of enemy beaches. Before or after watching WWII in HD, students should read the glossary of terms, and to make a list of new words they learn while watching.

Discussion Questions
1. Why do you think the United States maintained a position of neutrality in World War II for so long? What was the role of the U.S. in this conflict before the official declaration of war?
2. Which nations were part of the Axis and Allied powers during World War II?
3. What is the definition of facism? Why do you think Hitler was able to appeal to so many people so quickly?
4. What is unique about the footage used in this series? What does this lack of color footage offer you?
5. Do you think the U.S. military during World War II was prepared to be fighting in the war? What were some other emotions they experienced throughout the war?
6. What role did people of color play in the war effort? How did people of color play their part?

The Pacific Ocean (and islands), Japan, Southeast Asia, China, India, Burma, and the South Pacific. The main U.S. opponent was Japan.

Home Front

The United States had two fronts. Used to describe the civilian war effort is support of the troops.

- This series presents the monuments and museums that honor the veterans of World War II. It introduces many terms and concepts that might be new to students. After or before watching WWII in HD, students should read the glossary of terms and to make a list of new words they learn while watching.

Extended Activities
1. Locating the World War II "VJ" and "VE" Days

In order to gain a diverse understanding of WWII and students to break into small groups. Each of these groups should create a timeline of World War II events, including a few personal stories or accounts. These timelines can be presented as posters, timelines, or graphic organizers. Students should be encouraged to use different media to convey their message, such as color, images, and text.

2. WWII in Full Color

The U.S. government created a number of books to help enlist Americans in the war effort and communicate the importance of civic involvement. In small groups, students can create their own booklets using images and text from the collection. These booklets can be presented in a variety of ways, such as a collage, a flipbook, or a slideshow.

3. World War II Literature and Poetry

The letters below are a transcription of a handwritten diary entry recorded by Gallego during World War II.

Dear Mom and Dad,

I don't know how long it will be before I get a chance to write a letter to you. I'm just writing this to let you know that I'm still alive and well. I've been in the army for a few months now, and I'm still learning a lot about life and the people around me.

The war is going on, and I'm doing my part. I'm helping to keep the enemy away from our land, and I'm proud to be a part of this great country.

I miss you both so much, and I hope you're both doing well. I'll be home soon, I promise.

Love,

[Name]

Women in Uniform

During World War II, the U.S. military was predominantly composed of men. Yet despite this, women played a crucial role in the war effort. For example, women served in the Navy WAVES (Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service), the Marines, and the Army Women's Auxiliary Air Force. These women were responsible for a variety of tasks, from operating communication equipment to serving as nurses.

The Holocaust

The Holocaust began in Europe in the 1930s, and it was the systematic and planned persecution of Jews and other groups by the Nazi Party and its collaborators. During World War II, the Holocaust became even more widespread, and it is estimated that over 6 million Jews were murdered. The Holocaust was a tragic event, and its memory serves as a reminder of the dangers of hatred and prejudice.

Women's History Month

Women's History Month is celebrated in March to honor the contributions of women to history and society. The month-long celebration encourages the study and appreciation of the achievements of women and their role in shaping the world we live in today. During Women's History Month, various events and activities are held to promote the recognition and appreciation of women's contributions.

The Spirit of 45 project

The Spirit of 45 project is an initiative that aims to document the experiences of veterans from World War II. The project seeks to collect and preserve the oral histories of veterans, with the goal of ensuring that their stories are not forgotten. The Spirit of 45 project provides resources and support to veterans and their families, as well as opportunities for them to share their stories and connect with others who have similar experiences.

Recommended Books and Articles

Voices of D-Day: The Story of the Allied Invasion Told by Those Who Were There

Wartime Diaries and Memoirs

Wartime diaries and memoirs provide valuable insights into the experiences of soldiers during World War II. These diaries offer a personal perspective on the events of the war, including the challenges and hardships faced by those who fought in it. By reading these diaries, we can gain a better understanding of the history of the war and the people who fought it.

Glossary of Terms


Primary Source Excerpts

World War II: What Were We Fighting For?

After the atomic explosion in Potsdam in 1945, the Allies demanded unconditional surrender by Japan on August 15.

The Axis Powers

The Axis powers consisted of Germany, Italy, and Japan, who were allied with each other in the conflict. These nations shared a common ideology, which included a belief in racial superiority and the expansion of their territories. The Axis powers were opposed by the Allies, which included the United States, the United Kingdom, the Soviet Union, and China.

The United States

The United States entered World War II in December 1941 after the attack on Pearl Harbor by Japan. The United States provided significant military and economic support to the Allies, which helped to turn the tide of the war. The United States emerged as a world power after the war, and it played a significant role in shaping the international order that followed.

The Soviet Union

The Soviet Union was a major player in World War II, and it played a significant role in the defeat of Nazi Germany. The Soviet Union suffered significant losses during the war, but it was able to recover and emerge as a major power after the war.

The United Kingdom

The United Kingdom was a key ally of the United States and the Soviet Union in World War II. The United Kingdom provided significant military support to the Allies, and it played a crucial role in the defeat of Nazi Germany.

Japan

Japan entered World War II in December 1941 after the attack on Pearl Harbor by the United States. Japan quickly conquered much of Southeast Asia and parts of the Pacific Ocean, but it was eventually defeated by the Allies.

The Pacific Theater

The Pacific Theater of World War II was a region of conflict that centered on the Pacific Ocean and the islands of the Pacific and Indian Oceans. The Pacific Theater was home to some of the most intense fighting in World War II, and it played a key role in the defeat of Japan.

Conclusion

World War II was a complex and multifaceted conflict that had a significant impact on the world. The war resulted in the deaths of millions of people, and it led to significant changes in the international order. Today, we continue to study and learn from the events of World War II, and we use these lessons to guide our actions in the world.