

World War II: On the American Home Front

Table of Contents

Rationing	4
Figure It Out Activity	5
Baseball	6
Decoding Activity	6
Movies	8
How Would You Feel? Notebooking	9
Match the Movie to the Actor	10
Find the Actor Word Search	11
The Radio During World War II	12
Letter Writing Activity	12
The Christmas Holiday: 1941	13
Copywork	14
The Christmas Holiday: 1942-1945	23
Address to the Nation Fill In	24
Espionage and Attacks on the Continental United States	26
What Did You Discover? Notebooking	28
Defense on the Home Front	29
Poster Messages	30
Women and Families on the Home Front	31
Could It Make a Difference? Notebooking	33
Extra Challenges for Housewives	34
Would It Work Today? Notebooking	36
Volunteers for Military Service	37
Women's Military Organizations Notebooking	38
Internment	39
Answer Key	40

Baseball

Many people thought professional baseball would not continue during World War II, but President Roosevelt sent a now-famous "green light" letter to the Major League Baseball Commissioner stating that he hoped baseball would continue because it was good for the morale of the citizens at home during the war.

Decoding Activity

If you look at an alphabet, it has 26 letters, from a—z. You would normally number *a* as 1 through *z* as 26. In this code, each letter has a different number. *A* may be 2; it could be 5; or it could be 20. The codes are uniform, so if *a* is 2 and *b* is 4, then *c* is 6, and so on. See if you can break the code, then using the decoded letter and number key, find the names of just a few of the baseball players who served in the military during World War II.

a	b	c	d	e	f	g	h	i	j	k	l	m
	6				18					33		
n	o	p	q	r	s	t	u	v	w	x	y	z
42							63					

- | | | | | | | | | |
|---|----|---|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| 6 | 45 | 6 | 18 | 15 | 36 | 36 | 15 | 54 |
|---|----|---|----|----|----|----|----|----|
- | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|---|----|----|
| 60 | 15 | 12 | 69 | 27 | 36 | 36 | 27 | 3 | 39 | 57 |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|---|----|----|
- | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|---|----|----|----|----|
| 30 | 45 | 15 | 12 | 27 | 39 | 3 | 21 | 21 | 27 | 45 |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|---|----|----|----|----|
- | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| 48 | 24 | 27 | 36 | 54 | 27 | 78 | 78 | 63 | 60 | 45 |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
- | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| 48 | 15 | 15 | 69 | 15 | 15 | 54 | 15 | 15 | 57 | 15 |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
- | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|---|---|----|----|
| 24 | 63 | 21 | 24 | 39 | 63 | 36 | 9 | 3 | 24 | 75 |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|---|---|----|----|

Movies

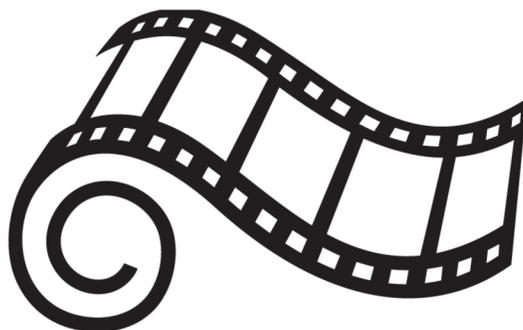
Going to the movies during World War II meant that you saw more than just a movie. You also saw newsreels that shared updates and information about the war. There could be images of recent battles and sometimes even those involved. Remember, the average American home did not have television until the late 1940s or early 1950s, and even then it wasn't in every household. Computers certainly weren't available for use at home. People got their news from the radio, newspapers, other printed materials, and talking to people involved in the war. Can you imagine how important it was to be able to *see* what was happening, right there in front of you on the big screen, or how much it meant to those who had family and friends directly fighting in the war?

Cartoons were often shown before the movie, sometimes educating people about the war by involving one of the main characters in the war effort. Documentaries were also shown, sometimes divided into many parts to be shown over a period of time, such as the "Why We Fight" series by Frank Capra. It included footage from Nazi propaganda movies to try to help people understand why it was important for the United States to be involved in the war.

Movies shown during World War II were a mix of movies that focused on the war and war effort and movies that helped people have a little escape from the reality of the war. Comedies, mysteries, and westerns were popular, along with both war and non-war related dramas. War movies often focused on the trials of the soldiers fighting in the war. Some focused on other heroes of the war, such as the women nurses, volunteers, and citizens who fought the armies who were invading and occupying their countries.

On the notebooking page that follows, explain what you might feel if you saw someone you cared about (a friend, brother, or other relative) on the screen during a newsreel when you haven't seen them or spoken to them except through letters for a year or more.

Then, move on to the other activities related to the movies during World War II.



This generation has passed through many recent years of deep darkness, watching the spread of the poison of Hitlerism and Fascism in Europe—the growth of imperialism and militarism in Japan—and the final clash of war all over the world. Then came the dark days of the fall of _____, and the ruthless bombing of England, and the desperate battle of the Atlantic, and of Pearl Harbor and Corregidor and Singapore.

Since then the _____ of good men and women and children the world over have been answered. The tide of battle has turned, slowly but _____, against those who sought to destroy civilization.

On this Christmas day, we cannot yet say when our _____ will come. Our enemies still fight _____. They still have reserves of men and military power. But, they themselves know that they and their evil works are _____. We may hasten the day of their doom if we here at home continue to do our full share.

And we pray that that day may come soon. We pray that until then, God will _____ our _____ men and women in the uniforms of the United Nations—that He will receive into His infinite _____ those who make their supreme sacrifice in the cause of righteousness, in the cause of _____ of Him and His _____.

We pray that with victory will come a new day of peace on _____ in which all the Nations of the earth will join together for all time. That is the _____ of Christmas, the holy day. May that spirit live and grow throughout the world in all the _____ to come.

France	anxious	civilization	love	tragedy
spiritual	grace	years	protect	armed
victory	fanatically	destructive	doomed	inexorably
prayers	stockings	teachings	traditional	spirit
celebrate	earth	determination	gallant	Burma

turn in any scrap from old radiators, garbage cans, pots and pans, but also rubber, rags, manila rope, burlap bags, and paper, which could be used for many items including bombs, fuses, tires for jeeps, gas masks, flares, sandbags, and binoculars.

Activity

While it would not be necessary to recycle with the urgency that was needed during World War II, do you think it could save money and help the economy of the United States if more people were to recycle today? Do you think industries would reuse the materials and lower prices, or would the cost of recycling cause the prices to remain essentially the same? Do you think American society, as a whole, has become too much of a throw-away society? Do you think anything can or should be done to change this? Write about your thoughts on the next page.

