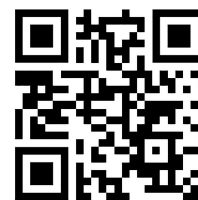




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SCAN ME TO VIEW LESSON

HVL LESSON TITLE:

# IN THEIR SHOES

DEVELOPED BY: ERIN COGGINS

## IN THEIR SHOES GUIDING QUESTION:

What were members of  
the Allied Forces feeling  
the morning of D-Day?

## OVERVIEW

Using an interview of World War II veteran Harold McMurran and primary sources, students will reflect upon the feelings members of the Allied Forces experienced on the morning of June 6, 1944.



Subject(s):  
History  
English



WWII Veteran(s):  
Harold McMurran



Duration:  
45 min.

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# IN THEIR SHOES

DEVELOPED BY: ERIN COGGINS

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“The Germans had just about every inch of that beach covered with machine gun fire. You could see the bullets hitting everywhere in the sand.”

HAROLD MCMURRAN - WWII VETERAN

## OVERVIEW

Using an interview of World War II veteran Harold McMurran and primary sources, students will reflect upon the feelings members of the Allied Forces experienced on the morning of June 6, 1944.

## HISTORICAL CONTEXT

On June 6, 1944 the Allied Forces of Britain, America, Canada, and France attacked German forces on the coast of Normandy, France. With a huge force of over 150,000 soldiers, the Allies attacked and gained a victory that became the turning point for World War II in Europe.

## OBJECTIVES

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

- Understand the mission set before the American Invasion Forces on June 6, 1944;
- Understand the feelings of those who took part in the Invasion of France; and
- Recognize the qualities of a World War II hero.

## STANDARDS

### CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RH.9-10.3

Determine the central ideas or information of a primary or secondary source; provide an accurate summary of how key events or ideas develop over the course of the text.

### 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.

### D2.His.13.9-12.

Critique the appropriateness of the historical sources used in a secondary interpretation.

## MATERIALS & DOCUMENTS

**DOCUMENT A:** Photo of Harold McMurren

**DOCUMENT B:** Questions for a Hero

**DOCUMENT C:** Harold McMurren Biography

**ARTICLE:** *Vet Recalls 'Horrible Day' In WWII*

[https://www.army.mil/article/127591/veteran\\_recalls\\_horrible\\_day\\_in\\_wwii](https://www.army.mil/article/127591/veteran_recalls_horrible_day_in_wwii)

**DOCUMENT D:** Eisenhower's Order of the Day

**ARTICLE:** *Eisenhower's Order of the Day (1944)*

<https://www.archives.gov/milestone-documents/general-eisenhowers-order-of-the-day>

**DOCUMENT E:** Order of the Day Activity

**DOCUMENT F:** V-Mail (optional)

**VIDEO:** *"Things You Don't Forget"*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fd8okLRFUeQ>

## PROCEDURES

### ACTIVITY 01 (15 minutes)

Getting to Know a Hero (25 minutes)

- Project the photo of Harold McMurren. Inform students that Harold landed on Utah Beach on June 6, 1944.
- Distribute a copy of Questions for a Hero (Document B) to every student. Ask students to write down five questions they would ask Harold to learn more about his service on D-Day.
- Play the Memoirs of World War II video of Harold McMurren. As students watch the video, have them mark off any of their questions that were answered by the video. In the space titled Harold's Words, instruct students to sum up Harold's experience described in the video.
- Distribute a copy of Harold's biography to each student. Instruct students to call out some words that would describe why Harold is considered a hero. Make a list of the words given on the board.

### ACTIVITY 02

Getting the Go Ahead (20 minutes)

- Tell students, that like Harold, they will be given an order.
- Distribute a copy of Gen. Eisenhower's Order of the Day (Doc. D) to each student along with a copy of the Order of the Day activity handout (Doc. E). Inform students that this letter was given to each member of the Allied Invasion Force and was also broadcasted to sailors and soldiers on ships as well.
- Play the audio of Eisenhower reading the Order of the Day.
- Students will complete the Eisenhower Order of the Day activity for assessment.

### METHODS FOR EXTENSION:

To advance the activity, instruct students to stay in the past (June 6, 1944) to write a letter home to their parents or loved one, describing what they experienced the morning of June 6, 1944 as they were given the Order of the Day. This is a good time to introduce V-Mail.

#### \*\*V-Mail History

V-mail, short for Victory Mail, was a hybrid mail process used by the United States during the Second World War as the primary and secure method to correspond with soldiers stationed abroad. To reduce the cost of transferring an original letter through the mail system, a V-mail letter would be censored, copied to film, and printed back to paper upon arrival at its destination. The letter would be packaged in a much smaller size. For more information, visit this link .

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