII. Your brochure must be targeted at someone who does not know about gender differences in Japan and America. Your brochure must include the following information:

- Five characteristics of women in Japan during WWII;
- Five characteristics of women in America during WWII;
- Pictures that represent women in America and Japan
- Four similarities between women in both countries;
- Color and originality are a MUST!!

TOTAL POINTS: 50 points

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