*Endorsed by the Michigan Council for HIstory Education*

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***Words of WWII* Lesson Plan**

**Grade Level:** 8-12

**Discipline:** United States History

**Guiding Question:** Why is it important for Americans to remember their fallen WWII veterans?

**Overview:** Many Americans lost their lives overseas during World War II. Thousands of the fallen soldiers families elected to allow their loved ones to remain interned in overseas cemeteries cared for by the United States government. Unfortunately, today many of these American veterans families are no longer alive or are unable to travel overseas to visit their fallen loved one. Students from John Glenn High School are inviting students from across the state of Michigan to remember fallen United States soldiers buried at the Ardennes American Cemetery in Belgium or the Normandy American Cemetery in France. Michigan students can research a Michigan veteran buried at one of these cemeteries and compose a personal letter to be read at the veteran’s graveside in April 2020 by a student from John Glenn High School. Letters and release forms are to be mailed to **Michele Anderson, John Glenn High School, 36105 Marquette, Westland, MI 48185**. Letters must be received by March 31st, 2020.

**Historical Context:**  World War II

**Objectives:**

-Use primary and secondary sources to research a United States veteran buried in the Ardennes or Normandy American Cemetery.

-Describe a World War II battle(s).

-Analyze and describe the feelings of American citizens toward deceased American veterans buried overseas.

-Use historical evidence to develop and express a personal opinion in written form.

**Standards Connections:**

**CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RH.6-8.2** Determine the central ideas or information of a primary or secondary source; provide an accurate summary of the source distinct from prior knowledge or opinions.

**CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.6-8.3** Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, relevant descriptive details, and well-structured event sequences.

**CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RH.11-12.7** Integrate and evaluate multiple sources of information presented in diverse formats and media (e.g., visually, quantitatively, as well as in words) in order to address a question or solve a problem.

**Michigan High School Content Expectations:**

**USHG ERA 7-The Great Depression and World War II (1920-1945)**

**HSCE 7.2.3 Impact of World War II on American Life-** analyze the changes in American life brought about by U.S. participation in World War II, including; the mobilization of economic, military, and social resources and the role of the home front in supporting the war effort

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**Websites Used:** ABMC.gov

**Materials:**

-teacher access to a computer with a data projector or Smartboard

-copies of double sided *Words of WWII* Directions and Rubric

-copies of the Release Form

-paper

**Lesson Preparation:**

-review D-Day and the Battle of the Bulge

-make copies of the Words of WWII Directions and Rubric

-make copies of the Release Form

**Procedure:**

**Activity 1**: **Introduction to the Words of WWII Project**

STEP 1: Describe to students the purpose of the Words of WWII project.

STEP 2: Ask students why they think it is important for the United States citizens to remember Americans who lost their lives fighting in WWII. Facilitate discussion.

STEP 3: Ask students why French and Belgium citizens still honor Americans who lost their lives fighting in WWII. Facilitate discussion.

STEP 4: Pass out the Words of WWII Directions sheet and go over the requirements for the project.

STEP 5: Instruct students to turn over the sheet to the rubric. Go over the grading expectations addressed on the rubric.

**Activity 2: Researching a WWII veteran buried in Normandy or the Ardennes American Cemetery**

Step 1: On a Smartboard/computer, go to the website ABMC.gov.

Step 2: Next to the Search button is the word “Advanced”. Click on “Advanced”.

Step 3: “Start Your Search” will appear. Scroll down and select Michigan for the State Entered Service From. Next, select either Ardennes American Cemetery or Normandy American Cemetery. Finally, select World War II and then hit search.

Step 4: There are 207 veterans from Michigan buried in the Ardennes American Cemetery. There are 419 veterans from Michigan buried in the Normandy American Cemetery. Click on the underlined last name of the veteran to reveal the veteran’s information. Students should select one veteran from which to research and write their personal letter.

Step 5: Students should use the information provided on ABMC.gov as a beginning point to conduct further research using other resources on their selected veteran.

Step 6: Students compose personal letters to the researched veteran using researched information.

Step 7: Students type and sign their letter.

Step 8: Collect the student letter and release forms.

Step 9: Correct the student letters using the provided rubric.

Step 10: Mail the student release form with each student letter who scored 25 points to: Michele Anderson, John Glenn High School, Westland, MI 48185.

Step 11: Student letters will be read at the veteran graveside between April 4-11. A video of the readings will be posted on Youtube no later than May 1, 2020.

**Assessment:**

-Student personal letter