New Resources for Teaching the Pacific Theater of World War II

Dr. Joshua Goodman
The National WWII Museum
Today’s Mission

• Identify key teachable aspects of the Pacific Theater.

• Introduce Vol. 1: The War in the Pacific

ww2classroom.org

• Discuss strategies for implementing the curriculum in the classroom.
Quickwrite

• What are THREE things students absolutely must understand about the Pacific Theater of World War II?

• Identify ONE important aspect of the Pacific Theater you either don’t teach or gloss over, and explain why.

(Be honest! We’re here to help each other!)
A Quick Overview of the Pacific Theater
Japanese Imperialist Expansion
The US Response

• Isolationism

• Stimson Doctrine
A Geopolitical Tennis Match

**Late 1930s:**
Aggressive Japanese expansion in Asia

**July 1940:**
FDR cuts off scrap shipments

**Japan invades Indochina (Vietnam)**

**July 1941:**
FDR freezes Japanese assets

**Japan plans “Southern Operation”**
“A Date Which Shall Live in Infamy”
RISE OF ASIA
Louseous Japanicas

The first serious outbreak of this lice epidemic was officially noted on December 7, 1941, at Honolulu, T. H. To the Marine Corps, especially trained in combating this type of pestilence, was assigned the gigantic task of extermination. Extensive experiments on Guadalcanal, Tarawa, and Saipan have shown that this louse inhabits coral atolls in the South Pacific, particularly pill boxes, palm trees, caves, swamps and jungles.

Flame throwers, mortars, grenades and bayonets have proven to be an effective remedy. But before a complete cure may be effected the origin of the plague, the breeding grounds around the Tokyo area, must be completely annihilated.
Group Exercise:
Strategic Decision-Making in the Pacific
Group Exercise:

Race and War in the Pacific
Group Exercise:
Building a Photo Timeline of the War in the Pacific
Debriefing
The lesson plans and other curriculum materials associated with this presentation are freely available online at www2classroom.org

For further information about this and other curriculum resources available from The National WWII Museum, please contact:

Dr. Joshua Goodman,
Teacher Programs & Curriculum Coordinator
(504)-528-1944, ext. 264
Joshua.Goodman@nationalww2museum.org