



The National WWII Museum & The Common Core

Education programs at The National WWII Museum assist all teachers in meeting the new Common Core standards. Every lesson, program, and initiative is designed to build students' core knowledge while addressing the skills that they need to be college and career ready. A crucial part of the Museum's mission—to *understand what World War II means today*—provides relevancy to all of our education programs.

Artifact exploration paired with critical reading form the basis of two of our popular outreach programs: the **Red Ball Express** and **Operation Footlocker**. Teachers in the New Orleans area can schedule a classroom visit from the Red Ball Express for a hands-on session with real WWII artifacts and archives. Students use and cite evidence in the exploration of these artifacts as they read maps, develop conclusions, and then make presentations. For teachers outside our area, the Museum delivers Operation Footlocker artifact trunks straight to classrooms, complete with instructions for directed hands-on exploration, analysis, and reporting.

Teachers around the world can bring a Museum educator into their classrooms through **Virtual Field Trips** and **Webinars**. Not simply a tour of our exhibits, these digital learning experiences ask students to analyze primary documents, listen to WWII oral histories, and use problem solving and decision-making skills. The Museum provides teachers with materials for students to use prior to each presentation.

The Museum offers teachers more than 30 **online lesson plans** on a variety of WWII topics, covering a range of disciplines, including history, civics, geography ELA, economics, and art. These lesson plans can be downloaded for free, used as is, or adapted for particular use or student level. Most lessons include primary sources from the war that require students to read, comprehend, analyze, and evaluate in order to gain a richer understanding of WWII.

To encourage the **research and writing process**, we sponsor an annual Middle School and High School Essay Contest and serve as a partner of National History Day, a research program with strong Common Core ties. Students across the country participating in National History Day can contact the Museum for assistance with their WWII-themed projects, while Louisiana students can enter the local and state contests sponsored directly by the Museum.

The Museum reaches math and science teachers with its **STEM initiative** that shows students how to apply math and science skills to real-world situations. Students visiting the Museum on a STEM field trip use the properties of triangles in range-finding, analyze design elements of WWII aircraft, estimate trajectory of a straw rocket, use probability to crack a coded message, and compete against each other in a hands-on design contest for a "contract" to build a simple potential-to-kinetic energy machine.