



# LESSON 3: WAR

How Does My Identity Shape My Experience in America?

## Activity 2: War

How does war affect our lives?

### Objective:

Students explore the concept of war.

### Procedure:

- Using the topic of war, have students create a cluster. Have them draw a circle in the center of their journal page and write “war” in the middle of it. Then have them brainstorm as many words related to the topic they can, writing the words on rays drawn out from the center circle to complete an unorganized cluster.



Japanese Aerial Photograph of the Attack on Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, December 7, 1941  
U.S. Navy Photographic Collections

- Have students share brainstormed words with the class. Write responses on the board.
- Discuss the similarities and differences of the words shared.
- Briefly discuss social and political issues and world events prior to the United States entering World War II, such as immigration laws, racism and war in Europe and Asia.

### Assessment:

- Students brainstorm war-related words and journal their thoughts.
- Participation in classroom discussion on war related words.

### Extension:

- Have your students bring a toy to class that represents fighting or violence and discuss it. Examples: a tank, action figure, plane, etc.

**Grade Level:** 4th  
**Time:** 20 minutes  
**Materials:**  
Student journals

### Concepts Covered:

**Demonstrate** knowledge of content topics using cluster diagrams.

### CDE Standards:

4th Grade

History/Social Science  
4.4.5