

Lesson plan on Japan

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Objective:

After reading the novel *Hiroshima* by John Hershey and several resources about the atomic bombs, students will write an argumentative essay supporting their view on whether the US was justified in bombing Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

Audience:

This is directed towards 8th grade students but would be appropriate for 9th graders since that is when WWII is studied.

Standards:

OHIO'S NEW LEARNING STANDARDS | English Language Arts

Research to build and present knowledge

9. Draw evidence from literary or informational texts to support analysis, reflection, and research.

Writing Standards

2. Write informative/explanatory texts to examine and convey complex ideas, concepts, and information clearly and accurately through the effective selection, organization, and analysis of content

Informational Texts

1. Cite the textual evidence that most strongly supports an analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text.

Resources Used:

1. *Hiroshima* by John Hershey
2. William and Mary English and Language Arts Curriculum Unit: *The 1940s: A Decade of Change* Lesson 19– published by Kendal Hunt Lesson

Lesson:

1. After reading Hiroshima, these are the discussion questions from the William and Mary unit(page 171)
 - a. Literary Analysis and Interpretation questions
 - i. What are some similarities in the stories of those who survived the bomb dropped on Hiroshima? What are some differences in their stories?
 - ii. What observations do the survivors make after the bomb is dropped? What do they notice? To what do they pay attention? Why?
 - iii. In what ways does Hersey show that his characters are ordinary? Why does he emphasize the ordinary aspects of their personality and behavior?
 - b. Reasoning Questions
 - i. What are some similarities in the points of view of American and Japanese citizens on the bombing of Hiroshima? What are some differences?
 - ii. What is Hershey's point of view about the bombing Hiroshima? What evidence from the book supports your response? What techniques does Hersey use to reveal his perspective?
 - iii. What do you think was Hersey's purpose in writing this piece?
2. Have the students investigate the reasons that were given for bombing Hiroshima and Nagasaki.
 - a. Websites to refer: (Resources about the decision to drop the bomb)
 - i. http://www.hiroshima-spirit.jp/en/museum/morgue_e12.html
 - ii. <http://www.ushistory.org/us/51g.asp>
 - iii. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9-WnLNLe3sk> - Peter Jennings video on Hiroshima
3. Assessment: Using the knowledge gained from websites, YouTube video and Hiroshima, create an argumentative essay with points and counterpoints that support your position.
 Essay topic: Was the US justified in dropping the atomic bomb on Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

