

**Picturing History:  
Soldiers During WW II  
American History Lesson**

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**Lesson Plan Summary**

This lesson is designed to evoke historical empathy from middle or high school students by asking them to view pictures and imagine the story of those people. Students will answer a series of questions based on an picture from a specified time period (all of pictures in this lesson are of soldiers during WW II) creating a historically accurate fictional character. Students will then write diary entries for the character they created.

This activity lesson should be used in conjunction with a World War II unit.

**Objectives:**

Florida Sunshine State Standards as follows:

SS.A.1.3.1 SS.A.1.3.2 SS.A.5.3.2 LA.A.2.3.6 LA.2.3.8

**Historical Time Period:** 20<sup>th</sup> Century

**Grade Levels:** Middle and High School

**Materials/Resources Needed:**

- Pictures of World War II soldiers (All the pictures below and others can be found at [www.historylink101.com/ww2\\_color/index.html](http://www.historylink101.com/ww2_color/index.html))
- Picturing History questions

**Lesson Time:** 2 to 3 42 minute class periods

**Lesson Procedures:**

Day 1:

1. Pass out pictures to students. Several students can have the same picture.
2. Pass out the Picturing History questions (questions may be edited to fit the specific needs of a classroom).
3. Students answer the questions using their imagination about the soldier in their picture. By doing so, students create their own character. All their answers must be historically accurate (ie: aliens, spaceships, cell phones, video games, etc cannot be mentioned or referred to.)

Day 2:

1. Students will create a diary for the character they created in the Day 1 activity.
2. The diaries must be 5 paragraphs and may be all about one day or about multiple days. The diary is to explain part of the daily life of a soldier in World War II.

**Assessment:**

The diary will serve as the assessment for this lesson.

## Picture History!!!

**Directions:** Choose a picture (use the person from the picture that is circled if more than one person is in the photo). Answer the following questions about the person in the picture. **Use your imagination!!!**

1. First Name? Last Name?
2. Age?
3. Where does he/she live?
4. Does he/she speak only English?
5. Who else is in his/her family?
6. Which family member is he/she closest to?
7. Which family member does he/she keep secrets from?
8. Did he/she attend school? Does he/she like it? What is his/her best and worst subject?
9. What is his/her favorite hobby?
10. At what age does he/she die?
11. How does he/she die?
12. What is the epitaph on his/her tombstone?
13. Does he/she have any enemies?
14. Does he/she work? If so, doing what?
15. What is he/she most proud of?
16. Has the character ever stolen anything? If so, what and when?
17. What is the character's nickname? Who gave it to him/her why?
18. What is his/her most treasured object?
19. Who is the character's best friend? How long have they known one another and what do they like to do together?
20. What is the character most afraid of?
21. Name three adjectives your character would use to describe him/herself.
22. Who is his/her hero?
23. If this character could have one wish granted, what would it be?
24. What is his/her greatest flaw?
25. Name one physical mannerism that sets him/her apart from everyone else.
26. What kind of pet does he/she have?
27. Is he/she a picky eater? What does he/she like to eat?
28. Is he/she religious? Patriotic? Politically aware?



