

United States - Japanese Relations In Post World War II Era

Impact of the End of World War II on Japan

Purpose:

United States' occupation in Japan affected Japan's political, economic, and social systems.

Target Grade Level: 9

Essential Questions:

1. Why did the United States occupy Japan after their unconditional surrender?
2. How would you describe Japan after World War II?
3. What was the impact on Japan's systems?

Rationale:

Students discover the destruction of war and recovery problems.

Materials:

- Photographs of Japan at the end of World War II
- Background info: <http://www.japan-guide.com/e/e2124.html>

Activities:

1. Introduce the lesson by posing the following question to the students: "How do you think the United States should have treated Japan after World War II?" Have the students discuss their views on this question and record their responses. Inform the students that this question will provide the focus of the next several lessons.
2. After viewing photographs, students work in small groups to develop lists that describe Japan after World War II.
3. Students write their collaborated responses on the board such as loss of life, destruction of factories, shortages of food and housing, orphans, people without work, disease and shortage of medical supplies, schools and railroads destroyed, shortage of fuel, etc.

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4. Students as a group re-examine the list and identify systems that were not operating effectively at the conclusion of World War II such as health care, education, communications, transportation and agricultural systems. Revise the list accordingly.
5. Conclude the lesson with a discussion of the extent to which the United States occupation forces would affect the political, economic and social systems in Japan.

Assessment:

Teacher analysis of student lists and class discussion.

Relationship to Social Studies Standards:

Grade 9, History, Grade-level Indicator 11

Analyze the consequences of World War II.

This lesson was originally developed by Dr. Betty Barclay Franks, teacher, Maples Heights City Schools, Ohio for the publication Learning About Our World: Japan. These lessons were revised for this publication by Teresa A. Bica, Supervisor of Elementary Student Teachers at Kent State University, Kent, Ohio.