

Conflict and Cooperation Women in WWII

Teleschool Lesson 3

Our third and final TAG unit is called,
“Conflict and Cooperation.”

We created a lesson for you to complete at home that will reinforce WWII information and its impact on the world. This lesson will help you to explain how the role of women in American society changed because of World War II and if this change had a lasting impact society or not.

Essential questions:

How have times of conflict and times of cooperation built our country?

How have women's roles changed since World War II?

View the following posters and answer questions for each! Use a piece of paper, and be sure to label “poster #1, poster #2, etc.”

Give examples of symbolism in the picture.

What do you see in the picture?

What is the purpose of this poster?

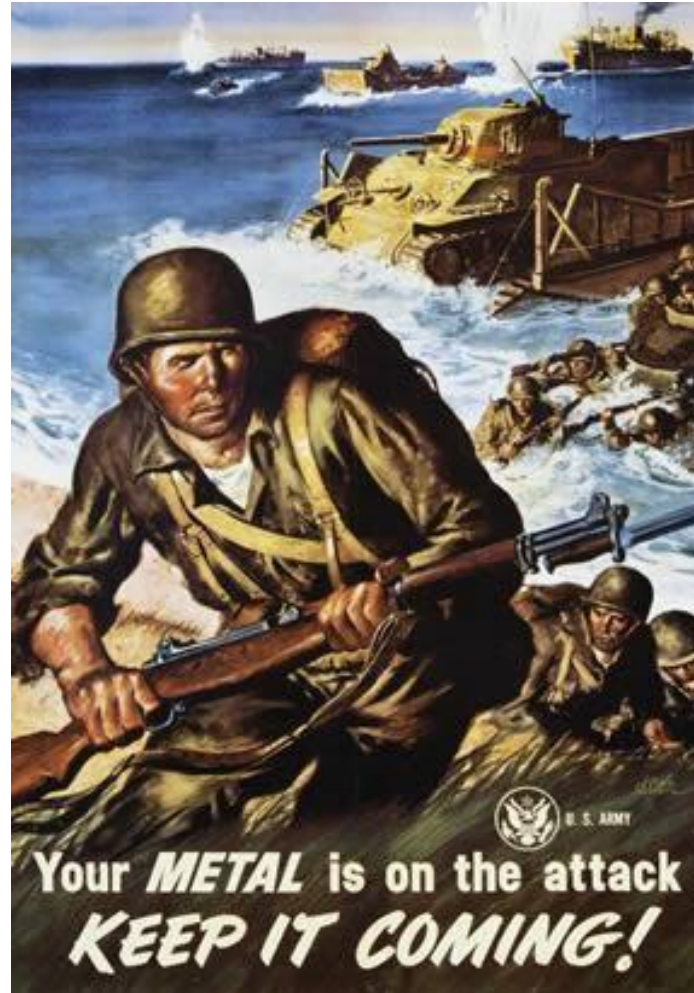
Poster #1

What do you see in the picture?
Give examples of symbolism in the picture.
What is the purpose of this poster?



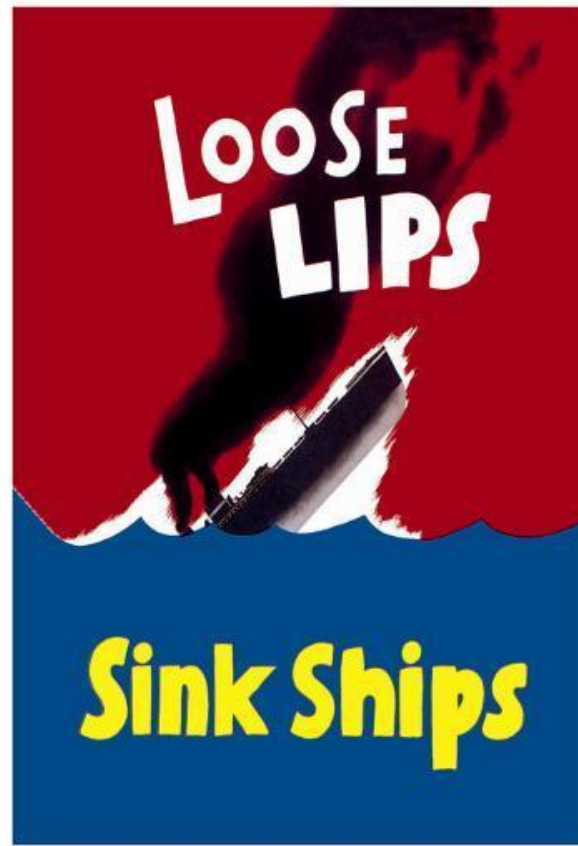
Poster #2

What do you see in the picture?
Give examples of symbolism in the picture.
What is the purpose of this poster?



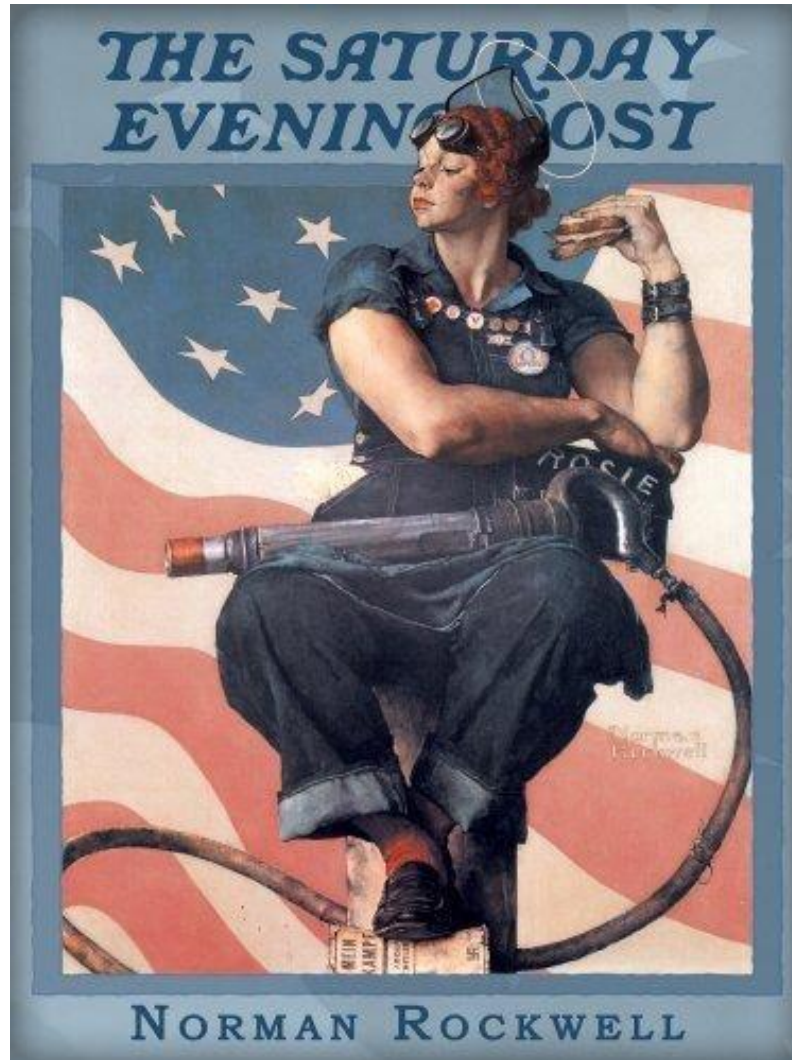
Poster #3

What do you see in the picture?
Give examples of symbolism in the picture.
What is the purpose of this poster?



Poster #4

What do you see in the picture?
Give examples of symbolism in the picture.
What is the purpose of this poster?



Watch the video: *Beyond the Story:
American Women During WWII.*

[http://nicertube.com/egii
r6](http://nicertube.com/egii
r6)

(4:38)

Think about it: How have women's roles
changed because of WWII?



Read the following article
“Women in World War II” for
background information.

Women in World War II

American women entered the workforce in never before seen numbers during World War II, as widespread male enlistment in the military left gaping holes in the industrial labor force. Between 1940 and 1945, the female percentage of the U.S. workforce increased from 27 percent to nearly 37 percent, and by 1945 nearly one out of every four married women worked outside the home.

"Rosies" in the Work Force

While women worked in a variety of positions previously closed to them during World War II, the aviation industry saw the greatest increase in female workers. More than 310,000 women worked in the U.S. aircraft industry in 1943, making up 65 percent of the industry's total workforce (compared to just 1 percent in the pre-war years). The munitions industry also heavily recruited women workers, as illustrated by the U.S. government's "Rosie the Riveter" propaganda campaign. Based in small part on a real-life munitions worker, but primarily a fictitious character, the strong, bandanna-clad Rosie became one of the most successful recruitment tools in American history, and the most widely recognized image of working women in the World War II era.

In movies, newspapers, posters, photographs and articles, the Rosie the Riveter campaign stressed the patriotic need for women to enter the work force. On May 29, 1943, The Saturday Evening Post published a cover image by the artist Norman Rockwell, portraying Rosie with a flag in the background and a copy of Adolf Hitler's racist tract "Mein Kampf" under her feet. Though Rockwell's image may be the most commonly known version of Rosie the Riveter, her prototype was actually created in 1942 and featured on a poster for the Westinghouse power company under the headline "We Can Do It!" Early in 1943, a popular song debuted called "Rosie the Riveter," written by Redd Evans and John Jacob Loeb, and the name went down in history.

Women in the Armed Forces

In addition to factory work and other home front jobs, some 350,000 women joined the Armed Services, serving at home and abroad. At the urging of First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt and women's groups, and impressed by the British use of women in service, General George Marshall supported the idea of introducing a women's service branch into the Army. In May 1942, Congress instituted the Women's Auxiliary Army Corps, later upgraded to the Women's Army Corps, which had full military status. Its members, known as WACs, worked in more than 200 non-combatant jobs stateside and in every theater of the war. By 1945, there were more than 100,000 WACs and 6,000 female officers. In the Navy, members of Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service (WAVES) held the same status as naval reservists and provided support stateside. The Coast Guard and Marine Corps soon followed suit, though in smaller numbers.

One of the lesser-known roles women played in the war effort was provided by the Women's Air Force Service Pilots, or WASPs. These women, each of whom had already obtained their pilot's license prior to service, became the first women to fly American military aircraft. They ferried planes from factories to bases, transporting cargo and participating in simulation strafing and target missions, accumulating more than 60 million miles in flight distances and freeing thousands of male U.S. pilots for active duty in World War II. More than 1,000 WASPs served, and 38 of them lost their lives during the war. Considered civil service employees and without official military status, these fallen WASPs were granted no military honors or benefits, and it wasn't until 1977 that the WASPs received full military status.

Statistics

In 1940, most of the U.S. population had completed no more than an eighth grade education. Only 6 percent of males and 4 percent of females had completed 4 years of college. In 2010, about 30% of men and women had completed 4 years of college. Today, more than half of all law school graduates in America are women. Almost half of medical school graduates are women. In 2009, 59 percent of working-age women in the United States were in the labor force. (This statistic was 43 percent in 1969 and 32% in 1947.)

Did the experiences women had participating in the labor force during World War II have a lasting effect on their role in American society?

Use the following website and choose **two** women to read about.

http://cds.library.brown.edu/projects/WWII_Women/tocCS.html

or

<https://www.mentalfloss.com/article/29219/11-women-warriors-world-war-ii>

Complete the following information on a piece of notebook paper.

- ✓ Create a Venn diagram to compare/contrast the two people. Include 6-8 pieces of information in each section. Be sure to include: their names, where they are from, their importance in WWII, etc.
How did each person's life change because of the war?
- ✓ Have a conversation with a parent/older sibling/friend and discuss:
 1. How did each woman's life change because of the war?
 2. Do you think their experiences in the war had a lasting impact on their lives? Why or why not?
 3. How do you think today's women's roles would change if there was a catastrophic event today?
 4. Summarize and write your thoughts based on the conversation. (1-2 paragraphs)

Share your assignments with your TAG teacher through Office 365 or SeeSaw. Be sure to put your name on all assignments 😊