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***SUGGESTED CLASSROOM ACTIVITIES
FOR USE WITH THE***

***WWII FOUNDATION
DOCUMENTARY***

DOOLITTLE'S RAIDERS

We understand that every classroom situation is unique to the students and teacher(s) in that individual environment. The following material is provided to offer only suggestions to the classroom leader on how they might best use the documentary to relay the historic importance of the Doolittle Raid in the history of WWII, and to introduce the individual stories of the participants in the raid – as well as creating a student interest in how family members of the student's in the class may have participated in WWII events.

The Legacy of The Second World War in the Early 21st Century

Shaping our World Today

WWII was the watershed event of the 20th century. It brought profound and lasting change (both for good and ill) to the people of many nations.

Effects on the United States

- Fascist tyranny in Germany and Italy was defeated along with their pursuit of regional and global dominance.
- Japan's quest to build an Asian empire was ended.
- The decline of European colonial empires was accelerated.
- The outbreak of the decades long Cold War was a direct result of the positioning of the Allied powers at the end of the war.
- In 1945, the economic competitors to the United States in Europe and Asia were destroyed or heavily damaged. By contrast, the U.S. economy (particularly the manufacturing sector) flourished during the war. These factors led to a post war international economic environment where the U.S. enjoyed several decades of prosperity.
- The 1944 Service Man's Readjustment Act (G.I. Bill) led to a large increase in the percentage of Americans with an education beyond high school and in home ownership. Both contributed to the American post-war economic boom.
- Between 1946 and 1964 seventy-eight million births were recorded in the United States. The "Baby Boom" generation would foster significant social, cultural and economic change as it aged through life's phases.
- The experiences of women and African-Americans in contributing to the war effort is cited as being a primary catalyst in their no longer being accepting of the prewar status quo and therefore a driver of both the Civil Rights and Women's movements of the post-war era.
- The more than sixteen million American men and women who directly served in the Armed Forces as well as the millions more who contributed on the home front established a legacy of service to country that has earned them the title as, "The Greatest Generation".

This Package Contains:

- A pre-lesson statement regarding the legacy of WWII upon United States history.
- An educational rationale for presenting the story of the Doolittle Raiders to your students.
- Suggested learning expectations for presenting *Doolittle's Raiders* to your students.
- Nine general questions to be used before or after presenting the documentary to your students..
- Six discussion questions that can be utilized for class discussion or as individual student written exercises.
- Direct answers for short questions and narrative descriptions that can be applied to discussion questions.
- Four student research exercises.
- An individual student exercise (optional) to determine what role the student's family may have participated in that were related to WWII.
- **Recommended website list.**
- Recommended reading list.

Educational Rationale for “Doolittle’s Raiders”

Any study of the United States late entry into the Second World War should include an appreciation for the strategic and public morale circumstances of America during the initial engagement with The Empire of Japan.

From the outset, President Roosevelt and his military advisors decided that the struggle against Japan would be “The Second Front”. In early 1942 Nazi Germany was judged to be the far greater threat. Consequently, most of America’s resources were to be directed to the Allied effort in Europe. It was hoped that Japan could be stalemated at an early point and held a bay before being rolled back simultaneous with the defeat of the Axis powers in Europe.

From the December 7th 1941 attack on Pearl Harbor and on into the Spring of 1942 Japan had enjoyed an unprecedented run of military successes over the European colonial powers and the United States in carving out the outlines of its new Asian empire (“The Greater East Asia Co-Prosperity Sphere”) around the Pacific Rim. American confidence and morale were at a low ebb when...on April 18, 1942, “Doolittle’s Raiders” would successfully conduct one of the most consequential surprise attacks in history.

From its initial conception, through its planning and practice and onto its final execution, the “Doolittle Raid” is an outstanding example of how the possibilities of a “can do” attitude and broad cooperation can change the course of events.

In addition to giving the American people a large morale boost when it was needed most, “Doolittle’s Raiders” shook the confidence of the Japanese people in their military leadership. It also caused **Japanese leadership** to alter its strategic posture in ways that were ultimately favorable to America.

The Doolittle Raid, in one bold stroke, brought an end to the beginning and started the beginning of the end for the Japanese Empire in WWII.

***CLASSROOM LEARNING EXPECTATIONS
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DOOLITTLE'S RAIDERS

Upon completion of these exercises the student will be able to:

- (A) Accurately answer factual questions regarding the Doolittle Raid as presented in questions 1-10.*
- (B) Demonstrate, verbally or in writing, knowledge of information requested in questions 11-14.*
- (C) Demonstrate, verbally, or in writing, knowledge of the roles of the individuals listed in question 15 with regard to the Doolittle Raid on April 18, 1942.*
- (D) Discuss the overall results of the Doolittle raid with regard to strategy and morale for both the United States and Japan.*
- (E) Report to their classmates the role that their family may have played in WWII events.*

DOOLITTLE'S RAIDERS STUDENT QUESTIONS

- 1) Why was Jimmy Doolittle famous before WWII?
- 2) What was the model of airplane flown by the Doolittle raiders?
- 3) What was the calendar date of the Doolittle Raid?
- 4) How many U.S. airmen participated in the raid?
- 5) What were the names of the four Japanese cities bombed by the raiders?
- 6) What was the name of the aircraft carrier that transported the raiders to Japan?
- 7) Where were the Doolittle raiders hoping to land after they bombed Japan?
- 8) What happened to the Chinese people who helped the raiders after the mission?
- 9) What medal did Pres. Roosevelt award to Jimmy Doolittle when he returned to the U.S.?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- 10) Why did the United States conduct the Doolittle raid?
- 11) Why did the raiders run out of fuel before they could reach their landing fields?
- 12) What is the WWII history of the aircraft carrier that transported the raiders to Japan?
- 13) How did the Doolittle Raid influence public opinion in the United States and Japan?
- 14) How are the following individuals associated with the Doolittle Raid?
 - a) Ted Lawson
 - b) Richard Cole
 - c) William F. Halsey

- d) Henry "Hap" Arnold
- e) Carroll V. Glines

15) What were the overall results of the Doolittle raid?

DOOLITTLE'S RAIDERS DOCUMENTARY

STUDENT QUESTIONS/ANSWERS

- 1) Why was Jimmy Doolittle famous before WWII?
Doolittle was famous for his dare-devil racing of airplanes in the 1920's and 30's.
- 2) What was the model of airplane flown by the Doolittle raiders?
B-25 ("B" model, manufactured by North American Aviation Corporation)
- 3) What was the calendar date of the Doolittle Raid?
April 18, 1942
- 4) How many U.S. airmen participated in the raid?
Eighty airmen participated – 16 aircraft, each with a five man crew.
- 5) What were the names of the four Japanese cities bombed by the raiders?
Tokyo, Nagoya, Kobe, Yokamaha
- 6) What was the name of the aircraft carrier that transported the raiders to Japan
USS Hornet
- 7) Where were the Doolittle raiders hoping to land after they bombed Japan?
The original plan called for the raiders to land at several bases prepared for them at a city named Chuchow and after refueling to proceed to the then Chinese capitol city, Chungking, where they would leave their bombers for use by the Chinese air forces.
- 8) What happened to the Chinese people who helped the raiders after the mission?
The Japanese army committed mass murder of more than two hundred thousand Chinese civilians who they claimed had in some way assisted the American flyers after they arrived in China.
- 9) What medal did Pres. Roosevelt award to Jimmy Doolittle when he returned to the U.S.?
The Congressional Medal of Honor – the U.S. military's highest award given for military heroism.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

10) **Why did the United States conduct the Doolittle raid?**

National Strategy – the Doolittle raid was conceived, planned and conducted to demonstrate to the Japanese government that America was capable of bringing the war to Japan, and to force Japan to bring deployed forces back to the home islands in order to defend the country from future attacks. Both of these goals were accomplished.

National Morale – in addition to the strategic implications of the raid to the war effort the planners wanted to provide the American public a message of hope with a display of American military courage and resourcefulness (“Payback for Pearl Harbor!” was the popular comment). A further goal was to reduce Japanese public confidence in their military and government. Both of these goals were accomplished.

11) **Why did the raiders run out of fuel before they could reach their landing fields?**

The American fleet was discovered by a Japanese patrol boat and its position reported to the Japanese Navy twelve hours prior to the planned take off time for the mission. The patrol boat was heard to have radioed the position of the American task force to their home base, therefore the decision was made by General Doolittle and Admiral Halsey that the raiders would take off early, adding over two hundred miles additional distance to their refueling stop at Chuchow. (Extra five gallon gas cans were provided to each aircraft, but the crews were aware that they most probably did not have enough fuel to reach Chuchow.)

12) **What is the WWII history of the aircraft carrier that transported the raiders to Japan?**

The USS Hornet was launched at Newport News, Virginia, in 1940. After transporting the Doolittle raiders to Japan on April 18, 1942, the Hornet participated in the Battle of Midway and the Solomon Islands campaign. The Hornet was sunk during the Battle of Santa Cruz on October 26, 1942, the last U.S. fleet aircraft carrier to be lost in battle.

13) **How did the Doolittle raid influence public opinion in the United States and in Japan?**

The Japanese public had been told by their government and military leaders that the home islands of Japan were a “Fortress” that could never be attacked by a foreign power. Overall civilian morale and confidence in the military was seriously depleted by the arrival of the Doolittle raiders.

Jimmy Doolittle and the raiders were considered heroes. American civilian morale skyrocketed as the Doolittle raid was considered “payback” to the Japanese for Pearl Harbor.

14) How Are The Following Individuals Associated with the Doolittle Raid?

a) Ted Lawson

Lawson was the pilot of plane #7. After returning to the United States he wrote the book *Thirty Seconds Over Tokyo* about the raid. His book was a best seller and was made into a movie of the same name with Spencer Tracy portraying General Doolittle and Van Johnson playing Lawson.

b) Richard Cole

Cole was Doolittle's co-pilot of plane #1. He is the last surviving Doolittle raider at age 102 as of November 2017.

c) Admiral William F. "Bull" Halsey

Halsey commanded the fleet that brought the raiders to Japan. He and Doolittle made the decision to launch the raiders earlier than anticipated after the fleet was discovered by a Japanese patrol boat.

d) General Henry "Hap" Arnold

Arnold commanded the United States Army Air Forces during the entire length of WWII. He selected Jimmy Doolittle to lead the raid and approved all major decisions for planning of the raid.

e) Carroll V. Glines

Glines is the author of three books on the Doolittle raiders: *The Doolittle Raid*, *Doolittle's Tokyo Raiders* and *Four Came Home*. Glines was named an Honorary Doolittle Raider by the group.

15) What were the overall results of the Doolittle raid?

Strategically As a result of the Doolittle raid Japan redeployed forces to protect their home islands. They also changed their strategic war policy to plan an attack on Midway Island in order to eliminate Midway as the staging point for another attack on the home islands, and to draw out the U.S. Fleet to a major confrontation. The Battle of Midway resulted in a major defeat for the Japanese navy, from which it was never able to recover. Only six months after their Pearl Harbor attack the Japanese were forced to assume a defensive, rather than an offensive, strategy for the remainder of the Pacific war, until their defeat in 1945.

National Morale – As was part of the original concept for the raid, national morale in the U.S. skyrocketed as the Doolittle raiders were looked upon as heroes and the "payback" for Pearl Harbor had been delivered. Japanese citizens were astonished that their homeland had been attacked.

STUDENT RESEARCH EXCERSICES

- 1) Select 16 students to review www.homeofheros.com, and other resource materials, with each student preparing a report on one crew of the Doolittle raiders.
- 2) Have a student team review www.homeofheros.com and determine how many raiders are from your home state and report their names and home towns along with researched biographical material. If other students in the class are from other states have them report on the raiders from their home state.
- 3) Utilizing a map of Japan and China – (Google: Doolittle Raid Maps) have members of the class locate the approximate launching point for the raiders from the Hornet, the four cities attacked during the raid (Tokyo, Yokohama, Nagoya and Kobe), and the city of Chuchow, China, where the raiders hoped to land and refuel after the mission.
- 4) Your Family in World War II: (optional participation due to individual student and family sensitivities and circumstances) have each student take the question list for this exercise home to discuss with their family who might remember how their family lived their life during the years 1941-1945 and how family members might have been involved in the war effort in any way.

Your Family in World War II

- 1) Does your family history include any members who served in the military in WWII?
 - Do you know the unit that they served in?
 - Do you know where the unit was assigned?
- 2) Does your family history include any members who were part of the factory workforce that built the machines needed to win WWII?
 - Do you know the name and location of the company?
 - What product(s) did the company produce?
- 3) Does your family history include any members who were part of the support industries that provided the country with the ability to keep fighting WWII?
 - Farmers – what kind of farm?
 - Transportation – railroads and merchant marine.
- 4) Does your family history include any members who contributed to the war effort in WWII in a manner different from the jobs mentioned above?
 - Please describe the unique job(s) held by your family member(s).
 - This group includes mothers who stayed at home to care for the families of men who were serving in the military or as merchant marine sailors.
- 5) Does your family include any members who lived in countries other than the United States that were involved in World War II?
 - Were these family members involved in the WWII in any way?
 - Have you visited the countries in which your relatives lived during the war years?

RECOMMENDED READING LIST:

See #14e above re Carroll V. Glines.
Thirty Seconds Over Tokyo – Ted W. Lawson
I Could Never Be So Lucky Again – James H. Doolittle
Target Tokyo – James M. Scott
The First Heroes – Craig Nelson
The Amazing Mr. Doolittle – Quentin Reynolds
The Doolittle Raid 1942 – Clayton K S Chun
Destination: Tokyo – Stan Cohen

RECOMMENDED WEBSITES:

www.homeofheros.com

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