

7th Grade Level



Camp Hearne
1942 - 1946
Texas U.S.A.

Roll Call – *Friends of Camp Hearne*

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How Texans Helped Win the War

Lone Star Contributions to World War II

★ ★ ★ Summary ★ ★ ★

Students will learn that Texans made a significant contribution to the US war effort in World War II. A Texan, Admiral Chester W. Nimitz, served as Commander in Chief of US Naval operations in the Pacific, another Texan, Oveta Culp Hobby, created and directed the Women's Army Corps throughout most of the War, and the list of Texans receiving the Congressional Medal of Honor is long, their stories of valor glorious. The most decorated soldier of World War II, Audie Murphy, was a Texas, as was the first African American WWII hero, Doris Miller. More World War II officers came from Texas A & M University than any other school and both service academies combined—over 14,000. Texas housed more military bases and training centers than any other state and many POW camps keeping enemy prisoners away from the fields of battle. A number of military machines were built in Texas and run on Texan oil products. In fact, 90% of American oil used in the War effort came out of Texas soil.

★ ★ ★ Project ★ ★ ★

Students of Texas history will understand that many of the seeds that blossomed into the American victory in World War II were nourished in or retrieved from Texas soil. They will also learn how dramatically the war changed Texas economically and demographically.

★ ★ ★ Grade Level ★ ★ ★

7th grade—Texas History

★ ★ ★ General Objectives ★ ★ ★

1. Define “hero” and study Texas heroes serving in World War II.
2. Research how much military aircraft were manufactured in the DFW Metroplex during WWII, and/or research how much military ocean-going vessels were produced on the Texas Coast during WWII.
3. Understand the importance of Texas natural resources to the war effort.
4. Understand the contributions made on the home front, including Texans' willingness to house POW camps in their back yards.
5. Realize the importance of military training at Texas A & M University in regards to WWII.

6. Learn something about the 150 Texas military and military training bases and their role as training grounds for Army soldiers and sailors.
7. Learn how the War began the transformation of Texas from a rural to an urban society.

★ ★ ★ Learning Objectives - TEKS ★ ★ ★

113:23 Social Studies 7th grade

(7) History—Twentieth Century - Understanding the political, economic and social impact of World War II on Texas.

(8) Geography - Using geographic tools to collect, analyze and interpret data, e.g. graphs and charts.

(9) Geography - Locating places of importance in WWII Texas.

(11) Geography - Understanding the reason for and the impact of a changing population distribution in Texas during and immediately after WWII.

(12) Economics. - Understanding the factors that changed Texas from an agrarian to an urban society, beginning to a large extent in WWII.

(13) Economics - Understanding the interdependence of the Texas, US and international economies, particularly during the war years.

(18) Citizenship - Understanding the importance of leadership in a democratic society, e.g. the characteristics of good leaders in war time.

(20) Science, technology and society - Understanding the impact of scientific discoveries and technological advancements on Texas society from 1940 to 1950.

(21) Social Studies Skills - Using critical thinking skills to organize and use information from a variety of sources.

(22) Social Studies Skills - Creating written, oral, and visual presentations of information about Texas in World War II.

★ ★ ★ Materials Needed ★ ★ ★

- ✓ Internet sources including TexasEscapes.com (go to “features” and “World War II”), the Texas Historical Commission website at www.thc.state.tx.us (go to “resources-publications” then to “travel brochures” and click on the “Texas in World War II” brochure), “Texas A & M University” and “James

Earl Rudder” on *Wikipedia*, the Handbook of Texas Online at <http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/WW/qdw2.html> and other internet sites as available.

- ✓ **Pen and paper**
- ✓ **Camp Hearne historical site in Hearne, Texas**
- ✓ **Roger T. Moore “Aggie” cartoon**
- ✓ **List of Texas WWII heroes--Medal of Honor winners (Audie Murphy, Samuel Dealey, & Macario Garcia) with additions—Chester W. Nimitz, Dwight D. Eisenhower, James Earl Rudder, Oveta Culp Hobby, Lance C. Wade, Ira Eaker, Dorris Miller..**
- ✓ **Texas maps**
- ✓ **Power Point equipment**

★ ★ ★ Reading List ★ ★ ★

Texas in World War II Suggested Bibliography From Texas Historical Commission

www.thc.state.tx.us

(CAUTION: Age appropriateness has not be evaluated)

- Alexander, Tom. *Rattlesnake Bomber Base: Peyote Army Airfield In World War II*. Abilene: State House Press, 2005.
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- Keil, Sally Van Wagenen. *Those Wonderful Women in Their Flying Machines: The Unknown Heroines of World War II*. New York: Four Directions Press, 1990.
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- Murphy, Audie. *To Hell and Back*. New York: Owl Books, 2002.
- Noggle, Anne. *For God, Country, and the Thrill of It: Women Airforce Service Pilots in World War II: Photographic Portraits and Text*. College Station: Texas A&M University Press, 1990.
- Potter, E. B. *Nimitz*. Annapolis: United States Naval Institute, 1988.
- Power, Hugh. *Battleship TEXAS*. College Station: Texas A&M University Press, 1993.
- Rivas-Rodriguez, Maggie. *Mexican Americans & World War II*. Austin: University of Texas Press, 2005.
- _____. *A Legacy Greater Than Words: Stories of U.S. Latinos and Latinas of the WWII Generation*. Austin: U.S. Latino & Latina World War II Oral History Project, University of Texas at Austin, 2006.
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- Smith, Lee C. *A River Swift and Deadly: The 36th Texas Infantry Division at the Rapido River*. Austin: Eakin Press, 1998.
- Stanton, Shelby. *Order of Battle WWII*. Novato, CA: Presidio Press, 1984.
- Verges, Marianne. *On Silver Wings: The Women Airforce Service Pilots of World War II, 1942-1944*. New York: Ballentine, 1991.
- Wagner, Robert L. *The Texas Army: A History of the 36th Division in the Italian Campaign*. Austin: State House Press, 1992.
- Walker, Richard Paul. *The Lone Star and the Swastika: Prisoners of War in Texas*. Austin: Eakin Press, 2001.
- Walls, Thomas K. *The Japanese Texans*. San Antonio: The University of Texas Institute of Texan Cultures at San Antonio, 2007.
- Waters, Michael R. *Lone Star Stalag*. College Station: Texas A&M University Press, 2004.
- Wiggins, Melanie. *Torpedoes in the Gulf: Galveston and the U-boats, 1942-1943*. Texas A&M Military History Series, no. 40. College Station: Texas A&M University Press, 1995.
- Williams, Donald. *Italian POWs and a Texas Church: The Murals of St. Mary's*. Lubbock: Texas Tech University Press, 2001.
- Wooster, Ralph A. *Texas and Texans in World War II*. Austin: Eakin Press, 2005.

Other Suggested Reading

Audie Murphy Foundation Newsletter

Driskill, Frank A. *Chester W. Nimitz: Admiral of the Hills*

Lane, Ronald *Rudder's Rangers*

★ ★ ★ Vocabulary ★ ★ ★

Medal of Honor

Rationing

Military installation

United Services Organization (USO)

Demographics

Rudder's Rangers

Urban migration

Operation Overlord

WAC

POW camps

WASP

East Texas Oil Field

TEACHING STRATEGIES

★ ★ ★ Introductory Activities ★ ★ ★

1. Divide students into groups of four. Ask them to list the characteristics of a hero. Then let each group in turn share two characteristics at a time until the class is satisfied that the list is complete. Write the characteristics on the board.
2. Next, let each student choose a name from the list of Texas WWII heroes and research that person.
3. Each student creates a graphic display on poster board recognizing the hero and his/her World War II accomplishments.
4. Put the posters on a wall in the hall, creating a “Wall of Honor.”
5. In pairs, study the role of Texas oil in the European campaign. Using at least three sources, answer these questions: What percentage of oil-based war products used in the European theatre came from Texas oil? Why was getting the oil to the theatre difficult? What was the primary hazard? What did the U.S. do to get Texas oil safely delivered?
6. Name some Texas oilmen who played a key role in producing the oil that helped win the war?

★ ★ ★ Learning Activities ★ ★ ★

1. Tour Camp Hearne exhibit.
2. Using a Texas map, locate the other major POW camps in Texas, and mark them with flags. Use two flags for towns that had both a POW camp and a US military installation.
3. In small groups, look at the Moore “Aggie joke” cartoon and interpret its meaning. Explain what it is saying about Aggie representation in World War II.
4. In pairs, assume the roles of POW (use one of the prisoner’s names in the exhibit) and radio interviewer. In response to the interviewer’s questions, the interviewee describes his life at Camp Hearne—the good and the bad. He might talk about projects he was involved in, the food, the weather, the intimidation he either gave (if he’s a Nazi) or received (if an anti-Nazi) work experiences, etc.
5. Play the map game (in pairs or small groups of three). With a Texas map as the game board, stick the right marker into the right point on the map. Points called out to locate could include a major military training center (e.g. Ft. Hood), the home of the WASP’s (the female fliers), Camp Hearne, one of the seven naval air stations, the Kilgore oil fields, Texas A & M University, the home of Admiral Nimitz, etc.

★ ★ ★ Drawing Conclusions ★ ★ ★

1. **Divide the class into groups of 3 to 4. Create a Power Point presentation illustrating one of the major lesson themes: Texas heroes of WWII, Texas resources used to win the war, the role of Texas A & M University, Texas as home to a host of military installations and POW camps, changes in the Texas economy and demographic as a result of WWII.**
2. **Write and then orally present a book report over one of the books on the reading list. Illustrate with a Power Point presentation or other means (poster board, display board, “report in character (e. g. tell your story as Earl Rudder, Audie Murphy, or Admiral Nimitz).**
3. **Assuming the identity of one of the heroes you have studied; present your story to an organization (Lion’s Club, American Legion, and VFW) that is really interested in hearing it.**

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