

HONORING VETERAN LEGACIES

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SCAN ME TO VIEW LESSON

HVL LESSON TITLE:

JUNGLE FIGHTING

DEVELOPED BY: MICHELLE BREEDEN

JUNGLE FIGHTING

GUIDING QUESTION:

How can physical geography impact an American soldiers' ability to complete the mission?

OVERVIEW

Students will compare and contrast Luzon, Philippines and Normandy, France in order to visualize and understand the challenges each battle location presented. Students will use Mr. Branon's interview to realize the complexity of the jungle terrain presented to the American soldier and how they had to utilize new strategies in order to accomplish missions.



Subject(s):
Social Studies
Geography



WWII Veteran(s):
Otis Branon



Duration:
45 minutes

JUNGLE FIGHTING

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“And I heard a click and I knew exactly what it was. I said ‘uh-oh’ and I jumped up and looked. There was a Japanese soldier coming down the trail.”

OTIS BRANON - WWII VETERAN

OVERVIEW

Students will compare and contrast Luzon, Philippines and Normandy, France in order to visualize and understand the challenges each battle location presented. Students will use Mr. Branon's interview to realize the complexity of the jungle terrain presented to the American soldier and how they had to utilize new strategies in order to accomplish missions.

HISTORICAL CONTEXT

The Philippines were a strategic focus for the United States during the World War II Pacific Front. The Battle of Luzon saw one of the highest number of American casualties in the war reaching more than 46,000. The American soldier not only faced guerrilla warfare as the primary fighting style, which was uncommon to them, but they also faced diseases and unfamiliar geographic features. The largest battle cemetery outside of Arlington, is in Luzon with 17,000 soldiers laid to rest in this location.

OBJECTIVES

By the end of the lesson, students will be able to:

- Identify and explain the role geography played in Luzon, Philippines during World War II;
- Use primary and secondary sources to form an opinion.

STANDARDS

CCSS.ELA- Literacy 6-8.1

Cite specific textual evidence to support analysis of primary and secondary sources.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy 6-8.7

Integrate visual information (e.g., charts, graphics, photographs, videos, or maps) with other information in print and digital texts.



MATERIALS & DOCUMENTS

DOCUMENT A:

Compare and Contrast Battle
Locations Activity Sheet

DOCUMENT B:

3-2-1 one per student Activity Sheet

OTIS BRANON VIDEO LINK:

*WW2 Soldier Hunts Sniper in the
Jungle | Conversations With a Veteran*
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MJqsDDTSIBI>

Index card for each student

Computer with Internet access

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
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PROCEDURES

ACTIVITY 01

- In Small groups- Have students compare the Physical Map of Luzon, Philippines with the Physical Map of Normandy, France (Document A). Students will reflect on guiding questions and record their responses.
- Discuss student responses with the class.

ACTIVITY 02

Watch Otis Branon Hero video. While students watch the video to have them complete Part 2 on Document A where they are to take notes on the physical geography and the experience Mr. Branon had while fighting in this part of the world.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MJqsDDTSIBI>

- Once students have completed the video, have them use Document B as a group or in pairs to complete a 3-2-1 using the following questions. What were 3 challenges soldiers faced in the Pacific front versus the European front? What were 2 reasons the jungle terrain hindered the American soldiers from finding the sniper? Name 1 reason why Otis Branon was specifically requested for this mission in the jungle.
- If time allows, have students share a few of their responses to the 3-2-1.

EXTENSION ACTIVITIES:

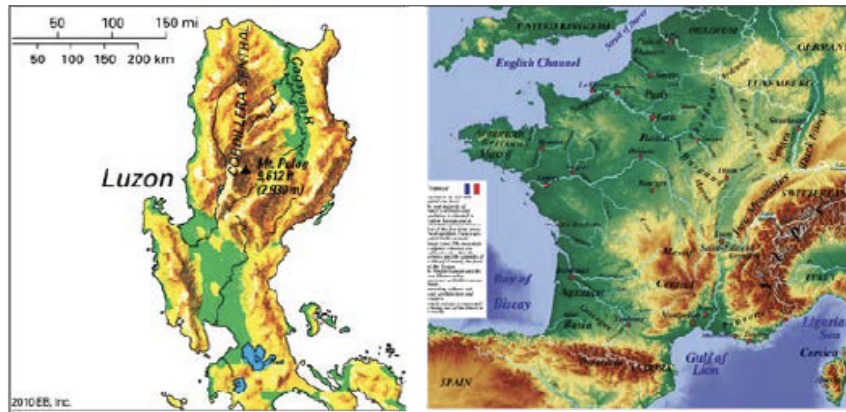
Give each student a lined index card and have them reflect on the geographic features of Luzon and Mr. Branon's interview. Have them write a short postcard home to a family talking about what it was like fighting in a jungle. Make sure to challenge students to include specifics in relation to geographic features.

Jungle Fighting Activity Sheet

Compare and Contrast Battle Locations

Part 1

Directions: Looking at the two photos provided, compare the physical geography of each location. Answer the reflection questions about each location..



1. What physical characteristics do you notice for each location?
2. What are some advantages about each location? What are some disadvantages?
3. What problems do you foresee developing due to geographical features of each location?
4. Predict which location is better suited for battle?

Part 2

Directions: Watch the interview with veteran Otis Branon. Take notes from the primary source on the information he gives about Luzon's physical characteristics and what he personally experienced while fighting in this area.

Name _____

Date _____

Jungle Fighting Activity Sheet

Document B 

3-2-1

What were 3 challenges soldiers faced in the Pacific front versus the European front?

What were 2 reasons the jungle terrain hindered the American soldiers from finding the sniper?

Name one reason why Otis Branon was specifically requested for this mission in the jungle?