Not Too Far Distant -
Chart Creation and Analysis Lesson Plan

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Students will create three different charts (pie, line, and bar) using data from WWII. Students will use the charts they've created on the following worksheets to answer questions about the time period. (To be paired with the play Not Too Far Distant by Becky Boesen)

LESSON OBJECTIVE

Students will understand the impact of WWII by creating and analyzing charts on WWII statistics.

PREREQUISITE KNOWLEDGE

- WWII (1939-1945) involved nearly every major country in the world. There were two sides, the Allies (the United States, Great Britain, and the Soviet Union) and the Axis powers (Germany, Italy, and Japan).
- This war mainly took place in Europe and the Pacific. Starting in 1941, after the bombing of Pearl Harbor, the United States sent soldiers, including those drafted, overseas to assist in the war effort.
- The difference between pie, line, and bar charts.

VOCABULARY

- Draftees - a person conscripted for military service
- Conscripted - ordered or forced to serve in military service

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Nebraska State Education Standards

SS 7.4.1.a
SS 7.4.1.b
SS 8.4.2.b
SS HS.4.1.c (US)
SS HS.4.4 (US)

Lesson Details

Time Requirement:
30 minutes

Grade Level:
7th - 12th grade

Lesson Materials:
- WWII Statistics Cards (one per group)
- Chart creation worksheet
- Chart Analysis Guide

LESSON STRUCTURE

Lesson Introduction

1) Have students respond (in writing or through small group discussion) to the prompts: "Where do you often find graphs and charts?" and "When would you use a graph or chart?"
Recommended time: 3-5 minutes

Procedure

1) *Give students supplies.* Divide students into small groups. Give each group a set of "World War II Statistic Cards" and a "Chart Creation and Analysis Worksheet.

2) *Explain.* Explain that historians also use charts and graphs to analyze historical events and look for trends.

3) *Create charts.* Have students create a bar graph, pie chart, and line graph using the Statistic Cards. Walk around and verify students have completed their charts before answering the analysis questions in their workshop.

4) *Analyze the charts.* Have students work in small groups to analyze their charts and answer the analysis questions in their worksheet.
Recommended time: 20 minutes

5) *Modifications*. Use these charts and the documents from other lesson plans to create a Gallery Walk or station activity based on *Not Too Far Distant.*

Exit Ticket

If devices are available, ask students to create a chart or graph based on historical information on a topic that interests them.
Recommended time: 10-20 minutes

World War II Statistic Cards

Directions: Print and cut out one set of cards for each student group.

- 6,332,000 of U.S. servicemen and all servicewomen were volunteers

- 11,535,000 of U.S. servicemen were draftees

*Historical Context: This information does not include the Air Force, which was not officially established as it's own branch until 1947.

- Pennsylvania = 26,554 casualties in WWII
- Illinois = 18,601 casualties in WWII
- California = 17,022 casualties in WWII
- Ohio = 16,828 casualties in WWII
- Texas = 15,764 casualties in WWII
- Nebraska = 2,976 casualties in WWII

*Historical Context - This information does not include wounded soldiers or prisoners of war.

- 1939 = 334,473 servicemen
- 1940 = 458,365 servicemen
- 1941 = 1,801,101 servicemen
- 1942 = 3,915,507 servicemen
- 1943 = 9,195,912 servicemen
- 1944 = 11,623,468 servicemen
- 1945 = 12,209,238 servicemen

*Historical Context: This information does not include women or support personnel, only active duty.

WORKSHEET

CHART CREATION AND ANALYSIS

Directions: Using the WWII statistics cards to create a line graph, bar graph, and pie chart. Each card will be used to make one chart. Use your math skills to determine which type of chart is most appropriate for each card. Be sure to include a title and key for each graph, so others can understand your graph.

Then, use the charts to answer the questions below.
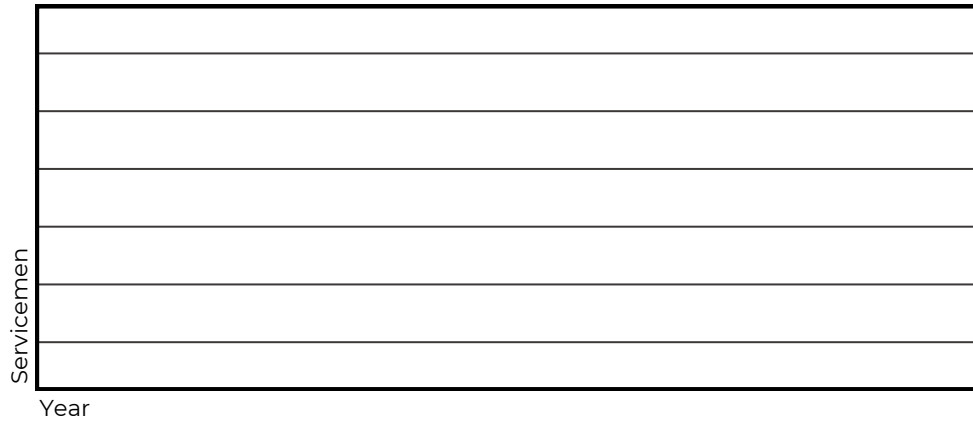
Bar Graph

Chart Title: _____

Casualties

Year
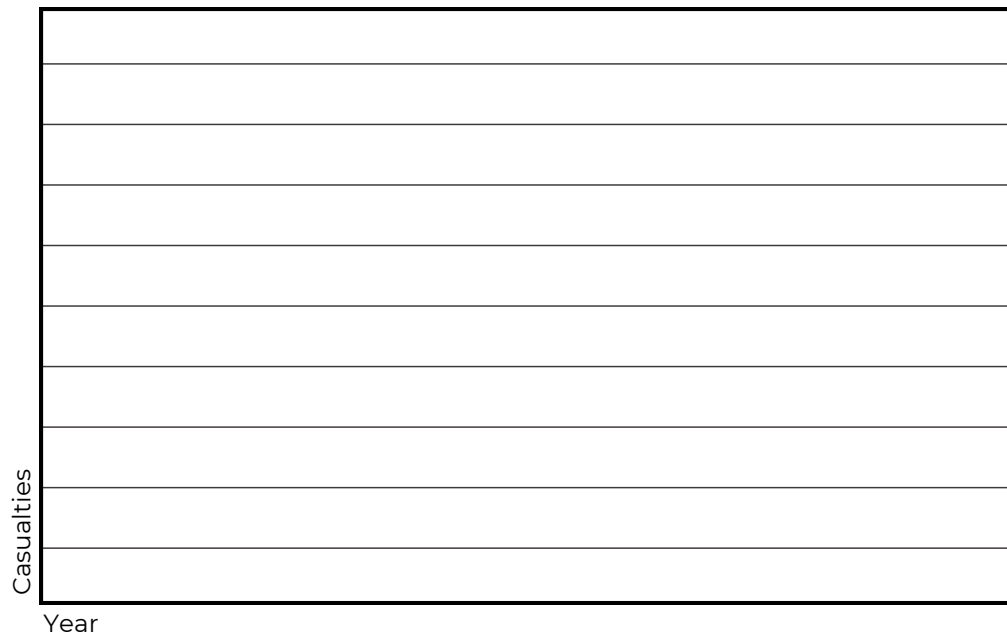
1a) What is the purpose of this chart? Write one sentence summarizing the information on this chart.

1b) What information seems to be the most important in this chart?

Line Graph
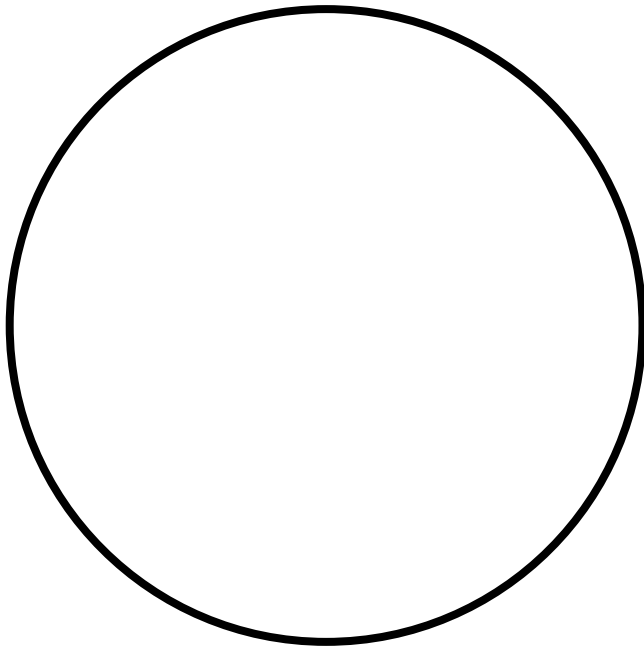
Chart Title: _____

Servicemen

Year

2a) What is the purpose of this chart? Write one sentence summarizing the information on this chart.

2b) What information seems to be the most important in this chart?

Pie Chart

Chart Title: _____

3a) What is the purpose of this chart? Write one sentence summarizing the information on this chart.

3b) What information seems to be the most important in this chart?

Chart Analysis Questions

3) Why would historians sometimes use charts and graphs, instead of a primary source like a journal entry, to understand historical events?

4) Based on these charts, what did you learn about WWII?

5) These charts don't necessarily tell the whole story of WWII. In what way could these charts be misleading?

6) What is a question you have about WWII after creating these charts?