

LESSON PLAN

Eyes of a Survivor

FOUNDATION: UNIT IV. International Humanitarian Law

Created by: Angela Nichols, Omaha South High School

LENGTH

2 - 3 days

NEBRASKA SOCIAL STUDIES STANDARDS

World History: 12.1.4, 12.1.13, 12.4.3, 12.1.6,
12.1.8, 12.1.9, 12.1.10,
12.1.14, 12.1.13, 12.2.10

McREL NATIONAL STANDARDS

World History: 12.1.4

OBJECTIVES

1. Students will research the personal story of a prisoner of war during any major international conflict.
2. Students will compare the viewpoint of the POW to that of a civilian victim from the same event.
3. Students will contrast their experiences and explain how the Geneva Law failed to protect both individuals.

TERMS

Civilian Victims
Geneva Law
POW

MATERIALS

- Worksheet comparing POW to Civilian Experiences (attached).
- Sample POW stories
World War II Stories: <http://www.pegasusarchive.org/pow/story.htm>
John McCain in Vietnam: <http://politics.usnews.com/news/articles/2008/01/28/john-mccain-prisoner-of-war-a-first-person-account.html>
- Sample civilian stories
Iraq: http://www.news24.com/News24/World/Iraq/0,,2-10-1460_1691575,00.html
Iraq: <http://www.cbsnews.com/stories/2005/04/24/iraq/main690435.shtml>
Vietnam: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/health/3798581.stm>
WWII "Comfort Women": http://www.asianweek.com/2000_05_11/ae_comfortwomenfilm.html

Day One:

- I. Have students research and find a real life story from a prisoner of war during any major international conflict in history. Students need to make notes about how the POW was treated, fed, how long s/he was kept in captivity, and effects of the experience.
- II. Have students research and find a story from the viewpoint of a civilian victim from the same event.

Day Two

- III. **Assessment:** Compare and contrast the two viewpoints. Find similarities and write a paragraph showing how the Geneva law protected or failed to protect these individuals in the same way. Use intersecting circles to show the differences and areas where they overlap (attached worksheet).

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