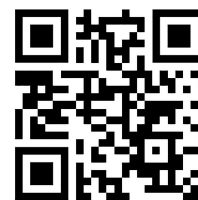




FOR MORE INFORMATION:
info@honoringveteranlegacies.org



SCAN ME TO VIEW LESSON

HVL LESSON TITLE:

BRINGING THEM HOME

DEVELOPED BY: ERIN COGGINS

BRINGING THEM HOME GUIDING QUESTION:

Why is it important to
memorialize fallen
soldiers?

OVERVIEW

This lesson utilizes primary sources to tell the story of the Battle of Tarawa and asks students to reflect on how to memorialize those who made the ultimate sacrifice for our country's freedom.



Subject(s):
English
History



WWII Veteran(s):
John Kuhn



Duration:
80 min.

BRINGING THEM HOME

DEVELOPED BY: ERIN COGGINS

“Later, when the battle was over, and he was burying bodies on the beach, he recognized some of them.”

CHRIS BATTE - JOHN'S FRIEND

OVERVIEW

This lesson utilizes primary sources to tell the story of the Battle of Tarawa and asks students to reflect on how to memorialize those who made the ultimate sacrifice for our country's freedom.

HISTORICAL CONTEXT

On November 20, 1943, the Marine Corps faced the most fortified atoll that America would invade in the Pacific Theater. The battle, which lasted for three days, is known as the D-Day of the Pacific and one of the bloodiest battles of WWII. The Marines sustained multiple Japanese banzai charges to finally secure the island, getting one step closer to liberating the Philippines.

OBJECTIVES

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

- Understand the importance of capturing the island of Tarawa and its place in WWII battle history;
- Understand the importance of memorializing the fallen; and
- Utilize primary sources to obtain information about the Battle of Tarawa.

STANDARDS

CCSS. 11-12.RH.2.

Determine the central ideas or information of a primary or secondary source; provide an accurate summary that makes clear the relationships among the key details and ideas

D2.His.3.9-12.

Use questions generated about individuals and groups to assess how the significance of their actions changes over time and is shaped by the historical context.

CCSS: 11-12.RH.9.

Integrate information from diverse sources, both primary and secondary, into a coherent understanding of an idea or event.



MATERIALS & DOCUMENTS

DOCUMENT A:

Photo of John Kuhn (This Can Be Shown On A Projector)

DOCUMENT B:

Biography of John Kuhn

ATHENS NEW COURIER ARTICLE LINK:

Organization helps to heal senior veterans

https://www.encyclopedia.com/news/local_news/forever-young-organization-helps-to-heal-senior-veterans/article_1c139ce4-1adf-11ea-ab45-6bd6d67e090e.html

DOCUMENT C: BATTLE OF TARAWA ARTICLE LINK:

75 years ago, US Marines waded into 'the toughest battle in Marine Corps history' - Business Insider

<https://www.businessinsider.com/battle-of-tarawa-in-wwii-the-toughest-battle-in-marine-corps-history-2017-11>

WORLD WAR II MEMORIAL LINK:

Images of the World War II Memorial at National Mall & Memorial Parks in D.C.

<https://www.nps.gov/media/photo/gallery.htm?pg=2805814&id=DA51327D-CC8A-49B9-B24D-43E5981CDEC8>

DOCUMENT D:

Tarawa Activity Sheet

*Computers with Internet Access and a Projector
Drawing Paper and Colored Pencils or Markers*

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
email: info@honoringveteranlegacies.org

PROCEDURES

ACTIVITY 01 (10-15 minutes)

Getting to Know a Hero

- Project the photo of John Kuhn.
- Distribute the biography of John Kuhn. Have students read it or have the class read it together. Ask students why they believe John Kuhn had such a difficult time forgetting his experiences at Tarawa. Teachers can also read aloud the story at the Athens New Courier article link:

ACTIVITY 02 (30-45 minutes)

Looking into the Battle of Tarawa

- Direct students to Document C: 75 Years Ago, U.S. Marines waded into the toughest battle in Marine Corps history (Business Insider).
- Students will choose 3 photos from the article (inform them to choose a varied selection). They will answer the questions on each of the photos on Document D.
- After students have completed the analyzing the photographs. Stop and discuss, using these questions. What did you learn about Tarawa from these photos? What stands out the most in these photos? How do these photos help you understand John Kuhn's story a little more?

ACTIVITY 03 (15 minutes)

Memorializing Tarawa

Inform the students that 1,020 American soldiers died in the Battle of Tarawa. Many of those have still not returned home.

- Using a link to the National World War II Memorial Photo Gallery, project the images from the photo gallery. Go through the images and ask students to point out key elements of the Memorial that tells the story of sacrifice.
- Direct students back to Document D (Tarawa Activity Sheet). Read the directions out loud. Students will then answer the questions on the sheet and draw their own Memorial to those who died at Tarawa.
- Distribute drawing paper and colored pencils or markers to students to create their memorial.