

Pam Williamson/Russell County High School/Seale, Alabama

Title: Letters from War

Subject Areas: United States History, Information Literacy, Technology Education, Language Arts

Grade Level: 11

Estimated Length: 4 – 5 Class periods

Overview: Students will experience what life was like for many soldiers during World War II on the European War Front. They will gain the understanding through pictures, first person audio accounts, reading letters to home from WWII soldiers, reading after action reports of particular battles, and personal interviews with local WWII veterans. Students will then put themselves in the shoes of the soldiers by writing a letter home to a loved one or creating a Journal entry.

Content Standards: SS (11)	United States History From 1877 to the Present #4 – Describe the causes and impact of the intervention by the United States in World War II.
IL (K-12)	#1 - The student who is information literate accesses information efficiently and effectively.
IL (K-12)	#2 - The student who is information literate evaluates information critically and competently.
IL (K-12)	#3 - The student who is information literate uses information accurately and creatively.
TE (9-12)	#12 - Use digital tools to publish curriculum-related content.
LA (11)	#5 - Students employ a wide range of strategies as they write and use different writing process elements appropriately to communicate.

Student Learning Objectives:

- The student will describe warfare from a foot soldier point of view.
- The student will describe the European War Front conditions.
- The student will describe the impact of trench warfare on the soldiers during the war.

Materials and Equipment:

- Powerpoint: Life in the Trenches – WWII
- Web Access
- Audio files of first person accounts
- Samples of letters and journals entries
- After-action reports of various battles
- Projector
- Interwrite board
- Powerpoint on computer
- Computers for student access

Background/Preparation: The following will have already been covered by the teacher:

- a. Causes of World War II
- b. Overview of World War II
- c. Key players in the war
- d. Events leading up to D-Day and the Battle of the Bulge

- Procedures/Activities:**
1. The teacher/librarian will introduce “Letters from War” through a Powerpoint presentation.
 2. The teacher/librarian will read a letter written by a WWII soldier.
 3. The students will listen to an audio of a first person account.
http://www.teacheroz.com/WWII_Oral_History.htm
 4. A local WWII veteran will share his experiences with the students and be available to answer student questions.
<http://www.loc.gov/vets/questions.html>
 5. Students will choose a particular battle or battle area and gather additional background information via internet and after-action reports. The teacher/librarian will provide a worksheet to guide the students in gathering specific types of information.
 6. The student will write a journal entry or a letter home to a loved one. The student will put themselves in the shoes of a WWII soldier in battle and describe what life is like on the European battle front.

Assessment: The student will be graded based on the completion of the journal entry or letter. A rubric will be used to determine grade.

Extensions: Student may turn their letter/journal entry into an audio podcast. Podcast will be uploaded onto the teacher’s blog site.

Resources/Websites:

Digital Photos taken by FFT Fellow
Powerpoints created by FFT Fellow
After-action reports – hard and soft copies
<http://lcweb2.loc.gov/diglib/vhp/story/loc.natlib.afc2001001.01038/>
<http://www.britannica.com/dday>
<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/bulge/index.html>
<http://www.nationalww2museum.org/>
<http://www.tankbooks.com/interviews/contents.htm>
<http://www.loc.gov/vets/questions.html>
http://www.teacheroz.com/WWII_Oral_History.htm