

Week-Long - Extended Lesson Plan for Postwar

The week-long lesson plan is intended to give students a deeper understanding of topics relating to World War II. By the end of this week-long plan, students should be able to:

1. Understand how American soldiers felt about post-World War II life.
2. Analyze handwritten responses by black and white soldiers to determine how they felt about and responded to postwar life in the army.
3. Evaluate the feelings of soldiers during World War II.
4. Remember previous knowledge about World War II and postwar life in the early 20th century.

Day 1: Screen *Welcome Home* and *Army Navy Screen Magazine #43: The G.I. Bill of Rights* in class.

Begin class by giving students some contextual information about *Welcome Home*. This film profiles the varied war experiences of returning World War II service members and anticipates how they will apply new skills to jobs at home. As they're watching, encourage them to take notes on these films.

Once you have screened the films, use these questions as a guide for discussion:

1. What kind of message do these films send to Americans? To soldiers?
2. How does this film portray the return home?
3. Do you think this is an accurate depiction of soldiers returning home?

Day 2: Use Lesson Plan for "Readjustment & Postwar Life." Encourage students to find differences between the scenes in *Welcome Home*, *Army Navy Screen Magazine*, and the responses they are reading.

Day 3: Spend class having students visit and explore [The American Soldier in World War II](#) website. They can search for keywords surrounding postwar, expanding their understanding of how soldiers felt after the war. This also gives them the opportunity to explore other topics related to the American GI's experience.

While students are exploring the site, have them collect five free responses that they have not seen before. Encourage them to choose a variety of responses.

Day 4: Ask students to revise their historical summary from Day 2 using the five free responses they found on Day 3. Have them explain how the new sources helped enhance their understanding of what it was like for soldiers during World War II. You can use these questions to guide discussion in class:

1. How did these new sources change your understanding of the soldier's experience?
2. How varied were the responses you found? Did some soldiers have positive experiences?
3. How did soldiers differ in their opinions?

Day 5: Have students choose their favorite (or most meaningful) response out of the ones they read and do a “deep analysis” using the **SCIM-C method**. The objective here is for students to practice extracting data from text, both the expressly written data and information they can infer by interpreting the details. Students should use the following questions to guide their analysis:

1. Summarize - What specific information, details and/or perspectives does the source provide? Who is the author of the source? What is the purpose/subject of the source?
2. Contextualize - What was happening within the immediate and broader context at the time the source was produced? Why was this source produced?
3. Infer - What is suggested by the source? What interpretations may be drawn from the source? What inferences may be drawn from absences or omissions in the source?
4. Monitoring - What ideas, images, or terms need further defining from the source? What additional evidence beyond the source is necessary to answer the historical question?
5. Corroborating - What similarities and differences between this and other sources exist? What factors could account for these similarities and differences? What conclusions can be drawn from the accumulated interpretations?