Activity: Place Your Faith in Radio

Guiding question:
How is public perception of historic events affected by reporting methods?

DEVELOPED BY GENA OPPENHEIM
Grade Level(s): 6-8, 9-12
Subject(s): Theater, Social Studies
Cemetery Connection: East Coast Memorial
Fallen Hero Connection: Ensign Stephen L. Fuld
Overview
In this lesson, students will be presented with a specific day in World War II where multiple important events occurred. Students will act as the executive producers of a radio news program and construct a short, written broadcast. It is their job to decide which events of the day to highlight. They will consider why what is recorded helped shape what is remembered for future generations and what is not. Whose stories are not told?

Historical Context
During World War II, newly created broadcasting networks competed with each other to prove to the American public that they could provide the most “accurate coverage” of the war overseas. Daily radio news reports about the events on the front lines gave families a connection to their loved ones that was not available in previous American conflicts.

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

• Understand the importance of radio broadcasting in World War II;
• Understand why certain events were highlighted over others;
• Understand how audiences interpreted the broadcasts; and
• Recreate a convincing broadcast highlighting in detail a specific event in World War II.

“Stephen L. Fuld was a leading advertising director and producer for CBS Radio News in the 1930s and early 1940s. His main job was to decide the content of a given radio broadcast and the best ways to present news in the fledgling medium of radio. Fuld’s job and the world of broadcasting connects directly to my lesson plan. I also want students to use critical thinking skills to examine why certain events are deemed ‘newsworthy.’”

—Gena Oppenheim

Oppenheim teaches at Saint Ann’s School in Brooklyn, New York.
Standards Connections

Connections to Common Core

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RH.6-8.2 Determine the central ideas or information of a primary or secondary source; provide an accurate summary of the source distinct from prior knowledge or opinions;

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RH.6-8.5 Describe how a text presents information (e.g. sequentially, comparatively, causally);

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RH.6-8.7 Integrate visual information (e.g. in charts, graphs, photographs, videos, or maps) with other information in print and digital texts.

Connections to C3 Framework

D2.His.1.6-8. Analyze connections among events and developments in broader historical contexts.

Documents Used ★ indicates an ABMC source

Primary Sources

Newsreel, *Today in History*, May 8, 1945
National Archives and Records Administration
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7zL-sBxVk_I

World War II Era Radio Broadcasts
Internet Archive
https://archive.org/details/wwllarchive-audio

Secondary Sources

Historic Headlines: World War II
*The New York Times*

★ *World War II: A Visual History*
American Battle Monuments Commission
Materials

• Computer with internet capability and speakers
• Computers for groups to access the ABMC interactive timeline

Lesson Preparation

• Review the selection of *The New York Times* front pages and select one option for each group of five or six students. Make a packet for each group containing the options for the class.
• Select a World War II Era Radio Broadcast to play to students as a sample.
• Divide the class into groups of five or six students each.
• Set up classroom technology and test all online resources before class.

Procedure

Activity One: Analyzing the News (45 minutes)

• Ask students how Americans would get their news during World War II. Lead a brief conversation discussing newspapers, radio broadcasts, and newsreels.
• Distribute one packet of newspaper headlines to each group and ask them to review the front pages.
• Lead a class discussion on the newspapers. Possible questions can include:
  ◦ *Why are certain events put in bold at the top of the paper? Why are other stories lower on the page?*
  ◦ *What does placement on the page imply?*
  ◦ *On any given day, how did the editor organize the events of this day?*
  ◦ *What is missing from this source?*
  ◦ *This newspaper is based in New York City. Does this impact the content on the front page?*
  ◦ *What is the perspective(s) on the days events?*
  ◦ *What is the tone of the pieces?*
• Play the newsreel from May 8, 1945. Ask students to write down who/what was featured.
  ◦ Ask the class: *Who was left out? Why?*
  ◦ Brainstorm as a class a list of effective techniques in sharing news.
Assessment

• Divide students into small groups of five or six students and assign each group one date in the war.
• Give each group the corresponding front page from the *New York Times*.
  ◦ Ask students, *How do you think these headlines affected their readers’ mental state?*
• Play a World War II Era Radio Broadcast to provide students a sample.
  ◦ **Teacher Tip:** Choose an example from an event or date you did not assign to a student group.
  ◦ Ask students, *How do you think radio broadcast affected their listeners’ mental state?*
• Direct student groups to use the World War II: A Visual History interactive timeline to set their date in history in historical context.
• Assign students to create the outline for a radio broadcast, based on the news on their given day.
• Allow students to present their program to their classmates and explain which events they highlighted and which events they cut from the broadcast.

Methods for Extension

• Students can explore the role of journalism in various U.S. wars.
• Students can explore the Internet Archive for other World War II radio broadcasts.
• Teachers can enhance students' interest in the role of journalism in World War II by exploring these related lesson plans on [ABMCEducation.org](http://ABMCEducation.org):
  ◦ [History and Journalism: Examining the Events of World War II Through a Journalistic Lens](http://History and Journalism: Examining the Events of World War II Through a Journalistic Lens)
  ◦ [Words of War](http://Words of War)
  ◦ [Writing Across Normandy: Operation Cobra and the Media](http://Writing Across Normandy: Operation Cobra and the Media)
GERMAN ARMY ATTACKS POLAND; CITIES BOMBED, PORT BLOCKADED; DANZIG IS ACCEPTED INTO REICH

The New York Times, September 1, 1939

GERMAN ARMY ATTACKS POLAND; CITIES BOMBED, PORT BLOCKADED; DANZIG IS ACCEPTED INTO REICH

BRITISH MOBILIZING

Navy Raised to its Full Strength, Army and Air Reserves Called Up

Midnight Meeting Held to Discuss Allegations of Polish Aggression

Parliament is Confused

Activity: Place Your Faith in Radio | Handouts

ABMCEduCATION.ORG
American Battle Monuments Commission | National History Day
JAPAN WARS ON U.S. AND BRITAIN; MAKES SUDDEN ATTACK ON HAWAII; HEAVY FIGHTING AT SEA REPORTED

The New York Times, December 8, 1941


VOL. 85, No. 26.

NEW YORK, MONDAY, DECEMBER 8, 1941.

LATE EDITION-CITY.

PACIFIC OCEAN: THEATRE OF WAR INVOLVING UNITED STATES, ITS ALLIES AND JAPAN

PACIFIC OCEAN:

JAPANESE BOMBERS STRIKE HARD AT OUR MAIN BASES ON OAHU

JAPANESE FORCE LANDS IN MALAYA

The International Situation

The suddenness of the attack that on December 7, 1941, Japan launched on the United States in the Pacific and on British possessions in the Far East was...
The New York Times, November 12, 1942

Axis in South France, Fleet’s Fate a Mystery; Petain Stands in Doubt; Morocco Captivates; U. S. and Nazi Forces Race to Occupy Tunisia

Total Axis Defeat Seen by Leaders on Armistice Day

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WAR JOBS OR DRAFT ORDERED FOR MEN IN DEFERRED CLASS

20 TRADES BANNED

Able-Bodied 18 to 38 Must Get Vital Work Even If Parents ORDER TO LOCAL SOURCES

Recovering starts April 1

Hastily Says 10 Out of 14 Under 30 Will Be in Seen

As you are aware, Mr. Ribbentrop, the government wants hundreds of thousands of men in the bond drives, regardless of their number of dependents.

We had done two twenty-commissioned operations in the last two weeks, and that was just the tip of the iceberg. Now we need you to get the rest of them, at least 20,000 men in the bond drives.

According to recent figures, the number of dependents in the family is a deciding factor in the number of bond drives. The family with no dependents is the most likely to take up a bond, and the family with one or more dependents is less likely to do so.

The War Department, in order to get as many men out of the bond drives as possible, has decided to ban any trade that might be considered unnecessary.

Mr. Ribbentrop also gave a warning that if the determination was not successful, the men would be drafted.

DRAFT

The New York Times, February 3, 1943

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TUNISIAN RESISTANCE ENDS IN ROUTE OF GERMANS; GEN. VON ARMN AND 150,000 MEN CAPTURED; PACIFIC BELIEVED ROOSEVELT-CURHILL TOPIC

BY EDWARD R. KENNEDY

WALL STREET NEWS

The New York Times, May 13, 1943

The New York Times, May 13, 1943

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American Battle Monuments Commission | National History Day
The New York Times, June 7, 1944

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**HITLER'S SEA WALL IS BREACHED, INVADERS FIGHTING WAY INLAND; NEW ALLIED LANDINGS ARE MADE**

**COUNTRY IN PRAYER**

President Roosevelt Leads in Petition for the Elapsed Cause

LIBERTY BILL RINGS

Lexington and Boston's Old North Church Hold Services

**LET OUR HEARTS BE STOUT**

A Prayer by the President of the United States

Hitler's sea wall is breached, invaders fighting way inland; new Allied landings are made

**ITALIAN DRIVE GAINS ON 70-MILE FRONT**

1,000 Germans Captured Near Brindisi; Allies Push Rival Troops

**EISENHOWER VISITS PARATROOPERS BEFORE TAKE-OFF FOR THE INVASION**

Roosevelt and Churchill Pleased by Invasion Gains

**LANDING PUTS END TO 4-YEAR HIATUS**

Perry Removal of Battle for France—British Guard Graves of Darkness

**INVASION AND OTHER WAR NEWS SUMMARIZED**

The invasion of southern France and other Allied landings in Europe were announced by the President of the United States.

**TURKS HEAR REPORT OF LANDING IN GREECE**

The British have landed in the Greek islands of Crete and Chios, according to a statement issued by the Turkish government.

**RUSSIANS POISED TO ATTACK IN EAST; MOSCOW JOYOUS ON 'SECOND FRONT'**

The Russians are poised to attack in the east, and Moscow is joyous on the news of the 'second front'.

**LATTICE COPY**


NEW YORK, WEDNESDAY, JUNE 7, 1944.

P. THREE CENTS AND SUB.

**ABM EDUCATION.ORG**

American Battle Monuments Commission | National History Day
The New York Times, February 13, 1945


BIG 3 DOOM NAZISM AND REICH MILITARISM; AGREE ON FREED LANDS AND OAKS VOTING; CONVOLVE UNITED NATIONS IN U. S. APRIL 25

IVES ASSAILS FOES OF ANTI-RACE BILLS AS DISAPPROVER RISES

But Drama for Immediate Vote by CIO Head Is Unlikely to Accede off Repub.

PRESS FOR PUBLIC HEARING

Legislators Convent of All From California, California, California, Attacked "Degrading"

BIG 3 AGREEMENT LAUGHED BY HOOVER

Steve Foundation for New World, for Slaves—South Korea, Pans

Philippines Plan

By S. PARKER O'NEAL

Robert Bums, Assistant Secretary of the Treasury, announced that the United States would extend to South Korea, Pans, and China the same privileges granted to other territories, including the Philippines. The agreements would make these territories self-governing and would provide for the repatriation of exiled Japanese Americans. The agreements would also provide for the establishment of labor organizations and the protection of workers' rights.

The agreements were signed on behalf of South Korea, Pans, and China by their respective representatives. The agreements would come into effect when ratified by the United States Senate.

MONDAY MEAT BAN FLOATED AGAIN; CALES EXHIBIT AND SERVE STEAKS

By CHARLES OWEN

Czeist; Cleveland, Feb. 13—The Cleveland Board of Health has declared a "meat emergency," and has ordered all restaurants and bars in the city to stop serving meat products. The order was issued in response to a shortage of beef caused by the war. The order will remain in effect until further notice.

The order applies to all restaurants and bars in the city, including those in the surrounding suburbs. The order will remain in effect until further notice.

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U.S. MARINES STORM ASHORE ON IWO ISLAND; 509 PLANES, 36 SHIPS SMASHED IN TOKYO BLOW; BRITISH AT EDGE OF GOCH; PATTON STRIKES AGAIN

STIMSON ASSAULTS DELAY ON JOB BILL AS COSTLY INJURIES

Nazi Base Doomed

American Tank Running a Gauntlet of Steel in Manila

Final Round Is On, Montgomery Says

Americans Seize Hospital In Manila and Free 7,000

Landing Effected

The New York Times, February 19, 1945

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**PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT IS DEAD; TRUMAN TO CONTINUE POLICIES; 9TH CROSSES ELBE, NEARS BERLIN**

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**U.S. AND RED ARMIES DRIVE TO MEET**

By JAMES B. RICHARDS

The New York Times, April 13, 1945

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**Security Parley Won't Be Delayed**

By JAMES B. RICHARDS

The New York Times, April 13, 1945

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**Army Leaders See Reich End at Hand**

By JAMES B. RICHARDS

The New York Times, April 13, 1945

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**Byrones May Take Post With Truman**

By JAMES B. RICHARDS

The New York Times, April 13, 1945
BERLIN FALLS TO RUSSIANS, 70,000 GIVE UP; 1,000,000 SURRENDER IN ITALY AND AUSTRIA; DENMARK IS CUT OFF; HAMBURG GIVES UP

$7,446,000,000 CUT IN COMING BUDGET ASKED BY TRUMAN
No Tea Party protest at White House but Truman asked to reduce the deficit by $7,446,000,000

CUTS AGENCIES $80,000,000

Studies Leading to Additional Economies Are Continuing, President Annexes

WAR IN ITALY ENDS

Last Enemy Forces Give Up Just 20 Months After Landings

DEFEAT IS COMPLETE

Unconditional Surrender Comes "Back Door" to German Bastion

BRITISH GO ASHORE SOUTH OF RANNOUG

Three Times to Join the 14th Army Troops North of City in Attack—Falls Sheffield

GERMANS AND ALLIES SIGNING UNCONDITIONAL SURRENDER IN ITALY

Goebbels and Fuhrer Die by Own Hands, Aide Says

WAR NEWS SUMMARIZED

THREE TIMES WRESTLE AGAIN OVER POLAND

FRANCE SAYS IT IS \"NO\" TO GOOBELETS

Argentine-Arms Poured in for Toy Revolver—Changed in Domestic Plan Weighed

OCCUPIED ARMS POUR IN ON THE CAFÉ DE PARIS

Reprinted from The New York Times, May 3, 1945

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MOSCOW JOY MAD AS BERLIN IS WON

State Announces Start of Immense Celebration in Honor of Victory

The New York Times, May 3, 1945

The New York Times, May 3, 1945

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The New York Times, August 7, 1945

FIRST ATOMIC BOMB DROPPED ON JAPAN; MISSILE IS EQUAL TO 20,000 TONS OF TNT; TRUMAN WARNS FOE OF A ‘RAIN OF RUIN’

HIBAW J. JOHNSON, REPUBLICAN DEAN IN THE SENATE, DIES

Jet Plane Explosion Kills Major Bong, Top U.S. Ace

First Who Davowed 40 Japanese Craft, Sent Home to Be ‘Safe,’ Was Flying New ‘Shooting Star’ as a Test Pilot

BY R. E. CHRISTIAN

The first plane to make a successful test flight of the new American ‘Shooting Star’, Major Robert C. Bong, was killed in a plane explosion yesterday. The plane was shot down by Japanese anti-aircraft fire. Major Bong, a top American ace, was killed in the crash, which occurred near Miho, Japan.

KOYUKAWA NAVAL RESEARCH LABORATORY IN DEMOLITION STRIKE

REPORT BY BRITAIN

Kensy City Razed

Kennedy’s Planes Blast Tusunamit in Record Blow From Okinawa

BY FRANK S. SCHENKHOFF

The U.S. Navy’s raids on Japanese cities continued today with a bombing attack on Kentsy City, near Tokyo. The raid was made by the 12th Air Force, which was led by Captain J. E. Kennedy. The raid came on the heels of a similar attack on Tokyo yesterday.

Steel Tower ‘Vaporized’ In Trial of Mighty Bomb

BY CLAYTON DUNN

Scientists Announce the ‘Vaporization’ of a Steel Tower as the Result of a Test of a new bomb. Details of the weapon were not given, but it is believed that the bomb was a hydrogen bomb. The test was conducted in a remote area of the United States.

NEW AGE USHERED

Day of Atomic Energy Hailed by President

HEROSHIMA IS TARGET

Impenetrable Cloud of Radiation in Aftermath of Single Bomb Strikes

BY SIDNEY KALKEY

A new day dawned in the world today, as the United States harked in the dawn of the atomic age with the dropping of the first atomic bomb on Hiroshima. The bomb was dropped by a B-29 Superfortress, which was piloted by Lieutenant Colonel James H. Doolittle. The bomb was dropped at 8:15 a.m. local time, and the damage was estimated to be several thousand miles.

ATOMIC BOMBS MADE IN 3 HIDDEN CITIES

Trains Canceled in Stricken Area

BY JAY WALKER

The United States has made three atomic bombs in secret cities, according to the United States government. The bombs were tested in the desert, and were dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

TURKS TALK WAR IF RUSSIA PRESSURES

Prefer Vain Battle to Surrender

BY R. E. CHRISTIAN

The Turks have told Russia that they will not give in to Russia’s demands. They say that they will fight to the bitter end. The Turks say that they will not surrender.

Reich Exile Emerges as Heroine

In Denial to Nazis of Atom’s Secret

BY R. E. CHRISTIAN

The German government has attempted to deny that it has the atomic bomb. The German government has attempted to deny that it has the atomic bomb.

The New York Times, August 7, 1945

SOVIET DECLARES WAR ON JAPAN; ATTACKS MANCHURIA, TOKYO SAYS; ATOM BOMB LOOSED ON NAGASAKI

The New York Times, August 9, 1945

SOVIET DECLARES WAR ON JAPAN; ATTACKS MANCHURIA, TOKYO SAYS; ATOM BOMB LOOSED ON NAGASAKI

TRUMAN TO REPORT TO TOWNPEOPLE ON BIG 3 AND WAR

Half-Hour Speech by Reds to Cover a Wide Range of Problems Facing the World

HE SIGNS PEACE CHARTER

And Thus Makes the Country's First Complete All-Radical Government

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Half-Hour Speech by Reds to Cover a Wide Range of Problems Facing the World

HE SIGNS PEACE CHARTER

And Thus Makes the Country's First Complete All-Radical Government
JAPAN SURRENDERS, END OF WAR! EMPEROR ACCEPTS ALLIED RULE; M’ARTHUR SUPREME COMMANDER; OUR MANPOWER CURBS VOIED

The New York Times, August 15, 1945

President announcing surrender of Japan.

Yielding unqualified, Truman Says
Japan Is Told to Order End of Hostilities, Notify Allied Supreme Commander and Send Emmissaries to Him

MacArthur to Receive Surrender

Formal Proclamation of V-J Day Announces Signing of Those Articles—Cease-Fire Order Given to the Allied Forces

By A. A. KROOK

WASHINGTON, Aug. 15.—Japan today unconditionally surrendered the Japanese empire taken by force and held by the Allied powers, President Harry S. Truman announced today, announcing the terms of the Potsdam Declaration of July 26, 1945, which affirmed the Cairo Declarations of 1943.

Like the previous forms in the surrender, today’s Japanese document was submitted by the Japanese Prime Minister to the United States and was in the Allies in the Pacific area.

The Allied powers of the Japanese forces to be submitted to the United States and to the Allies in the Pacific area.

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THE NEW YORK TIMES, August 15, 1945

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Three Fleet Fells 5 Planes Since End of War

WASHINGTON, Aug. 15.—A war against Japan continues, President Harry S. Truman announced today, and confirmed the terms of the Potsdam Declaration of July 26, 1945, which affirmed the Cairo Declarations of 1943.

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