



FOR MORE INFORMATION:  
[info@honoringveteranlegacies.org](mailto:info@honoringveteranlegacies.org)

HVL LESSON TITLE:

# WORTH A 1,000 WORDS

DEVELOPED BY: ERIN COGGINS

## WORTH A 1,000 WORDS

GUIDING QUESTION:

How can photographs from  
battles help capture the story of  
history?

### OVERVIEW:

Veteran Duane Hoffman was a photographer in the Navy. During his tenure, he was tasked with taking photographs of aircraft landing on aircraft carriers. Thousands of photographers have photographed battle fields since the Civil War, giving the American public insight into the action of battle.



**SUBJECT(S):**  
Social Studies



**VETERAN(S):**  
Duane Hoffman



**DURATION:**  
60 minutes

---

# WORTH A 1,000 WORDS

DEVELOPED BY: ERIN COGGINS

---

**“Every plane that came in had pictures that were taken with a 35 mm camera that was on the tail-hook. And if you were coming in with a fully loaded, I mean armed with rockets and everything, you had to make sure that you kept both eyes open.”**

**Veteran Duane Hoffman**

## OVERVIEW:

Veteran Duane Hoffman was a photographer in the Navy. During his tenure, he was tasked with taking photographs of aircraft landing on aircraft carriers. Thousands of photographers have photographed battle fields since the Civil War, giving the American public insight into the action of battle.

## HISTORICAL CONTEXT:

Over 3,000 photographs were taken during the Civil War. In World War II over 1 million photographs were taken. By the time the Vietnam War occurred, photographs were shared in both the newspapers and TV media. These photographs gave the American public insight into the plights of war.

Today these photos are preserved on websites, in archives, and in museums and serve as primary sources in telling history. The largest collection is in the National Archives and Records Administration.

## OBJECTIVES:

At the conclusion of this lesson, students will be able to

- Analyze photographs as a primary source.
- Write a summation of primary sources.

## STANDARDS:

**AL: A.1.b.**

Identify and interpret primary sources of fundamental importance and relevance to understanding history.

# WORTH A 1,000 WORDS

DEVELOPED BY: ERIN COGGINS



## MATERIALS & DOCUMENTS

[Duane Hoffman HVL Video](#)

Entrance Ticket (Doc A)

[Photo for Modeling](#)

Analysis Questions and Directions (Doc B)

Internet Access

## PROCEDURES

### ACTIVITY 01

- Show students the [Duane Hoffman HVL Video](#). Instruct students to complete the entrance ticket as they watch the video.
- Inform students of the role of photographers in war throughout history. **NOTE:** Use information from the historical context.

### ACTIVITY 02

- Inform students that they will work in groups to analyze photographs of the war. **NOTE:** This lesson can be used in studying any war from Civil War to current wars.
- Project the Photo for Modeling (Eisenhower addressing paratroopers) using the Analysis Questions.
- Divide students into groups of 3-4 students. Distribute the Analysis Questions and Directions (Doc B).
- Set a timer for 20-30 minutes.

### ACTIVITY 03

- Direct students to complete the final assignment on the Analysis Question (Doc B) handout.
- If time allows, ask for volunteers to share a summary of their group reflection.



## ENTRANCE TICKET

Describe Mr. Hoffman's entry into the military.

What was Mr. Hoffman's primary job in the military?

What types of things did Mr. Hoffman photograph while in the military?

If you were a war photographer, what types of things do you think you would have to photograph?



## ANALYSIS QUESTIONS

**DIRECTIONS:** Divide the tasks amongst group members. Use the Internet to search and locate a photo that fits the description. Once the tasks are divided, use the analysis questions to analyze your photo and complete the final activity.

|             |  |
|-------------|--|
| Photo One   | Photo from the beginning of the war.                           |
| Photo Two   | Photo of a battle.   |
| Photo Three | Photos of soldiers, home front workers, home front conditions. |
| Photo Four  | Photo from the ending of the war.                              |

### ANALYSIS QUESTIONS:

#### OBSERVE:

1. Describe what you see.
2. What do you notice first?
3. What people and objects are shown?
4. What is the setting?
5. What other details do you notice?

#### REFLECT

1. Why do you think this image was made?
2. Who do you think the audience was for this photograph?
3. What can you learn from examining this image?

#### QUESTION

1. What do you wonder about? Who? What? When? Where? Why? How?



### **REFLECTION-FINAL ASSIGNMENT**

After analyzing each of the photos, write a reflection on what these four photographs taught you about the war. The reflection should reference the observe, reflect, and question portions of the analysis.