



THE NATIONAL
WWII MUSEUM

The ABCs of World War II

An Artistic Vocabulary Lesson

A Lesson Plan from
the Education Department of the
The National World War II Museum

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Many students learn best through visual exploration and creative expression. The act of artistic creation can help them internalize a subject better than any text-driven lesson. This activity will give students an opportunity to show their creativity while they learn important WWII vocabulary.

OBJECTIVE: Students will learn World War II vocabulary by researching and creating a WWII *ABCs* book.

BENCHMARKS: Grades 7-8: H-1A-M6; H-1B-M17; H-1B-M18; H-1C-M17
Grades 9-12: H-1A-H11 through H-1A-H1 through H-1A-H5; H-1B-H13

DIRECTIONS:

1. Explain to students that this activity is related to the people, places, events, and equipment of WWII.
2. Working in groups, students are to design, research, and produce a WWII *ABCs* book designed for an elementary school-level student.
 - Remind students that they are assuming the role of a teacher.
 - The book should be at least 26 pages long (one page per letter) and must be illustrated with student-created art. This can include drawings, sketches, collages, and paintings. Example: *A is for Allies, B is for Battleship...*
 - Each page must contain simple explanatory text (it may be rhyming text).
 - The book should be bound with cardstock or other material, with an illustrated cover.
 - A list of possible WWII vocabulary words follows. You may want to have students conduct research to choose their own vocabulary words.
3. An alternative strategy is to assign each student in your class a different letter of the alphabet to design a page for the WWII *ABCs* book. Make sure each student uses the same size paper.

ASSESSMENT: Components for assessment include the completed book or the individually designed page. You may wish to grade individual aspects of this assignment: neatness, creativity, accuracy, etc.

ENRICHMENT: Have students create an *ABC* book for the history of their hometown.

Possible D-Day Vocabulary Words for *The ABCs of World War II*

Atlantic Wall, Allies, AEF, airborne, armada, Anderson shelter, Anzio, Auschwitz
Bombardment, beaches, Britain, battleship, Bailey bridge, barrage balloon, Blitzkrieg
Churchill, courage, Canadians, camaraderie, Chennault, civil defense, Coral Sea
D-Day, DUKW, DD tank, Dunkirk, Doolittle, de Gaulle
English Channel, Eisenhower, ETO, Enigma, El Alamein
Foxhole, fortification, flame-thrower, flak, Flying Tigers, Free French
Gold Beach, glider, Germans, G.I., Grumman, Guadalcanal, Guam
Higgins boat, hedgehog, hedgerow, home front, helmet, Halsey, Hiroshima,
Invasion, incoming, Iwo Jima, island hopping, Italy
Juno Beach, jump zone, June 6th, jeep
Kriegsmarine, K-ration, kamikaze, Kursk
Landing craft, *Luftwaffe*, land mine, lend-lease, Leyte, Los Alamos, London
Mulberry harbor, Montgomery, medic, minesweeper, Manhattan Project, Midway, Moscow
Normandy, Navy, New Orleans, Nagasaki, Nimitz, North Africa, Nuremberg Trials
Overlord, Omaha, Order of the Day, OSS, Okinawa
Paratrooper, Pointe-du-Hoc, Panzer, pillbox, Paris, Patton, Pearl Harbor, PTO
Quisling, Quebec Conference, queasy, quiet, quick
Rommel, radar, Roosevelt, Rangers, rationing, Resistance
Sabotage, SHAEF, submarine, Sword Beach, Seabees, Stalin, Second Front
Teamwork, tank, Tarawa, Tito, Tojo, Tokyo, Truman
Utah Beach, U-boat, uniform, Ultra, USO
Victory, V-1 rocket, V-mail
World War II, Wake Island, WAC, WAVES, war bonds
X-ray, XX Committee, X-craft
Yalta Conference, Yank, Yamamoto
Zero, Operation Zeppelin, Zhukov

These are only suggestions. Students may research with their own words.