



A NEW PERSPECTIVE ON THE WAR, USING STUNNING SATELLITE TECHNOLOGY

WWII FROM SPACE

WWII From Space offers a new perspective on the war, using stunning satellite technology. This special two-hour presentation gives viewers an understanding of the major events of the war by looking at the "big picture" through mapping and geography. Flying through space and time from above, viewers see these monumental moments in their global context. Compelling graphics break down the economic and political dimensions of WWII, shedding new light on the causes and consequences of the conflict. Analyzing the war through a spatial satellite view gives students a broader framework to grasp the enormity of the conflict and the timeline of events. This fresh take on WWII is ideal for today's visual learners.

Vocabulary:

Ask students to define the terms below before or after watching this program. Exploring these terms, which are used in the documentary, will help students further engage with the topic and explore the key concepts it covers.

>amphibious	>industrialized
>attrition	>magnetron
>capitulate	>propaganda
>embargo	>reconnaissance
>ferocious	>synthetic

Discussion Questions:

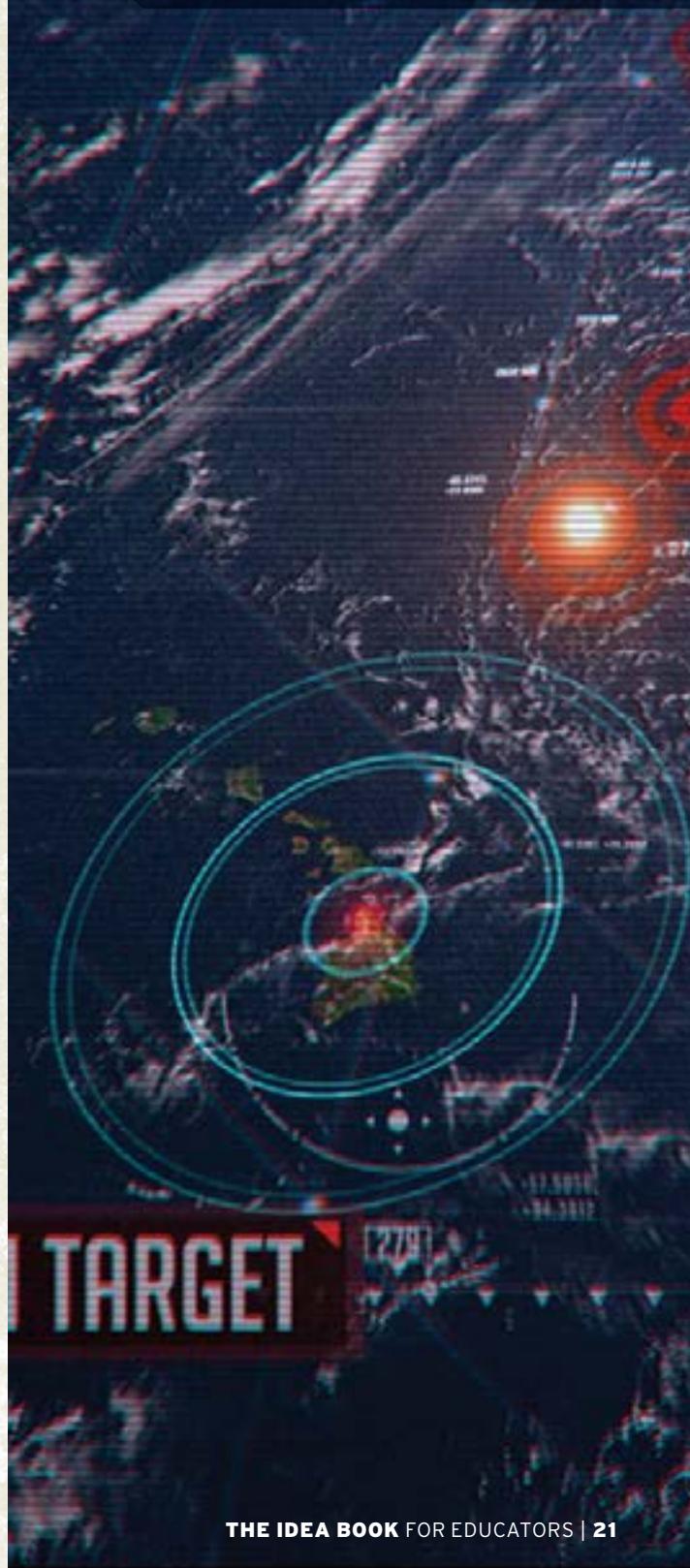
1. Most Americans favored neutrality as of December 6, 1941. What changed on December 7?
2. What was the United States' first action after joining the war? What weapon did the Germans have that made this so difficult?
3. How did Henry Tizard help put the Allies on equal footing with the Germans?
4. What was the War Industries Board? How did the decisions of this board affect population and production in the United States during the war?
5. Why was breaking code so influential for the Allies? How did it help jump-start their offensive in the Pacific?
6. Why did World War II become such an aircraft-dependent war? Why did the Allies have an advantage in the skies?
7. Which two aircraft changed the dynamics of the war for the Allies and why?
8. How did the Germans attack Russia? Why was the Battle of Stalingrad so important? What happened to each army after the battle?
9. How did the United States assemble its forces during World War II? How many people joined the the armed forces?
10. What tactics did the Japanese use in the Battles of Iwo Jima and Okinawa? What did the two battles teach the U.S. about the possibility of invading the Japanese mainland?
11. What was the Manhattan Project? How did the atomic bomb change the war?
12. What is the legacy of World War II? What were the outcomes of the war?

Extended Activities:

1. **World War II From Above.** This documentary looks at World War II from above. How does looking at the "big picture" of the war shape our understanding of the conflict? Students can write a short essay in response to this question and discuss their answers with the larger class or group.
2. **WWII by the Numbers.** Many secondary sources offer statistics about participation in World War II including troop numbers,

>>> CURRICULUM LINKS:

This program is useful for history, global studies and politics courses and for course units and lectures on World War II. It is appropriate for high school and college students.



casualties and dollars spent. Ask students to choose one of these categories and research the statistics about this aspect of World War II. Students can create a PowerPoint presentation or short oral report about their findings. Do all sources report the same numbers? If they differ, how do you draw a conclusion about which numbers are most accurate?

3. **Inside World War II.** History.com features a special interactive called "Inside World War II" available online at www.history.com/interactives/inside-wii-interactive. Students can explore this interactive and choose one section to research. Examples: Women in World War II, specific battles, Navajo Code Talkers, etc. Students can write a research paper, create a PowerPoint, or give an oral presentation about their topic.
4. **Every Photo Tells A Story.** Many photographers captured the events of World War II as they happened. Students can visit the World War II photo gallery on History.com at www.history.com/topics/world-war-ii/photos and choose one photo. What does this photo reveal about World War II? Ask students to write essays about one of these photos. (The National Archives has created a Photo Analysis Worksheet that would be a useful tool for this activity at: www.archives.gov/education/lessons/worksheets/photo_analysis_worksheet.pdf)

Additional Resources

Books:

- Durrett, Deanne. *Unsung Heroes of World War II: The Story of the Navajo Code Talkers*. (Facts on File, 1998).
- Holmes, Richard. *World War II: The Definitive Visual History*. (DK Books, 2011).
- Hynson, Colin. *World War II: A Primary Source History*. (Gareth Stevens, 2005).
- Swanston, Alexander and Malcolm Swanston. *The Historical Atlas of World War II*. (Chartwell, 2010).

Websites:

- Read more and watch short videos on History.com:
www.history.com/topics/world-war-ii
- Listen to important World War II speeches on History.com:
www.history.com/topics/world-war-ii/speeches
- The National Archives' comprehensive collection of WWII records: www.archives.gov/research/military/ww2
- The National World War II Museum: www.ddaymuseum.org

