

PICTURING THE WAR IN THE PACIFIC

A Visual Time Line



(National Archives and Records Administration, WC 1221.)

INTRODUCTION

By analyzing photographs and building a time line, students will be able to identify, discuss, and analyze the major events of World War II in the Pacific. First, students must match iconic images from the war in the Pacific with their captions. Then, they will place each image and caption in the correct chronological order to build a comprehensive time line of the war in the Pacific from the Japanese invasion of Manchuria to their surrender aboard the USS *Missouri*. Students will view the raising of the American flag on Mount Suribachi, look for a kamikaze attack on a US aircraft carrier, and identify the first Navajo code talkers sworn into the US Marine Corps.

OBJECTIVES

- By analyzing photographs and building a time line, students will be able to identify, discuss, and analyze the major events of World War II in the Pacific.
- Students will also be able to identify the temporal structure of a historical narrative.

GRADE LEVEL

7–12

TIME REQUIREMENT

1 class period

MATERIALS

- This lesson plan uses photographs and date and caption strips that are included as inserts with the printed guide and online at ww2classroom.org.
- You may also need string and clothespins for this lesson.

ONLINE RESOURCES

ww2classroom.org



The photographs, datelines, and captions used in this lesson are available online.

STANDARDS

COMMON CORE STANDARDS

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.9-10.4

Present information, findings, and supporting evidence clearly, concisely, and logically such that listeners can follow the line of reasoning and the organization, development, substance, and style are appropriate to purpose, audience, and task.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.9-10.5

Make strategic use of digital media (e.g., textual, graphical, audio, visual, and interactive elements) in presentations to enhance understanding of findings, reasoning, and evidence, and to add interest.

NATIONAL STANDARDS FOR HISTORY

CONTENT ERA 8, STANDARD 3

The student understands the causes and course of World War II.

HISTORICAL THINKING STANDARD 1

Students are able to identify the temporal structure of a historical narrative or story, to establish temporal order in constructing their own historical narratives, and to interpret data presented in time lines and create time lines by designating appropriate equidistant intervals of time and recording events according to the temporal order in which they occurred.

HISTORICAL THINKING STANDARD 2

The student is able to draw upon the visual sources, including photographs, to clarify, illustrate, or elaborate upon information presented in the historical narrative.

HISTORICAL THINKING STANDARD 3

The student is able to consider multiple perspectives of various peoples in the past by demonstrating their differing motives, beliefs, interests, hopes, and fears, and is able to analyze cause-and-effect relationships.

PROCEDURE

1. There are several ways to implement this lesson, all of which involve various levels of matching photos, captions, and dates. Choose the method that works best with your students based on their skill and knowledge levels, or make up your own way. Regardless of which option you choose, start by having students write down everything they can tell about their photographs using the **Pacific War in Photographs Worksheet** (page 97). Make sure students indicate whether their descriptions come from what they can see or from what they previously knew about World War II. Inform students that the descriptive captions do not always describe the actual photographs, but refer to a historic event from the war in the Pacific.
2. Choose from one of the options below:
 - Option 1.** Give each student or pair of students a random photograph to study. Next, in chronological order, read aloud each caption and have the student with the matching photograph bring it to the front of the class and tape it to the wall or clip it to a string with a clothespin. You can then affix the dates and captions to each picture for the class to review.
 - Option 2.** With groups of five students, randomly divide the photos, captions, and dates among the groups. Have each group match their photos, captions, and dates. Then have all the groups work together to create the full time line of photos. Each group can explain how they were able to match their photos to captions and dates.
 - Option 3.** Give each student one photo, one date, and one caption that do not match. Then let them try to find their matching partners in order to complete the full time line as a class. This exercise will require good teamwork and communication.
3. Have students write a brief reflection in which they discuss the two events they would stress the most if they were writing a history of the war in the Pacific and why they would emphasize those events.
4. Have students share their reflections in order to spark a discussion about the challenges historians face when deciding which facts to include and/or emphasize when crafting historical narratives.

ASSESSMENT

You will be able to assess students based on the accuracy of their photo matching and the quality of their written descriptions. You can also quiz them on the chronology following the activity.

ENRICHMENT

- Have students write alternate, longer captions for each photo.
- Have students brainstorm individually or as a class the 5, 10, or 20 additional dates/events from the war in the Pacific they would add to the time line, and have them conduct research to locate appropriate photos to match.
- Have students research one event in greater depth in order to either write a research paper or create a class presentation.
- Have students create a time line about one topic within the war in the Pacific, e.g. Pearl Harbor, island hopping, or the atomic bombs.

DATE	EVENT
1	Sept. 18, 1931 Japan invades Manchuria.
2	Dec. 13, 1937–Jan. 1938 Rape of Nanking
3	Feb. 14, 1941 Japanese Ambassador Admiral Kichisaburo Nomura arrives in Washington, DC.
4	Dec. 7, 1941 Japanese attack Pearl Harbor.
5	Feb. 19, 1942 FDR signs Executive Order 9066.
6	April 9, 1942 US troops surrender at Bataan, Philippines.
7	April 18, 1942 Doolittle Raid
8	May 4, 1942 First 29 Navajo code talkers sworn into the Marine Corps at Fort Wingate, New Mexico.
9	June 4–7, 1942 Battle of Midway
10	Aug. 7, 1942 Campaign for Guadalcanal begins.
11	Nov. 12–15, 1942 Naval Battle of Guadalcanal
12	Nov. 20–23, 1943 Invasion of Tarawa
13	Jan. 31–Feb. 3, 1944 Invasion of the Marshall Islands
14	June 15, 1944 Airfield construction begins in Marianas as Saipan is invaded.
15	Sept. 15, 1944 Invasion of Peleliu begins.
16	Oct. 20, 1944 MacArthur returns to the Philippines.
17	Jan. 1945 Ledo Road completed.
18	Feb. 23, 1945 Marines raise US flag on Mount Suribachi during the Battle of Iwo Jima.
19	March 6, 1945 First Navy flight nurse sets foot on battlefield at Iwo Jima.
20	March 9–10, 1945 US firebombs Tokyo.
21	April 1, 1945 Invasion of Okinawa begins.
22	May 11, 1945 Kamikazes attack USS <i>Bunker Hill</i> .
23	July 26, 1945 Truman issues Potsdam Declaration.
24	Aug. 6 and 9, 1945 Atomic bombs are dropped over Hiroshima and Nagasaki.
25	Aug. 14, 1945 Truman announces Japanese surrender.
26	Sept. 2, 1945 Instrument of Surrender is signed.

YOUR NAME:

DATE:

PACIFIC WAR IN PHOTOGRAPHS

Directions: Take a close look at your photograph. Pay attention to details. Write down what you see. Indicate if what you write about your photograph comes from what you see, what you already know about World War II, or both.

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TIME LINE KEY



SEPTEMBER 18, 1931

Japan invades Manchuria, a region of northern China that offers the Japanese much-needed natural resources. The lack of forceful reaction from the rest of the world emboldens Japan over the next decade.

(Imperial Postcard Collection, Lafayette College Libraries.)



DECEMBER 13, 1937–JANUARY, 1938

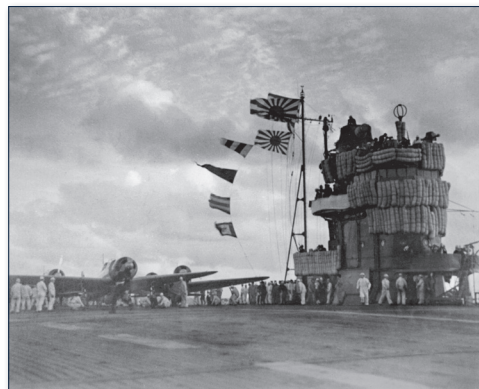
Following the outbreak of a full-scale war at the Marco Polo Bridge in Peking (now Beijing), Japanese troops push south toward Nanking (now Nanjing), where they massacre as many as 200,000 Chinese military prisoners and civilians and rape tens of thousands of Chinese women. *(H.J. Timperley, Japanese Terror in China, 1938.)*



FEBRUARY 14, 1941

Japanese ambassador to the United States Admiral Kichisaburo Nomura arrives in Washington, DC, to present his credentials. Nomura meets with Secretary of State Cordell Hull 50 times over a nine-month period, but their negotiation sessions are not enough to prevent war between their nations.

(The Mainichi Newspapers Co., Ltd.)



DECEMBER 7, 1941

Japanese naval and air forces launch an attack against the US naval base at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, plunging the United States into World War II. *(Michael Wegner Collection.)*



FEBRUARY 19, 1942

President Franklin Delano Roosevelt signs Executive Order 9066, which soon leads to the confinement in isolated camps of more than 110,000 Japanese Americans for the remainder of the war.

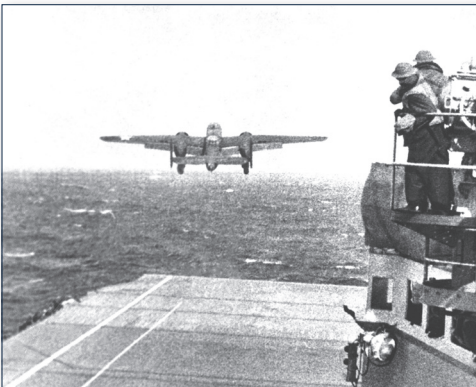
(National Archives and Records Administration, 210-G-3B-414.)



APRIL 9, 1942

Five months after the Japanese invasion of the Philippines, the largest surrender in US history occurs on the Bataan Peninsula. As Japan celebrates, American morale plummets to a new low.

(National Archives and Records Administration, WC 1140.)



APRIL 18, 1942

Lieutenant Colonel James Doolittle leads a daring surprise raid on Japan by launching medium bombers from an aircraft carrier. They inflict minor damage, but the psychological impact in America and Japan is immense.

(National Archives and Records Administration, WC 1148.)



MAY 4, 1942

The first 29 Navajo code talkers are sworn into the US Marine Corps at Fort Wingate, New Mexico. Code talkers, who used their American Indian tribal languages to send secret communications on the battlefield, served in Europe and the Pacific and were critical to the Allied victory at Iwo Jima.

(National Archives at Riverside, National Archives Identifier 295175.)



JUNE 4–7, 1942

In the Battle of Midway, US carrier aircraft deal a devastating blow to the Japanese navy, destroying four aircraft carriers. The battle marks the first major US victory against Japan and is a turning point in the war.

(Naval History and Heritage Command, NH 73065.)



AUGUST 7, 1942

The campaign for Guadalcanal begins as US Marines land on the South Pacific island and seize the key prize, an airstrip they name Henderson Field. For six months ferocious Japanese counterattacks place the campaign in doubt.

(© Corbis, SF 1682.)



NOVEMBER 12–15, 1942

The United States prevents Japanese reinforcements from landing during a series of brutal sea and air clashes in the Naval Battle of Guadalcanal. Without reinforcements, the Japanese are forced to leave the island two months later.

(National Archives and Records Administration, 111 SC 180156.)



NOVEMBER 20–23, 1943

President Roosevelt authorizes the release of graphic war-front images like this one from Tarawa in the Gilbert Islands to reveal to the public the painful price of victory. In the first major action in the central Pacific, more than 1,000 Americans and 2,500 Japanese are killed.

(National Archives and Records Administration, WCS 1342.)



JANUARY 31–FEBRUARY 3, 1944

A joint US Navy-Marines-Army force captures Kwajalein and Roi-Namur in the Marshall Islands, which hold strategic airfields and naval bases and are a key stepping-stone to the Mariana Islands. New tactics with armored amphibious tractors dramatically reduce casualties as American troops seize heavily defended beaches in the island chain.

(National Archives and Records Administration, 111 SC 187435.)



JUNE 15, 1944

In the Marianas, US Army and Navy builders construct airfield facilities and a major port. These airfields allow technologically advanced B-29 Superfortresses, which can fly twice as far as the previous generation B-17s, to fly from Saipan, Tinian, and Guam to rain fire and explosives on the Japanese homeland.

(National Archives and Records Administration, 342-FH-3A-39165.)



SEPTEMBER 15, 1944

African American US Marines serving in an ammunition company take cover under intense fire on the beach at Peleliu, Palau Islands. While the training African American Marines received at a segregated facility in North Carolina focused on noncombat roles, they ended up participating in some of the fiercest fighting in the Pacific war.

(National Archives and Records Administration, 127-N-9527.)



OCTOBER 20, 1944

General Douglas MacArthur wades ashore at Leyte, Philippine Islands, accompanied by his staff and Philippines President Sergio Osmeña. MacArthur's return to the Philippines fulfills the promise he had made two and a half years before as he evacuated from Bataan in the face of a withering Japanese offensive.

(National Archives and Records Administration, WC 1207.)



JANUARY 1945

The first Allied convoy reaches Kunming, China, via the Ledo Road from India, opening a land supply route for the first time since May 1942. Most of the Army engineers and laborers who built the road through dense jungle and along steep and winding mountainsides were African American, as were many of the convoy crews.

(From the Collection of The National WWII Museum, 2002.210.014.)



FEBRUARY 23, 1945

American servicemen raise the flag on Mount Suribachi on Iwo Jima, four days into the 36-day battle for the tiny Japanese-held island.

(National Archives and Records Administration, WC 1221.)



MARCH 6, 1945

Ensign Jane Kandiegh, the first US Navy flight nurse to set foot on any battlefield, bends over a wounded US Marine on the airstrip on Iwo Jima. Women in the Army Nurse Corps also served near the front lines, where 16 were killed as a result of direct enemy fire.

(From the Collection of The National WWII Museum, 2011.102.548.)



MARCH 9–10, 1945

Tokyo lies in ruins after American B-29s drop incendiary bombs on the city, setting the city aflame and killing 100,000 people. US bombers torch another 63 cities over the next five months, killing tens of thousands of civilians and leaving millions homeless.

(Library of Congress, LC-USZ62-111427.)



APRIL 1, 1945

More than 60,000 soldiers and Marines of the US Tenth Army invade Okinawa in the Japanese Ryukyu Islands. It will be the Pacific war's largest amphibious operation, and the last major American battle of World War II.

(National Archives and Records Administration, 26-G-4426.)



MAY 11, 1945

As the Battle of Okinawa enters its second month, two kamikazes (suicide pilots) strike fleet carrier USS *Bunker Hill* in less than a minute, killing nearly 400 men. The Japanese military launches almost 2,000 suicide attacks by the end of the Okinawa campaign.

(National Archives and Records Administration, WC 980.)



JULY 26, 1945

In Germany, Allied leaders discuss the final ultimatum to Japan. On July 26 they issue the Potsdam Declaration, warning Japan to surrender unconditionally or face “prompt and utter destruction.”

(Truman Library, TPL-80-133.)



AUGUST 6 AND 9, 1945

The US Army Air Force drops two newly developed atomic bombs, one each on the cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, ultimately killing more than 200,000.

(National Archives and Records Administration, 243-HP-II-210.)



AUGUST 14, 1945

Residents parade through the St. Roch neighborhood in New Orleans following President Harry S. Truman's announcement that Japan had surrendered.

(Photo by Oscar J. Valeton Sr. Times-Picayune. © 2014 NOLA Media Group, L.L.C. All rights reserved. Used with permission of The Times-Picayune and NOLA.com.)



SEPTEMBER 2, 1945

A Japanese delegation signs surrender documents aboard the battleship USS *Missouri* in Tokyo Bay, formally ending World War II.

(National Archives and Records Administration, 111 C 4627.)