



FOR MORE INFORMATION:
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HVL LESSON TITLE:

CONDITIONS OF SURRENDER

DEVELOPED BY: ERIN COGGINS

CONDITIONS OF SURRENDER

GUIDING QUESTION:

What were the conditions of the Japanese Instrument of Surrender and how did it impact all involved?

OVERVIEW:

The Japanese government signed the Instrument of Surrender to end World War II on September 2, 1945 aboard the USS Missouri in Tokyo Bay. In this lesson, students will analyze the official Instrument of Surrender to better understand the conditions of the surrender. They will also research the dignitaries that were present at the surrender to understand the widespread impact of the surrender of World War II.



SUBJECT(S):
Social Studies



VIETNAM VETERAN(S):
Pat Patterson



DURATION:
60 minutes

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“I was on the USS Amsterdam, and we were anchored not too far from the USS Missouri where the armistice was signed. And I could see through my field glasses the signing of the declaration of armistice.”

WWII Veteran Pat Patterson

OVERVIEW:

The Japanese government signed the Instrument of Surrender to end World War II on September 2, 1945 aboard the USS Missouri in Tokyo Bay. In this lesson, students will analyze the official Instrument of Surrender to better understand the conditions of the surrender. They will also research the dignitaries that were present at the surrender to understand the widespread impact of the surrender of World War II.

HISTORICAL CONTEXT:

The Instrument of Surrender was the document that formalized Japan's surrender at the end of World War II, signed on September 2, 1945, aboard the USS Missouri in Tokyo Bay. It was prepared by the U.S. War Department and approved by President Truman, stipulating the unconditional surrender of Japanese forces and their acceptance of the Potsdam Declaration.

The signing was conducted by representatives from Japan and the Allied nations, with General Douglas MacArthur signing as Supreme Allied Commander.

OBJECTIVES:

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

- Understand the conditions of the Instrument of Surrender that ended WWII by analyzing a primary source.
- Utilize research skills to conduct in-depth historical research.

STANDARDS:

AL SS: 11: 7e

Explain how key consequences of World War II shaped United States foreign policy after the war.

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MATERIALS & DOCUMENTS

[Pat Patterson HVL Video](#)

Instrument of Surrender (Doc A)

Instrument of Surrender Questions (Doc B)

Research Directions (Doc C)

Exit Slip (Doc D)

Internet Connection

PROCEDURES

ACTIVITY 01

- Inform students that they will watch a video of WWII veteran Pat Patterson. Instruct them to jot down in bullet format, their thoughts as Mr. Patterson tells his story.
- Show the [Pat Patterson HVL Video](#)
- After the video, point out to students that Mr. Patterson reveals that he was present on the day Japan signed the official Instrument of Surrender.

ACTIVITY 02

- Tell students about the Sept. 2, 1945 Japanese surrender. Inform students that they will analyze the Instrument of Surrender to better understand the conditions of ending World War II. Be sure to inform students of the Potsdam Conference.
- Distribute the Instrument of Surrender Document (Doc A) and the Instruments of Surrender Questions (Doc B). Read the directions aloud as students follow along.
- **NOTE:** This can be completed individually followed by a discussion or completed together as a class.

ACTIVITY 03

- Distribute the Research Directions (Doc C). Read the directions aloud as students follow along.
- Students will access the Internet to complete research on the government officials present at the signing. Teachers may divide students into partners or into groups of 3 to complete the research.
- After research is conducted, instruct students to complete the Exit Slip (Doc D).

CONDITIONS OF SURRENDER

INSTRUMENT OF SURRENDER

DOC A



INSTRUMENT OF SURRENDER

[National Archives Link](#)

We, acting by command of and in behalf of the Emperor of Japan, the Japanese Government, and the Japanese Imperial General Headquarters, hereby accept the provisions set forth in the declaration issued by the heads of the Governments of the United States, China, and Great Britain on 26 July 1945 at Potsdam, and subsequently adhered to by the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, which four powers are hereafter referred to as the Allied Powers.

We hereby proclaim the unconditional surrender to the Allied Powers of the Japanese Imperial General Headquarters and of all Japanese armed forces and all armed forces under Japanese control wherever situated.

We hereby command all Japanese forces wherever situated and the Japanese people to cease hostilities forthwith, to preserve and save from damage all ships, aircraft, and military and civil property and to comply with all requirements which may be imposed by the Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers or by agencies of the Japanese Government at his direction.

We hereby command the Japanese Imperial Headquarters to issue at once orders to the Commanders of all Japanese forces and all forces under Japanese control wherever situated to surrender unconditionally themselves and all forces under their control.

We hereby command all civil, military, and naval officials to obey and enforce all proclamations, orders, and directives deemed by the Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers to be proper to effectuate this surrender and issued by him or under his authority and we direct all such officials to remain at their posts and to continue to perform their non-combatant duties unless specifically relieved by him or under his authority.

We hereby undertake for the Emperor, the Japanese Government, and their successors to carry out the provisions of the Potsdam Declaration in good faith, and to issue whatever orders and take whatever actions may be required by the Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers or by any other designated representative of the Allied Powers for the purpose of giving effect to that Declaration.

We hereby command the Japanese Imperial Government and the Japanese Imperial General Headquarters at once to liberate all allied prisoners of war and civilian internees now under Japanese control and to provide for their protection, care, maintenance, and immediate transportation to places as directed.

The authority of the Emperor and the Japanese Government to rule the state shall be subject to the Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers who will take such steps as he deems proper to effectuate these terms of surrender.

Signed at TOKYO BAY, JAPAN at 9:41 a.m. on the SECOND day of SEPTEMBER, 1945

MAMORU SHIGMITSU

By Command and in behalf of the Emperor
of Japan and the Japanese Government

YOSHIJIRO UMEZU

By Command and in behalf of the Japanese
Imperial General Headquarters

Accepted at TOKYO BAY, JAPAN at 9:31 a.m. on the SECOND day of SEPTEMBER, 1945, for the
United States, Republic of China, United Kingdom, and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, and
in the interests of the other United Nations at war with Japan.

DOUGLAS MAC ARTHUR

Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers

C.W. NIMITZ

United States Representative

HSU YUNG-CH'ANG

Republic of China Representative

BRUCE FRASER

United Kingdom Representative

KUZMA DEREVYANKO

Union of Soviet Socialist
Republics Representative

THOMAS BLAMEY

Commonwealth of Australia
Representative

L. MOORE COSGRAVE

Dominion of Canada Representative

JACQUES LE CLERC

Provisional Government of the French
Republic Representative

C.E.L. HELFRICH

Kingdom of the Netherlands
Representative

LEONARD M. ISITT

Dominion of New Zealand Representative

CONDITIONS OF SURRENDER

INSTRUMENT OF SURRENDER QUESTIONS

DOC C



DIRECTIONS: Using the Instrument of Surrender document, answer the following questions.

1. Who set forth the provisions in the declaration of surrender?

2. What are the 7 “WE HEREBY” conditions?

3. In your opinion, rate these conditions in order of most important to least important.

Explain your process of rating the 7 conditions.

4. What is the tone of this document?

CONDITIONS OF SURRENDER

INSTRUMENT OF SURRENDER QUESTIONS



5. According to the document, who will see to it that these conditions are carried out?

6. How many government officials were present at the signing of the Instrument of Surrender?

7. One of the conditions is managed by the Supreme Commander of the Allied Powers. Who is the Supreme Commander of the Allied Powers?

8. Put yourself in Mr. Patterson's shoes. How would you describe to future generations the importance of witnessing the signing of the Instrument of Surrender on Sept. 2, 1945?

9. Do you think these conditions are fair? Are there any conditions that you would add that are not included? Be specific when answering.

CONDITIONS OF SURRENDER

RESEARCH DIRECTIONS

DOC D



DIRECTIONS: Use the Internet to conduct research on the people listed below. Fully complete each section.

Government Official	Country Represented	Reason(s) You Think He was Chosen as a Rep	Did this person have a role after the surrender?
Mamoru Shigemitsu			
Douglas Mac Arthur			
Chester Nimitz			
Hsu Yung-Ch'ang			
Bruce Fraser			
Kuzma Derevyanko			
Thomas Blamey			
L. Moore Cosgrave			
Jacques Le Clerc			
Leonard Isitt			
C.E.I. Helfrich			
Yoshijiro Umezo			

CONDITIONS OF SURRENDER

EXIT SLIP

DOC E



After analyzing the Japanese Instrument of Surrender, what impact do you feel the conditions of the surrender had on the post-war world? Write at least 2-3 paragraphs.