US History Biographies Unit 5

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| **Knowledge and Skills Statements** | **Student Expectation** | **Biography** |
| (US.4) **History**. The student understands the emergence of the United States as a world power between 1898 and 1920. | D. Understand the contributions of the American Expeditionary Forces (AEF) led by General John J. Pershing; | **General John J. Pershing (1860-1948)** Born in Missouri, John Pershing spent his life in the military. He graduated from West Point in 1886 and was commissioned second lieutenant of cavalry. He fought in the Indian Wars, commanded an all-black unit for a time, taught at West Point, and served as a military observer during the Russo-Japanese War in 1905. He spent nearly a decade in the Philippines and then was sent to Mexico to apprehend Pancho Villa in 1914. In 1917, Pershing was selected to lead the American Expeditionary Force to Europe during World War I. Pershing did not agree with French and British officers who sought to incorporate the U.S. troops into their units. Pershing insisted that Americans fight together. His troops were instrumental in the defeat of the Germans in the Argonne Forest, in the Meuse-Argonne region of France. |
| (US.26) **Culture**. The student understands how people from various groups contribute to our national identity. | F. Discuss the importance of congressional Medal of Honor recipients, including individuals of all races and genders such as Vernon J. Baker, Alvin York, and Roy Benavidez. | **Alvin York (1887-1964)** Known as the greatest [American] hero of World War I, after his platoon had suffered heavy casualties and 3 other noncommissioned officers had become casualties, Cpl. York assumed command. Fearlessly leading 7 men, he charged with great daring a machinegun nest which was pouring deadly and incessant fire upon his platoon. In this heroic feat the machinegun nest was taken, together with 4 officers and 128 men and several guns. York was promoted to Sergeant and received the U.S. Medal of Honor, Distinguished Service Cross, the French Croix de Guerre, the French Legion of Honor, the Croce di Guerra of Italy, and the War Medal of Montenegro. |