US History Biographies Unit 8

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| **US History Biographies** |
| **Knowledge and Skills Statements** | **Student Expectation** | **Biography** |
| (US.7) History. The student understands the domestic and international impact of U.S. participation in World War II. | B. Evaluate the domestic and international leadership of Franklin D. Roosevelt and Harry Truman during World War II, including the U.S. relationship with its allies and domestic industry’s rapid mobilization for the war effort; | **Franklin D. Roosevelt (1882-1945)** Born in New York to a wealthy family, Franklin Roosevelt entered politics in 1910 as a Democratic candidate to the U.S. Senate. He was a member of Woodrow Wilson's administration and was unsuccessful in a bid for the vice-presidency in 1920. In 1921 he contracted polio but struggled to overcome the physical limitations and maintain a public, political career. In 1932 he opposed Republican incumbent President Herbert Hoover and soundly defeated him. He began the New Deal in the first 100 days after his inauguration. His reforms, proposed to counteract the effects of the Great Depression, affected four areas: finance, industry, agriculture and relief (welfare). He strengthened government work programs. His executive orders and sponsorship of legislation in the national interest supported the weak economy and remained viable years after his death. Yet, critics worried that his growing executive authority might undermine the checks and balances of the three branches of government. This concern derived from Roosevelt's attempts to pack the Supreme Court with his own appointees. Congress eventually passed a court reform bill but it did not support Roosevelt's ideas. Conservatives in Congress reacted by passing few New Deal reforms after 1937. By 1939, Roosevelt transferred his efforts from the New Deal to a new diplomacy to counter the aggression of Adolf Hitler, Benito Mussolini, and Tojo Hideki. American support for Roosevelt was high, and he dominated the political scene for four terms, the most of any U.S. president. The 22nd Amendment, adopted in 1951, often termed the anti-Franklin Roosevelt amendment, limited presidents to two terms. |
|  |  | **Harry Truman (1884-1972)** Harry S. Truman assumed the presidency following the sudden death of Franklin Delano Roosevelt in 1945. Having served as a senator from Missouri, he knew little of the workings of the executive office. He had no time to learn. Within weeks he attended the founding of the United Nations; represented the U.S at the Potsdam conference where two European powers, the Soviets and the British, discussed post-war order; and authorized the use of the atomic bomb in Japan, first on Hiroshima on August 6 and then on Nagasaki on August 9. In response to the spread of Communism, Truman announced the Truman Doctrine on March 12, 1947, which pledged U.S. support to nations opposing Communism. The Cold War, characterized by the antagonistic conflict between two world powers, the Soviet Union and the United States, began during Truman's administration. When the Communist North Koreans invaded South Korea in June 1950, Truman appealed to the United Nations, which dispensed forces to support South Korea. Truman's refusal to commit more effort to win the war frustrated voters and they elected Dwight D. Eisenhower as president in 1952.   |
|  | F. Evaluate the military contributions of leaders during World War II, including Omar Bradley, Dwight Eisenhower, Douglas MacArthur, Chester A. Nimitz, George Marshall, and George Patton; and | **Omar Bradley (1893-1981)** Omar Bradley was a U.S. Army general noted for his concern for individual soldiers and his ability to organize large forces. He graduated from West Point Military Academy and rose rapidly in the ranks. He served during World War II, commanding divisions and serving as Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower's "eyes and ears" in North Africa. Bradley commanded the First Army in the D-Day landings and the Normandy campaign. He participated in Patton's march through France and Belgium to German and the battles in Ardennes areas. In April 1945 his army group drove through central Germany to the Elbe to join the Russians and push into Czechoslovakia at war's end. He headed the Veteran's Administration after the war, became U.S. Army Chief of Staff in 1948, and then became the first chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. He argued that a major land war in Asia in the 1950s would be "the wrong war, at the wrong place, at the wrong time, and with the wrong enemy." He retired in 1953 but served on the Senior Advisory Group to President Lyndon Johnson, advising him on the Vietnam war effort. In 1968 the group informed Johnson that the only way the United States could win the war was an invasion on the scale of a world war and the American people did not support that. In Bradley's opinion, the war was hopeless. |
|  |  | **Dwight Eisenhower (1890-1969)** Dwight David Eisenhower served his country as a military leader, and as president from 1952 to 1960. Born in Texas, Eisenhower was raised in Abilene, Kansas. He graduated from West Point in 1915 and married Mamie Doud in 1916. Eisenhower served as General Douglas MacArthur's senior assistant in the Philippines when MacArthur was the army's chief of staff. MacArthur considered him the most capable officer in the army. General Eisenhower commanded Allied forces in Europe during World War II. He led the British-American invasion of North Africa which defeated Rommel's Africa Korps in 1943. On June 6, 1944, he commanded Allied forces on D-Day. He was appointed president of Columbia University in 1948 but was recalled to active military duty in 1950 to lead forces of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO). He retired from the army in 1952 to make a bid for the Republican Party nomination for president. He was elected to the first of two terms. Americans hoped he would end the fighting in South Korea against communist China and North Korea. He did negotiate a peace settlement signed in 1953 but the fear of communism remained high in the United States. The cold war between the U.S.S.R. and the United States continued throughout his administration as he supported a foreign policy which encouraged cooperation and not conflict. He favored gradual domestic change. He ordered troops into Little Rock, Arkansas, to keep peace when the high school racially integrated, and he signed the civil rights acts of 1957 and 1960. |
|  |  | **Douglas MacArthur (1880-1964)** Douglas MacArthur was a soldier, graduate of West Point, and veteran of World Wars I and II, and the Korean War. In 1932 he led the troops that evicted the veterans who were camped in Washington D.C. protesting their treatment and conditions during the Great Depression. Because of his service in the Philippines prior to World War II, he was named commander of U.S. forces in the Far East. During World War II he commanded troops in the Southwest Pacific and presided over the Japanese surrender as the commander of Allied Powers. He was military governor of Japan from 1945-50 and then commanded the United Nations forces in Korea. Truman relieved him of command in 1951 because MacArthur's and Truman's tactics conflicted.  |
|  |  | **Chester W. Nimitz (1885-1966)** Fleet Admiral Chester William Nimitz, GCB, USN, was a five-star admiral in the United States Navy. He held the dual command of Commander in Chief, United States Pacific Fleet ("CinCPac" pronounced "sink-pack"), for U.S. naval forces and Commander in Chief, Pacific Ocean Areas (CinCPOA), for U.S. and Allied air, land, and sea forces during World War II. He was the leading U.S. Navy authority on submarines, as well as Chief of the Navy's Bureau of Navigation in 1939. He served as Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) from 1945 until 1947. He was the United States' last surviving Fleet Admiral.  |
|  |  | **George Marshall (1880-1959)** A soldier who graduated from the Virginia Military Institute, George Marshall became Gen. John Pershing's principal aide following the Meuse-Argonne campaign during World War I. He organized the Civil Conservation Corp, one of Franklin D. Roosevelt's New Deal programs, and became chief of staff of the U.S. Army in World War II. As chief of staff he organized the training of troops, development of strategic plans, and appointment of top military personnel. President Harry S. Truman named him secretary of state and during his tenure Marshall implemented the Marshall Plan for the economic recovery of Europe. He won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1953 for his post-war efforts.  |
|  |  | **George Patton (1885-1945)** A soldier and graduate of West Point, George Patton learned tank tactics during World War I. He held many commands during World War II, directed the amphibious landings on Casablanca and the campaign in North Africa, led the Third Army out of Normandy, assisted with the Battle of the Bulge, and marched on into Germany. He despised communists and he proposed, following the German surrender, that German and U.S. troops join forces against the Soviet Union. He favored retaining Nazis in some positions and as a result he was removed from command. He is considered one of the most successful American field commanders of any war.   |
|  | G. Explain the home front and how American patriotism inspired exceptional actions by citizens and military personnel, including high levels of military enlistment; volunteerism; the purchase of war bonds; Victory Gardens; the bravery and contributions of the Tuskegee Airmen, the Flying Tigers, and the Navajo Code Talkers; and opportunities and obstacles for women and ethnic minorities. | **Victory Gardens** As part of the war effort, the government rationed foods like sugar, butter, milk, cheese, eggs, coffee, meat and canned goods. Labor and transportation shortages made it hard to harvest and move fruits and vegetables to market. So, the government turned to its citizens and encouraged them to plant "Victory Gardens." They wanted individuals to provide their own fruits and vegetables. Nearly 20 million Americans answered the call. They planted gardens in backyards, empty lots and even city rooftops. Neighbors pooled their resources, planted different kinds of foods and formed cooperatives, all in the name of patriotism.  |
|  |  | **Tuskegee Airmen** The Tuskegee Airmen were dedicated, determined young men who enlisted to become America's first black military airmen, at a time when there were many people who thought that black men lacked intelligence, skill, courage and patriotism. The black airmen who became single-engine or multi-engine pilots were trained at Tuskegee Army Air Field (TAAF) in Tuskegee Alabama. The first aviation cadet class began in July 1941 and completed training nine months later in March 1942. The Airmen's success in escorting bombers during World War II – losing only a small number of bombers to enemy fire in more than 200 combat missions - is a record unmatched by any other fighter group. |
|  |  | **Flying Tigers** is the name given to the all-volunteer flying units created In the summer of 1938 by Claire Chennault prior to the US entering WWII. It was designed to train a new Chinese Air Force from an American mold. It was during these years of self-imposed exile in the Chinese hinterland, that Chennault laid the foundation for the unique American air operations that featured the final three years of the Japanese war in China |
|  |  | **Navajo Code Talkers** Between 1942 and 1945, about 400 Navajos served as code talkers for the U.S. Marines. They could encode, transmit, and decode a message in a fraction of the time it took a machine to do the same. And unlike with machine codes, the Japanese were never able to break the Navajo code which was based on the Navajo language. |
| (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. | **Vernon J. Baker (1919- )** In the spring of 1945, Baker—the only black officer in his company—was in command of a weapons platoon made up of two light-machine-gun squads and two mortar squads. His unit was near Viareggio on April 5th when it was ordered to launch a dawn assault against Castle Aghinolfi, a mountain stronghold occupied by the Germans. On the second day of the assault, Baker led a battalion that finally secured the mountain for the American soldiers. Baker earned a Purple Heart, Bronze Star, and Distinguished Service Cross during his time in service. He remained in the military until 1968, lived through its desegregation, and became one of the first blacks to command an all-white company. On January 13th, 1997, 52 years after Baker's World War II military service, President Clinton presented him with the Medal of Honor, the nation's highest decoration for battlefield valor. He was one of the most highly decorated black soldiers in the Mediterranean Theater. He is also the only living black World War II veteran to earn the Medal of Honor. |