The John and Annie Glenn Historic Site

presents

a study guide

for

The World War II

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World War II Study Guide
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This guide may be used by teachers and visitors at all age levels, however, we have organized it by specific grades and topics. Feel free to adapt for different age levels.

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The John and Annie Glenn Historic Site
World War II Study Guide

This guide was created to give information concerning World War II to allow visitor’s to the historic site to better understand the living history presentation. The information is divided into 4 categories:

- *Language Arts, Mathematics, Social Studies, and Science*

There is information with some possible activities at all levels for your use.

Learning Objectives:

1. Identify some of the everyday experiences/sacrifices of the people during World War II.

2. Compare World War II to our current economic and social conditions.

3. Develop skills of comparison using mathematics, science and studies along with their reading and writing skills.

4. Discuss the role of family members in maintaining their lives within the community during World War II.

5. Analyze the historic background of this time period in America with that of today.

6. Synthesize the information in this guide concerning World War II to predict future occurrences of difficult economic and social time.
The Blue Star Flag

Look at the flag in the window. It is red, white, and blue. There is a large blue star in the center of the flag. That star tells everyone who sees it that there is someone from that home who is bravely fighting for our country.

In the Glenn home, the flag reminds us that John Glenn is away from home fighting for our country. We are very proud of John Glenn.

Help color in the flag that is in the window at the Glenn house.
1944 Mathematics

During World War II the cost of many common items were significantly less than it is today. These problems will take you back to 1944.

1. Your mother is sending you to the grocery store for a quart of milk, two loaves of bread, a dozen eggs, and a box of crackers. How much will you owe? If your mother gives you a dollar, how much change will you get?

The milk comes in a glass bottle, so be careful carrying it home. If you get your milk from a local farmer, it will not be pasteurized or homogenized. What do these words mean? Who was Louis Pasteur?

2. You want to do your part to help America win the war and many people are buying War Bonds to help our government have the money it needs. A bond costs $18.75 but in 1944 that is a lot of money, so you buy 10 cent savings stamps which you paste in a stamp album. When the album is filled, you take it in and receive a War Bond. In ten years, the bond can be cashed in for $25.00.

1. When you cash in the bond that you bought for $18.75 and receive $25, how much interest have you earned?
2. It takes 8 stamps to fill one page, stamps cost 10 cents. How much money does it cost to fill one page?
3. How much money to fill four pages?

3. Your parents, your sister and you are going to the movies to see “Since You Went Away”, the story of women on the homefront coping while their sons, brothers and husbands are overseas serving in World War II. Adult tickets cost $.15 each and children’s tickets are $.10.

1. How much will your dad pay for the tickets?
2. If he gives the ticket seller a $5.00 bill, how much will he get back?
3. If popcorn costs $.05 a box, how much will he pay for a box for each of you?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bread</td>
<td>$.10 a loaf</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Milk</td>
<td>$.15 a quart</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eggs</td>
<td>$.18 a dozen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hamburger</td>
<td>$.12 a pound</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Campell’s Soup</td>
<td>$.09 a can</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crackers</td>
<td>$.10 a box</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Chores for Children
during
World War II

When the fathers were away during the war, the mothers were working very hard to keep everything in the house running smoothly. They had a lot of help from the children in the family doing all sorts of things. Each child had some jobs, or chores, to do that would help the household out. This was very important.

*Dusting*  
![Dusting](image)

*Gardening*  
![Gardening](image)

*Folding Laundry*  
![Folding Laundry](image)

*Making Beds*  
![Making Beds](image)

*Setting the Table*  
![Setting the Table](image)

*Childcare*  
![Childcare](image)

What jobs or chores do you have in your home? Draw a picture to show you how to help out in your house. Please turn to the back to draw your ideas.
Morse Code

Morse Code is a method of transmitting textual information as a series of on-off tones. These lights or clicks that can be directly understood by a skilled listener or observer without special equipment. The International Morse Code encodes the Roman Alphabet, the Arabic numerals and a small set of punctuation as standardized sequences of short and long “dots” and “dashes”.

International Morse Code

1. A dash is equal to three dots.
2. The space between parts of the same letter is equal to one dot.
3. The space between two letters is equal to three dots.
4. The space between two words is equal to seven dots.

![Morse Code Chart]
Toys from WWII

Tell about your favorite toys today.
Rationing
Spring 1942

Points on Most Popular Cans

VEGETABLES
- PEAS 1 lb. 4 oz. 16 pts.
- CORN 1 lb. 4 oz. 14 pts.
- TOMATOES 1 lb. 3 oz. 16 pts.
- ASPARAGUS 1 lb. 3 oz. 14 pts.
- GREEN BEANS 1 lb. 3 oz. 14 pts.
- SPINACH 1 lb. 2 oz. 11 pts.

FRUITS
- PEARS 1 lb. 14 oz. 21 pts.
- PEACHES 1 lb. 14 oz. 21 pts.
- SLICED PINEAPPLE 1 lb. 14 oz. 24 pts.
- GRAPEFRUIT 1 lb. 4 oz. 10 pts.
- FRUIT COCKTAIL 1 lb. 10 oz. 11 pts.

JUICES AND SOUPS
- GRAPEFRUIT JUICE 2 lb. 14 oz. 23 pts.
- TOMATO JUICE 2 lb. 14 oz. 32 pts.
- PINEAPPLE JUICE 2 lb. 14 oz. 32 pts.
- TOMATO JUICE 1 lb. 7 oz. 17 pts.
- GRAPE JUICE 1 qt. 2 lbs. 15 pts.
- SOUP 10 1/2 oz. 6 pts.
In 1944, the United States had been involved in the World War II since the bombing of Pearl Harbor in Hawaii by the Japanese on December 7th, 1941. Money was needed to build our military to fight battles in Europe and the Pacific.

To help raise money, the government issued U.S. War Bonds. The American people were still recovering from The Great Depression so they had little money. Special stamps were issued that people could buy for as little as 10 cents. The stamps were saved until enough were collected in a booklet to buy a U.S. War Bond. Even school children were able to help their country by buying these stamps. Bonds were sold in denominations of $25 up to $10,000. The bonds cost 75% of their value. For example, a $25 bond would cost $18.75. If you kept the bond for 10 years, it would be worth $25.

1. What event caused the United States to enter World War II?

2. Where in the Pacific is Pearl Harbor located?

3. Why were U.S. War Bonds sold?

4. What could Americans do, even school children, to help save money to buy a U.S. War Bond?
There were shortages of many foods during World War II. Some such as meat and sugar were rationed, others like fruit and vegetables could be hard to find at times.

Many people planted Victory Gardens to provide vegetables for their families. Some were root vegetables such as potatoes, carrots, onions, turnips, beets, and radishes. These have leaves above the ground and the edible part of the plant growing underground. Some were vine plants that often use a support system such as poles of strings for the vines to climb tomatoes, green beans, cucumbers, and lima beans grown on vines. Many plants such as cabbage, lettuce, and peas grow close to the ground, or as corn, several feet above ground.

Victory Gardens required time and effort and the whole family helped – parents, grandparents, and children. Land had to be plowed, often with a hand plow, or for larger gardens, horses pulled the plow. Then seeds were sown, weeds hoed or pulled, insects sprayed or hand picked from the plants, and finally harvested when ready. The fresh vegetables tasted wonderful! Those that could not be eaten right away were canned in glass jars for later use. Or those like potatoes stored in a cool area such as a cellar under the house. Some like sauerkraut made with cabbage were preserved in stoneware crocks.

Keeping healthy was especially important during the war because man of our country’s doctors and nurses were overseas caring for our troops who had been wounded. People knew that the vitamins and minerals in vegetables would help them be healthy. Since that time much more has been learned about additional nutrients found in foods.

John Glenn’s parents had vegetable gardens each summer and John helped with them as a boy. But by the time they were called Victory Gardens, John was in the Marines and helping our country win the war.

1. What vegetables would you plant in a garden

2. What vegetables do we eat now that were not well known in 1944?
Oral Histories 1941-1945: Veterans of WWII

Doing Oral Histories is a good way for students to learn firsthand about World War II. Assign students to prepare an oral report based on an interview with a person who experienced WWII in the military. You may want to work with a retirement center to identify people to interview. Students may not have a grandparent, neighbor, or friend that lived during WWII. Encourage students to take notes and/or record their interview. Tape recording the interview will be the most helpful to the student for reviewing the actual responses of the person interviewed. Below are some sample questions that may be asked:

1. When/where did you enlist in the military?

2. What is the difference between enlisting and being drafted?

3. Where did you do your Basic Training?

4. How old were you when you entered the military?

5. What branch of the military did you serve in?

6. What was basic training like?

7. If you left the United States to travel to one of the battlefronts in the European Theater of Operation (ETO) or in the South Pacific, how many days did you travel to arrive at your destination?

8. If you fought in the front lines, what did you have to eat during combat?

9. When did you write letters to mail back home to your family?

10. How did you receive mail from your family?

11. What was the most difficult military assignment that you were ordered to carry out?

12. When were you discharged from the military service?

Work with students to develop more questions.
Doing Oral Histories is a good way for students to learn firsthand about World War II. Assign students to prepare an oral report based on an interview with a person who experienced WWII on the home front. You may want to work with a retirement center to identify people to interview. Students may not have a grandparent, neighbor, or friend that lived during WWII. Encourage students to take notes and/or record their interview. Tape recording the interview will be the most helpful to the student for reviewing the actual responses of the person interviewed. Below are some sample questions that may be asked:

1. Where did you live when the attack on Pearl Harbor took place on December 7th, 1941?

2. How did you feel when you learned the new about Pearl Harbor?

3. What did you think when our President, Franklin D. Roosevelt, declared war on Japan on December 8th, 1941?

4. What thoughts went through your mind when both Germany and Italy declared war on the United States on December 11th, 1941?

5. How did the war change your normal routine at home?

6. What challenges did the rationing of consumer goods; like sugar, meat, gasoline, tires, shoes, among other products, present to you and your family?

7. What do you remember about using ration books to purchase your allotment of needed staples?

8. What members of your family, friends, and neighbors served in the military war efforts?

9. What patriotic activities helped the war effort you were in?

10. Where were you on May 7th, 1945, V- E Day when Germany surrendered unconditionally?


Encourage students to develop their own questions.
Word Search

Have you ever wondered what life would be like living during WWII? It was a very difficult time for the people living in the United States as they did not have some of the goods and service which were available before the war. It was a time when everyone in the United States learned to work together so that the troops fighting in the war in Europe and the Pacific could have all that they needed to stay strong and healthy. Please talk about the words from World War II and then have fun finding them in the word search below.

Allies
Black Market
Blitz
Bunker
Camouflage
Decoy
Draft
Espionage
Inflation
Mandate
Microfilm
Morse Code
Propaganda
Radar
Rationing
Recycling
Red Cross
Sonar
Storm Troopers
Troops
USO
War Bonds
Rationing

During World War II, people could not just walk into a store and buy as much as they wanted, even if they had the money to. You couldn't buy as much sugar, butter, or even meat as you wanted. These items, along with many others, were rationed, which means that you were only allowed to buy a small amount of them. The government started rationing things because certain things were in short supply during the war, and rationing was the only way to make sure everyone got their fair share of things. Rationing also helped the soldiers overseas to keep a supply of food and weapons for them by not over-using the supplies at home.

Rationed Items:
- Tires
- Cars
- Bicycles
- Gasoline
- Fuel, Oil, & Kerosne
- Solid Fuels
- Stoves
- Rubber Footwear
- Shoes
- Sugar
- Coffee
- Processed Foods
- Meats, canned fish
- Cheese, canned milk & fats
- Typewriters

Rationing Duration:
- January 1942 to December 1945
- February 1942 to October 1945
- July 1942 to September 1945
- May 1942 to August 1945
- October 1942 to August 1945
- September 1943 to August 1945
- December 1942 to August 1945
- October 1942 to September 1945
- February 1943 to October 1945
- May 1942 to 1947
- November 1942 to July 1943
- March 1943 to August 1945
- March 1943 to November 1945
- March 1943 to November 1945
- March 1942 to April 1944
Important People

Sir Winston Churchill: As prime minister of Britain, Churchill was able to inspire the British people to great patriotism. This gave them the courage to deal with the physical dangers and sacrifices demanded of them during the war.

Dwight D. Eisenhower: An army general, Eisenhower served as the supreme commander of the Allied Expeditionary Forces in Europe during World War II. He planned the invasion of France known as Operation Overlord, which helped the Allies to defeat Hitler. Eisenhower later served as America’s 34th president.

Adolf Hitler: The German dictator who started World War II to create a great German state for all Germans. He sought the destruction of all European Jews, millions of whom were killed in Nazi death camps. In 1945, Hitler committed suicide in his underground bunker in Berlin as Allied troops approached.

Benito Mussolini: A fascist, Mussolini ruled Italy from 1922 to 1943 through intimidation and total control of the media and military. During World War II he sided with Nazi Germany.

Franklin D. Roosevelt: America’s 32nd president, Roosevelt was known as FDR. Before the United States entered the war on December 8th, 1941, Roosevelt helped Britain, the Soviet Union, France, and other countries fighting Germany by providing all kinds of supplies through his 1941 Lend-Lease Act. Roosevelt died before the end of the way in April 1945.

Joseph Stalin: The dictator of the Soviet Union from 1928 through World War II until he died in 1953. Stalin is credited with transforming the Soviet Union into a superpower. He was also responsible for the deaths of millions of his own people who were send to harsh labor camps, mostly accused of being enemies of the state. After Hitler invaded the Soviet Union, Stalin sided with Britain was one of the Allied powers.

General Hideki Tojo: Japan’s prime minister during most of the war (until July 1944). Tojo commanded the Japanese military and ordered the attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7th, 1941. After Japan surrendered to the Allied forces in 1945, Tojo shot himself before being arrested by the U.S. Military. He survived but was executed as war criminal in 1948.

Harry S. Truman: Truman became America’s 33rd president when President Roosevelt died. It as his decision to drop two atomic bombs on Japan, which quickly brought an end to World War II.
Timeline

World War II Timeline

1939

**August:** The Soviet Union and Germany sign a nonaggression pact, agreeing not to fight each other when they both invade Poland.

**September:** Hitler invades Poland from the west. France, Great Britain, Australia, New Zealand, Canada, South Africa, and India declare war on Germany. This is the official start to World War II. The countries against Germany are called the Allies. The Soviet Union invades Poland from the east.

**October:** Poland surrenders to Hitler. The Nazis begin persecuting Polish Jews.

**November:** The United States begins selling military supplies to Britain and France. Meanwhile, the Soviet Union attacks Finland.

1940

**April:** Germany invades Denmark and Norway, Denmark surrenders.

**May:** Germany invades Belgium, the Netherlands, Luxembourg, and France. Winston Churchill becomes Britain’s new prime minister. Belgium and the Netherlands surrender.

**June:** Italy enters the war on the side of Nazi Germany, declaring war on France and Britain. France and Norway surrender.

**July:** Churchill rejects a peace pact proposed by Hitler. The Battle of Britain begins when Germany starts bombing Britain.

**September:** October Germany intensely bombs London. This “blitz” continues for 57 nights, killing more than 40,000 citizens. The bombing of London continues off and on until the following May, but Britain fends off Germany’s attacks and Hitler is unable to invade. Japan joins Italy and Germany in fighting the Allies. This is known as the Tripartite Pact, and the three countries are called the Axis Powers.

1941

**March:** The United States continues to send military equipment and other supplies to the Allies but no longer requires payment, at least not until after the war.

**June:** Germany invades the Soviet Union, violating the nonaggression pact Germany signed with the Soviet Union in 1939. The invasion was called Operation Barbarossa.

**July:** The Soviet Union joins the Allies.

**December:** Japan attacks Pearl Harbor, an American naval base in Hawaii, along with other Allied bases in the Pacific and Asia. The United States and Britain declare war on Japan. Germany and Italy declare war on the United States.
1942

**January:** February The Nazis organize their “final solution,” the complete extermination of European Jews in death camps. Japanese troops take control of large portions of East Asia and the Pacific, including Hong Kong, Singapore, the Philippines, Thailand, Malaysia, and Burma.

**February:** President Roosevelt signs Executive Order 9066, allowing the internment of Japanese Americans, as well as German and Italian Americans and other foreigners.

**June:** The United States wins the Battle of Midway, a major turning point in the war in the Pacific.

**December:** Scientists in the United States work on an atomic bomb.

1943

**July:** Mussolini is removed from power by the Italian king. Italy begins secret peace talks with the Allies.

**September:** October Italy surrenders to the Allies and then declares war on Germany.

**November:** Churchill, Roosevelt, and Stalin meet in Teheran, Iran, to discuss Operation Overlord, the Allied invasion of Normandy, France, against Germany’s army.

1944

**January:** General Dwight D. Eisenhower takes charge of planning Operation Overlord.

**June:** Allied forces launch Operation Overlord. They land at Normandy on June 6, known as D-day. In heavy fighting the Allies gradually push the Germans back towards Germany. Over the following months, city after city in Europe is liberated by the Allies as the Germans retreat.

**July:** The entire Japanese government resigns.

**August:** Paris is liberated by Allied troops.

**November:** Roosevelt is elected to his fourth term as U.S. President. He was the only president to serve more than two terms.

1945

**January:** Auschwitz, a Nazi death camp in Poland, is liberated. The Americans defeat the Germans in the Battle of the Bulge.

**February:** The United States takes the Pacific island of Iwo Jima in a bloody battle memorialized in a famous photo of six marines raising the American flag. Churchill, Roosevelt, and Stalin meet in Yalta to discuss the end of the war and how to divide up Germany.

**April:** Roosevelt dies. Vice President Harry S. Truman is sworn in as president. Mussolini is captured by Italian partisans. Hitler commits suicide in his Berlin bunker.

**May:** Germany surrenders on May 7. Truman declares May 8 V-E Day (Victory in Europe).
Recycling
Mock Apple Pie

Recycling
After the bombing of Pearl Harbor, the United States Government asked Americans to collect and donate materials that could be used to help the war effort. Newspapers were used in shell containers, blasting keys, bomb rings, and parachute flares. Aluminum was recycled for many products, but aluminum pots and pans were not suitable for aircraft production. Cooking fat was saved and turned into collection sites. Glycerin is an important part of fat that can be used in making gunpowder and other explosives. Other recyclables collected were tin, silk stockings, iron, steel, and metal toys. Used tires were also important because areas where raw rubber was grown had been captured by the Japanese. Many schools sponsored scrap drives so that children could participate in collections. Some newspapers sponsored drives to collect recyclables and offered prizes for the largest amounts turned in.

What did you recycle today? Where is it collected?

Conserving
One of the most popular slogans of the war was, “Food is a Weapon”. Mothers were told to feed their families well for the sake of nutrition but to use only the amount of food that is necessary. Feeding an army takes a lot of food, so meatless days were encouraged and recipes were published that used substitutes for foods that were in short supply. A new food that emerged during World War II was oleo margarine. Today we just call this butter substitute “margarine”. During the war margarine was bought as a solid white block of vegetable oils. Makers of margarine knew that people would not like to see a white butter substitute on their bread. They added a packet of orange coloring to be mixed with the white material to make a yellow spread. At home, John Glenn asked for the job of mixing the margarine and coloring. He thought it looked like an interesting thing to do. But when he began to squeeze the two things together, he discovered it was very difficult. The bring of vegetable oil was hard and tough to squeeze. The job turned out not to be fun at all.

Activity: See if you can find a recipe for Mock Apple Pie, a dessert made instead of apples. The Recipe can be found in the answer key.
Recycling
Compost Pile

Recycling

We are all familiar with the slogan, “Reduce, Reuse, Recycle.” Most of us try to practice it as best we can. Many of us believe that idea is new. The slogan is new but the idea is an old one. During the 1930’s depression, people lived by that slogan. Because jobs and money were scarce nothing in a household went to waste. Today’s food cans are made of steel but during the depression those containers were made of tin. When the cans had been emptied they were returned to a collection point to be recycled. This practice became vitally important during World War II because the country that was America’s only source of tin was captured during the first week of the war. Many people in New Concord, Ohio were farmers or kept work animals during the 1930’s. Those animals had to be fed. Their feed was purchased in colorful, sturdy bags that could be opened flat, washed, and sewn into dresses, shirts, pants, and other articles of clothing. No one ever just threw away a feed sack. What about garbage? While some food scraps went to feed animals such as pigs, most of it was composted. Nearly every home had a compost pile. Uncooked vegetable matter, egg shells, and coffee grounds were deposited in a pile and covered with a layer of soil. Every time a deposit was made to the pile, that material was turned with a shovel. Soon the garbage became a layer of rich, nutritious soil that could be used to grow a victory garden.

Activity: make a compost box. Start with a banana peel, some potato shavings or any raw fruit or vegetable bits. Place the vegetable matter in a large jar (1 gal) with a cup of soil and 2 tablespoons of water. Make sure the lid is tight and shake well. Add a little more vegetable matter as time passes and keep shaking. It will take time but you can watch new soil being made. Earthworms churn the soil and digest the vegetables. Make the new soil richer. Once you have a nice thick layer of dirt, you might bring in one or two worms to speed your soil making along.
Answer Key

ANSWER KEY FOR WWII

Language Arts Blue Star Flag: Color the flag as in the picture. You may look online also.

2. You receive $7.25 in interest. A page would cost $.80. Four pages for $3.20
3. Dad will pay $.50 to see the movie. He will get $4.50 change. Popcorn will be $.20.

Chores: Answers will vary

Morse Code: The answer is: YOU ARE SPECIAL

Toys: Answers will vary.

Rationing:
1. 73 ration points
2. 85 ration points
3. answers will vary

War Bonds:
The bombing of Pearl Harbor on December 7th, 1945
In Hawaii to help raise money for the war effort
Children could buy stamps for $.10 to fill a book and buy a bond.

Victory Gardens:
Some vegetables included peas, carrots, beans, beets, corn, zucchini, tomatoes, potatoes, lettuce, spinach.
Some vegetables eaten today and not then include: Avocados, Bok Choy, Arugula.

Oral Histories: Answers will vary.

Word Search: See Answer Page
Rationing: Informational for further study

Important people: Informational for further study

Timeline: Informational for further study

Recycling: Mock Apple Pie Recipe

Pastry for 2-crust 9-inch pie
- 36 RITZ Crackers, coarsely broken (about 1-3/4 cups crumbs)
- 2 cups sugar
- 2 tsp. cream of tartar
- Grated peel of 1 lemon
- 2 Tbsp. lemon juice
- 2 Tbsp. butter or margarine
- 1/2 tsp. ground cinnamon

PREHEAT oven to 425°F. Roll out half of the pastry and place in 9-inch pie plate. Place cracker crumbs in crust; set aside.

MIX sugar and cream of tartar in medium saucepan. Gradually stir in 1-3/4 cups water until well blended. Bring to boil on high heat. Reduce heat to low; simmer 15 minutes. Add lemon peel and juice; cool. Pour syrup over cracker crumbs. Dot with butter; sprinkle with cinnamon. Roll out remaining pastry; place over pie. Trim; seal and flute edges. Slit top crust to allow steam to escape.

BAKE 30 to 35 minutes or until crust is crisp and golden. Cool completely.

Recycling today: Answers will vary

Composting: Possible classroom project.